

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Motion of)	
)	
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.)	Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021
)	Docket DOT-OST-2020-0035
For a waiver of dormancy condition)	
)	

MOTION OF SOUTHWEST AIRLINES CO.

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July 30, 2025

Notice: Southwest Airlines respectfully requests expedited treatment of this application. Counsel will poll U.S. carrier representatives and inform the Department of the results.

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Southwest Airlines Co. (Southwest or the Company)¹ moves the Department of Transportation (Department) for a temporary waiver of the dormancy condition for seven (7) weekly frequencies for its service from Tampa, Florida (TPA) to Havana, Cuba (HAV) to adjust to seasonal demand and market conditions.² Specifically, the Company requests a temporary waiver of the dormancy condition for a six (6) month period from September 4, 2025 to March 4, 2026.³

Presently, Southwest operates twice-daily service between TPA and HAV (fourteen (14) weekly frequencies). Should the requested waiver be granted, the Company will consolidate its current service into once-daily service (seven (7) weekly frequencies) between TPA and HAV, and it will seek to optimize those trip times in both

¹ Common names of carriers are used in this motion.

² Southwest submits this motion pursuant to DOT Orders 2022-9-3 and 2023-2-15, which together extended the temporary waivers applicable to the dormancy and startup conditions imposed on U.S.-carrier authority to serve certain international markets. In Order 2022-9-3, the Department advised that it would consider waiver requests from individual carriers for Cuba routes on a case-by-case basis.

³ Southwest's current exemption authority is effective through November 6, 2025. Notice of Action Taken – Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021 (Nov. 6, 2023). Southwest intends to timely file for an extension of that exemption authority in a subsequent filing.

directions. Southwest intends to publish this service reduction by August 6, 2025, and, assuming this request is granted, will commence once-daily service on September 4, 2025.⁴

While Cuba remains an important market for Southwest, demand fluctuations between the U.S. and Cuba have made the continuation of twice-daily service between TPA and HAV challenging in the near-term. Such market changes merit the relief requested by Southwest in this motion. Although current demand does not support twice-daily service by Southwest, the Company is hopeful that such demand will rebound in the future. Waiving the dormancy condition for the seven (7) weekly frequencies requested in this motion for a temporary period of six (6) months is narrowly tailored to the current demand environment and would enable Southwest to resume such service as market conditions improve.

In support of its motion, Southwest highlights that the Department has recently granted similar motions for temporary dormancy condition waivers filed by multiple U.S. carriers—including American, JetBlue, and Delta⁵—considering current market demand for U.S.-Cuba service. United has also recently filed a motion to temporarily suspend its Houston-Havana service or, alternatively, for a temporary dormancy condition waiver for

⁴ Any passengers impacted by this reduction will be reaccommodated on Southwest's remaining once-daily service or be provided the option for a full refund to their original form of payment.

⁵ See, e.g., Motion of Delta Airlines, Inc., DOT-OST-2016-0021 (Mar. 5, 2025); DOT Notice of Action Taken, DOT-OST-2016-0021 (Mar. 21, 2025) (granting Delta's motion for a temporary dormancy waiver); Motion of JetBlue Airways Corp., DOT-OST-2016-0021 (Mar. 10, 2025); DOT Notice of Action Taken, DOT-OST-2016-0021 (Mar. 21, 2025) (granting JetBlue's motion for a temporary dormancy waiver); Motion of American Airlines, Inc., DOT-OST-2016-0021 (June 6, 2025); DOT Notice of Action Taken, DOT-OST-2016-0021 (June 16, 2025) (granting American's motion for a temporary dormancy waiver).

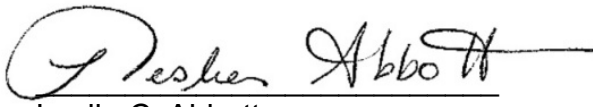
that service, which remains pending with the Department as of this date.⁶ Southwest has not objected to these motions.

Additionally, the granting of this temporary waiver is in the public interest. First, it would allow Southwest to better allocate capacity to meet its current network needs and match present market demands. Second, it would support the same public benefits that supported the DOT's initial grant of these frequencies to Southwest by allowing the Company to resume such service as market conditions improve. Moreover, it is consistent with Department precedent, as multiple U.S. carriers have temporarily suspended service or returned frequencies in the recent past for future reallocation. Thus, granting this motion is unlikely to adversely impact any carriers that wish to add or resume Cuba service in the near future, especially when prevailing market conditions are considered.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Southwest respectfully requests that the Department grant a waiver of the dormancy condition for the period of September 4, 2025 until March 4, 2026, for seven (7) weekly frequencies.

Respectfully submitted,


Leslie C. Abbott

July 30, 2025

⁶ Notice of United Airlines, DOT-OST-2016-0021 (July 17, 2025).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 30, 2025, a copy of the foregoing was served via e-mail on the following persons:

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