



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation  
on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, 2004

Essential Air Service at

**JOPLIN, MISSOURI**

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

**Served: July 27, 2004**  
**DOCKET OST-2004-17441**

**ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION**

**Summary**

By this order, the Department of Transportation extends the service obligation of Trans States Airlines, Inc., d/b/a US American Connection (Trans States), at Joplin, Missouri, for an additional 30 days, through [August 26, 2004](#).

**Background**

On March 29, 2004, Trans States filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its unsubsidized service at Joplin, effective June 28, 2004. By Order 2004-4-7, April 6, 2004, the Department prohibited Trans States from suspending service beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through July 27, 2004, and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service.

Although we have received proposals, this case will not be completed by the end of the current hold-in period. Therefore, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we must extend Trans States' service obligation at Joplin for an additional 30 days, or until the carrier selection case is completed, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

**ACCORDINGLY,**

1. We require Trans States Airlines, Inc., d/b/a American Connection, to maintain essential air service consisting of three nonstop round trips each weekday and four nonstop round trips each weekend between Joplin, Missouri, and St. Louis International Airport, for an additional 30-day period through [August 26, 2004](#), or until reliable replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first;<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Trans States' service obligation for successive 30-day periods, as necessary, until its proposed service actually begins.

2. We direct Trans States to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support subsidy claims for payment, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed, whichever comes first. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;
3. Docket OST-2004-17441, will remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayor and Airport Manager of Joplin, the Governor of Missouri, the Aviation Section of the Missouri Department of Transportation, and Trans States Airlines, Inc.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten (10) days after the date of service of this order.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

**RANDALL D. BENNETT**  
Director  
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

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