

# Air Choice One to start flights to Minneapolis

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Hovland

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MASON CITY — Air Choice One announced Thursday it will begin round-trip flights to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, starting in November.

The airline also announced the Department of Transportation has approved extending its Essential Air Service contract to Feb. 28, 2017. Essential Air Service is a federal program that helps finance flights

to smaller airports.

The flights to Minneapolis-St. Paul will begin Nov. 7 with 12 weekly flights in addition to its 12 weekly flights to O'Hare Field in Chicago. It will also have 10 weekly flights to Lambert Field in St. Louis with one stop, either in Fort Dodge or Burlington.

"We're really excited about this," said Tom Hovland, chairman of the Mason City Airport Commission. "Air Choice One has served us very well and the future looks bright. This is a great thing for the airport and the public."

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Shane Storz, chief executive officer of Air Choice One, said the airline is proud to restore Mason City service to Minneapolis which North Iowans had enjoyed for years through the services of previous commercial flight providers.

"We hope it will continue to grow passenger ridership and will help drive passenger traffic up, in and out of the Mason City Municipal Airport," he said in a news release.

To introduce the new service, Air Choice One is offering introductory base fares starting at \$29 each way. Tickets will go on sale Monday, Sept. 26, and can be purchased at [www.airchoiceone.com](http://www.airchoiceone.com) or by calling 866-435-9847.

Air Choice One began service in Mason City on Nov. 17, 2014, with daily flights to Chicago and St. Louis.