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# Eastern Iowa Airport Gets State Grant For Frontier Incentive Package

By George Ford, Reporter



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**CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa-** The Eastern Iowa Airport will receive state financial assistance to provide an incentive package for Frontier Airlines to begin offering service between Cedar Rapids and Denver in May.

The Cedar Rapids Airport Commission on Monday will be asked to approve an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for funding from its Air Service Development program toward a \$248,826 incentive package for Frontier to provide four flights a week. The state will provide 60% of the incentive package up to a maximum \$100,000. The airport will match that with \$75,000 for marketing and up to \$73,826 in waived rental, loading bridge and landing fees.

Under the agreement with IDOT, the airport will market the new Frontier service for up to a year through advertising in newspapers and on television, the Internet and radio stations. The Frontier flights are expected to improve the level of service and exert pressure on competitors to lower fares to Denver as well as connecting western destinations.

The Cedar Rapids Airport Commission has historically provided an incentive package to new airlines serving the market that involves marketing funds. It has not subsidized service or provided revenue guarantees to attract new airlines to the market.

Frontier Airlines, which is known as a low fare carrier, will launch nonstop service between Cedar Rapids and its Denver hub on May 17 on 99-seat jet aircraft. Introductory fares will begin at \$60 each way, plus the usual fees and taxes.

Airport Director Tim Bradshaw said Frontier will provide a lower-cost alternative for passengers traveling to Denver and western destinations such as Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego and beyond.

The Frontier flights are scheduled for Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, departing from Denver at 3:10 p.m., and arriving in Cedar Rapids at 5:59 p.m.; and departing from Cedar Rapids at 6:35 p.m. and arriving in Denver at 7:43 p.m. With the new flights, Eastern Iowa Airport passengers will have 27 nonstop flights to Denver each week.

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The introductory fares are available at FrontierAirlines.com through Feb. 29, for travel through mid-to late June, depending on the market.

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