'Innovative' United aircraft with more legroom to touch down in Cedar Rapids

The Eastern Iowa Airport will be one of the initial 15 destinations from which premium United Airlines passengers can fly on a roomier plane, set to begin trips from Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Some of the first flights by the airline's Bombardier CRJ-550 — a new two-cabin, 50-seat alternative to the 70-seat Bombardier CRJ-700 — will take off from Cedar Rapids on Sunday.

Compared to its higher-capacity predecessor, the CRJ-550 boasts increased legroom in 30 of its 50 seats, including its 10 first-class seats, plus four luggage cabinets that United says will allow each passenger to take rolling luggage onboard.

First-class passengers also have access to a self-serve refreshment center with snacks and drinks.

In the airline's federal filings, United representatives have described the plane as an “innovative solution to meet premium demand in small markets,” letting higher-paying passengers travel in first class on flights from smaller cities to larger hubs.

In June, United entered an 10-year agreement with GoJet Airlines for the regional operator to fly 54 CRJ-550 planes, starting in the second half of 2019, its securities filings show.

The aircraft's other initial destinations from Chicago include Des Moines; Bentonville, Ark.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; St. Louis, Mo.; Greensboro, N.C.; Cincinnati and Columbus, Ohio; Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Okla.; Allentown and Harrisburg, Pa.; Richmond, Va.; and Madison, Wis.

MORE BUSINESS ARTICLES TO READ NEXT ...

We asked what you want on Cedar Rapids' empty casino land. You anted up with your ideas
Cargill girds for third round of Rompot vs. rail yard
Women of Achievement: Kim Downs learned to find resources
Workers at two GM plants OK deal with company, strike likely to end

TOP STORIES FROM THE GAZETTE

Iowa woman dies after explosion at gender reveal party in Knoxville
Mayoral rivals AbouAssaly, Pazour outline visions
Majority of Marion City Council up for election Candidates talk about major issues in Nov. 5 election
2 top Iowa crimeghters being investigated for personnel issues

TRENDING

Photos from Run for the Schools races in Iowa City Sunday
Chicago teachers' strike sidelines athletes, future hopes
Iowa football negotiates tricky couple of weeks and now for back-to-back biggies
Shots fired in and around Iowa City apartment building Sunday
CANCELED: CRPD issues Operation Quickfind for Tyquandis Gordon, 11
Iowa's individual health insurance market may be stabilizing, experts say