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New Waterloo flights to begin April 3

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WATERLOO, Iowa --- American Eagle flights will begin takeoffs and landings at Waterloo Regional Airport beginning April 3, officials at the airport announced Tuesday.

American Eagle, American Airlines' regional affiliate, will begin daily round-trip flights between Chicago O'Hare International Airport and Waterloo on that date. All flights will use 44-seat Embraer jets.

Delta Airlines, the current commercial passenger carrier operating flights between Waterloo and Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, has not yet announced when it will pull out, but U.S. Department of Transportation rules require a seamless transition, said Brad Hagen, general manager at the Waterloo airport.

"We have not heard yet from Delta, but DOT requires the airlines to work together during the transition," Hagen said. "We know American will start service April 3. We have not had any formal communication from Delta as to when they'll stop their service, but it won't be before April 2. I don't know whether there will be an overlap. That has yet to be announced by Delta."

Delta will notify any passengers holding reservations dated after the transition, Hagen said. Passengers also can call Delta.

Passengers holding a Delta reservation dated after the transition can call Delta Corporate Communications at (404) 715-2554.

"We're anticipating a smooth transition," Hagen said. "This happens in many communities. Airlines work together."

The public has voiced "mixed" reaction to the changeover, Hagen said.

"It has been mixed but largely positive," he said. "There are many individuals and businesses that prefer Delta, but I'd say there's many more, both leisure-travel individuals and businesses, who have expressed a strong desire to fly through Chicago."

American has set its daily schedule between Waterloo and Chicago. Flight 4090 will leave Waterloo at 6:30 a.m. and arrive at 7:40 a.m. Flight 4073 will depart at 4:20 p.m., with a 5:40 p.m. arrival. From Chicago, Flight 4030 will depart O'Hare at 2:45 p.m. and arrive at 3:45 p.m. Flight 4081 will leave at 7:50 p.m. and land in Waterloo at 8:45 p.m.

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