



Communications Office

The City of Morgantown

Susan Sullivan, PCM
389 Spruce Street, Room 16
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505
(304) 284-7426 Fax: (304) 284-7430
ssullivan@cityofmorgantown.org

March 9, 2012

PINNACLE AIRLINES ANNOUNCEMENT EXPECTED TO HAVE LIMITED EFFECT ON AIR SERVICE AT MORGANTOWN AIRPORT

MORGANTOWN - Today, Pinnacle Airlines, operating as United Express out of Morgantown Municipal Airport (MGW), has announced they will file notice of their intent to suspend service under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program at all airports they serve under the United Express banner.

“This notice will have very limited effect on service at Morgantown Airport,” said Michael Clow, Airport Director. “Pinnacle is required to provide service until a replacement is found, and they have assured us they will continue to offer the same level of service they provide today. We hope to get a carrier that replaces Pinnacle – same aircraft, same service, and to the same hub – so the effect on our air travelers is negligible.”

Under EAS rules, once an airline files its intent to suspend service, US Department of Transportation (DOT) must begin to find a replacement carrier. Pinnacle is not allowed to stop service until a new carrier has been found and starts operation.

“Pinnacle’s timing helps smooth the transition. Their current EAS contract expires in May and the RFP for a new carrier was issued by DOT two weeks ago,” Clow continues. “Airlines that are interested in providing service have until April 20 to apply.”

After applications are received, DOT will review them and then the City of Morgantown will get an opportunity to review them and make a recommendation to DOT. A selection is expected by early summer.

Travelers into and out of Morgantown should see no change in service. Pinnacle reiterated their commitment to quality service and the transition is expected to go smoothly.

“We will continue to enjoy commercial air service via Essential Air Service participation at least for the next few years with another airline operating out of Morgantown by early summer,” said City manager Terrence Moore. “City administration will likewise work with the new airline to assist our welcome into our community.”

Morgantown Municipal Airport is owned and operated by the City of Morgantown and provides service for commercial, business, and general aviation users as well as military air traffic. Commercial air service is provided by United Express with 18 flights per week to Washington Dulles International Airport.

If you have questions, please call Michael Clow, Airport Director at (304) 291-7461 or Susan Sullivan, Public Information Officer at (304) 284-7426 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

