



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS ANNOUNCES SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING SOUTHWEST AIRLINES TO MONROE COUNTY

Low-cost, high-quality carrier poised to expand air travel services at GRIA

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today announced that Southwest Airlines has confirmed its intent to bring their low-cost air service to the Greater Rochester International Airport (ROC). Following Southwest's acquisition of Airtran Airways last year, the selection of Monroe County for their expansion is expected to bring new services and economic development opportunities to our region.

"Monroe County is thrilled to welcome Southwest Airlines to our nationally-recognized Greater Rochester International Airport. Known for its low-cost, customer oriented service, Southwest will undoubtedly bring new economic opportunities to our region," said **County Executive Brooks**. *"Southwest's intended expansion to Monroe County underscores our reputation as a destination for economic growth and opportunity. By continuing to provide low-cost flights to leisure air travelers and business customers alike, we strengthen our local economy, promote tourism, and make Monroe County an even more attractive place to live, work and raise a family."*

Nearly 19 percent of all passengers who fly out of ROC use AirTran Airways, making it the third most-traveled airline out of Rochester. The airline averages 6 non-stop flights daily from ROC with connections to major hub airports across the nation.

The announcement issued by Southwest Airlines earlier today stated the company intends to convert AirTran Airways operations at 22 domestic and international airports.

"We are committed to continuing to serve these communities – at first via AirTran, and eventually as Southwest. We know there are Southwest customers who want access to these cities, but have never before had the opportunity, and the markets have long desired Southwest service," said Southwest Vice President & Chief Commercial Officer and AirTran Airways President Bob Jordan. *"We are excited about the cities we have chosen to keep in our combined network."*

AirTran Airways, a wholly owned subsidiary of Southwest Airlines, currently offers daily non-stop flights between Rochester and Atlanta, Baltimore, Orlando and Tampa. For updated flight information, visit airtran.com.

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