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## **Department of Transportation Awards Huntsville International Airport \$1 Million Grant to Attract Low-cost Carrier**

*Grant is major stepping stone to bringing competitive fares to community*

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Feb. 19, 2010** – The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) yesterday announced Huntsville International Airport (HSV) will receive a \$1 million Small Community Air Service Development grant. The grant will be used to help attract a low-cost carrier to HSV, helping to bring more competitive airfares to the market. Of the 84 applicants seeking a total of \$39 million, HSV received the highest grant among the \$6.4 million awarded.

According to Rick Tucker, Executive Director, Huntsville International Airport, “This grant is a major stepping stone toward attracting a low-cost carrier and helping to create competitive fares in our market. However, the key ingredient for lower fares is the sustained presence of a low fare carrier which ultimately depends upon the support of the community.”

“This grant would not have been possible without the support of our Alabama Congressional delegation, including Senator Richard Shelby, Senator Jeff Sessions, Congressman Robert Aderholt and Congressman Parker Griffith,” said Bill Johnston, Jr., Chairman, Board of Directors, Huntsville International Airport. “These individuals have been a tremendous advocate of the airport, realizing the economic impact this facility has among North Alabama and the entire Tennessee Valley region. They are to be commended for the airport’s continued growth. By attracting a low-cost carrier, our more than 1.2 million passengers could save in excess of \$60 million annually, underscoring the significant importance of this grant.”

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