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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact: Deputy Commissioner Mike Black, #269-8100**

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### **Public-private partnership brings new flight to Fairbanks**

(Fairbanks, Alaska) – A federal grant administered by the state Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development is bringing increased travel options to and from Fairbanks International Airport. The airport was among the recipients of a 2006 Small Community Air Service Development grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation. These grants are designed to increase air service in communities throughout the country. The Fairbanks grant will allow Denver-based Frontier Airlines to provide seasonal nonstop service between Denver and Fairbanks, four times a week during the summer months, with the goal of building year-round traffic.

“We are pleased to have been a part of the public-private partnership that brought this route to Alaska,” said Emil Notti, commissioner of the state Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. “It provides a valuable transportation service to residents of the Interior, and also brings jobs and economic opportunity to the visitor industry. We look forward to a prosperous partnership.”

The Fairbanks Convention and Visitors Bureau served as the community partner. The FCVB put up a \$100,000 matching grant that enabled the \$500,000 federal outlay, which was part of a \$9.7 million award to communities in 22 states. The allocation to Fairbanks was the fifth largest among the 25 grant recipients.

“This has been the culmination of many years of collaboration between the FCVB, the airport, and the state Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to lure competitive domestic service to our community from a new hub,” said Deb Hickok, president and CEO of the Fairbanks Convention & Visitors Bureau. “We are thrilled to have Frontier providing service to and from Denver. This will improve access to Fairbanks as a tourist destination for visitors from the Rocky Mountain and eastern U.S. regions.”



The inaugural flight from Denver will arrive at Fairbanks International Airport on Friday, May 14, at 9:37 p.m. A brief welcoming reception will be held prior to the 10:35 p.m. departure of the flight back to Denver. The service, which will employ Airbus A319 aircraft, is scheduled to continue through Sept. 12. Frontier Airlines is a wholly owned subsidiary of Republic Airways Holdings Inc. Currently in its 16th year of operations, Frontier employs nearly 6,000 aviation professionals and is the second-largest carrier at Denver International Airport. From its Denver hub, Frontier flies to more than 70 destinations across the United States, Mexico and Costa Rica.

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