



City of Manassas, Virginia  
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## **Manassas Regional Airport Seeks to add Commercial Air Service**

City of Manassas, VA . . . Officials from Manassas Regional Airport (HEF) announced the issuance of a Request for Franchise Proposal (RFFP) to seek through a franchise agreement with a private company to bring convenient commercial air travel to Manassas. The company sought would privately fund the renovation, expansion, and operation of the current terminal to support the addition of airline travel at no cost to taxpayers. The RFFP also calls for the selected company to assist in securing passenger commercial carrier(s) for the regional airport.

The RFFP is being issued in accordance with the Virginia State Code to provide a fair and transparent selection process in response to receiving an unsolicited proposal to provide similar services as those outlined in the RFFP. The issuance of the RFFP initiates the process for the City of Manassas to receive proposals from all interested companies and is the process by which the private party will make their proposal known to the public.

“This solicitation of proposals offers the opportunity for Manassas Regional Airport to upgrade its facilities at no cost to the taxpayers and provide the residents more convenient air travel options,” said Richard H. Seraydarian, Chairman, Airport Commission. “The Airport Commission looks forward to reviewing the proposals and making a recommendation to the City Council that best meets the needs of the airport, its current aviation community and the residents of the region.”

“The potential addition of easy and affordable air travel for our residents is a long time coming and is a recognition of the progress made by the City of Manassas. It also has the potential to be a boost to our economy, and that’s exciting,” stated Michelle Davis-Younger, Mayor, City of Manassas. “Even just one or two air carriers can add hundreds of new jobs at the airport and more within the City. I look forward to reviewing the proposals and hearing from the community.”

“There are significant benefits to upgrading to Air Carrier Operator Status,” said Juan E. Rivera, Airport Director. “It opens doors to federal and state funding for capital projects that are not available to us now. This benefits our community and the aviation community at the airport. Adding an affordable travel option that truly benefits the residents of the City of Manassas and the region.”

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## **Background**

The proposal sought through the RFFP will upgrade the airport to Air Carrier Operator Status. Receiving what is known as a Part-139 Airport Operating Certificate (AOC) enables the airport to be eligible for federal and state entitlement funds that can be used to pay for capital projects. Additionally, airport tenants will have 24/7 emergency services and enhanced safety features. Currently, the airport has about 107,000 operations per year. The addition of air carrier service is estimated to eventually add 5-7% annual operations.

It is anticipated the Manassas City Council will open proposals at its June 12 meeting with a public hearing scheduled on July 10 and a final decision being made later in the summer.