

City of Presque Is

12 Second Street
Presque Isle, ME 04769-2459
Fax (207) 764-2501
www.presqueislemaine.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (December 10, 2019)

CONTACT: Kimberly R. Smith, Resource Development and Public Information Officer
207.760.2722; ksmith@presqueisleme.us

December 10, 2019, Presque Isle, Maine – The US Department of Transportation (DOT) recently issued a “Request for Proposals” from air carriers interested in providing Essential Air Service (EAS) to Presque Isle, Maine for the contract term beginning July 1, 2020. The proposals are due to US DOT by December 18th.

The Essential Air Service program was put into place by the US Government to guarantee that small communities that were served by certificated air carriers before airline deregulation maintain a minimal level of scheduled air service. The DOT currently subsidizes commuter and certificated air carriers to serve approximately 175 communities that otherwise would not receive any scheduled air service, Presque Isle being one.

Currently, United Airlines, Inc. is providing EAS to Presque Isle International Airport with 12 non-stop round trips per week to Newark Liberty International Airport using a 50-seat regional jet for the two-year contract term which runs through June 30, 2020. The DOT contracts for this market typically come up for the bid process every two years.

The proposals will be made available to the City of Presque Isle on or about December 20 at which time the City will post the proposals to the City website and City Facebook page for public viewing. The public may then submit questions and comments directly to the US Department of Transportation by email to: michael.f.martin@dot.gov or by mail to Michael Martin, US Department of Transportation, X53, Room 6401, 400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20590.

Local residents interested in making comments for or against one of the bidders will also have the opportunity at a public forum to be held at Presque Isle Middle School on Friday, January 3. The forum will begin at 6:00 p.m. with an overview of the bids received followed by public comments only as they pertain to the specific bids received. Each speaker will be limited to two minutes. A maximum of three hours has been allotted for the forum.

While Presque Isle City Council may make a recommendation based on information received, the final decision as to the air carrier chosen is solely up to the US Department of Transportation based on very specific established criteria.

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