

# ***New Air Service Partnership Program***

**Version 2.0  
Effective July 1, 2026**

**Adopted by the  
Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority  
on TBA, 2026**



## **Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority**

**McGhee Tyson Airport (TYS)**

**PO Box 15600**

**Knoxville, TN 37901-5600**

**Telephone: 865.342.3001**

**Website: [www.FlyKnoxville.com](http://www.FlyKnoxville.com)**

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## **Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority**

### **New Air Service Partnership Program Description & Goals**

The Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority ("MKAA"), a body politic and corporate created under Title 42, Chapter 4 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, as amended, and owner and operator of McGhee Tyson Airport ("TYS"), offers this New Air Service Partnership Program (this "Program") adopted by MKAA's Board of Commissioners on [TBA] to stimulate new passenger air service at TYS. This Program is offered to both new entrant airlines and incumbent airlines and provides financial assistance that will help offset costs associated with marketing new airline service, as well as mitigating some of the cost of operating the new service.

#### **SECTION I: GENERAL**

##### **A. Program Goals**

The goals of this Program are:

- To increase airline and passenger activity at TYS for the benefit of the public
- To grow nonstop airline markets available from TYS
- To attract new airlines to TYS
- To increase airline competition at TYS
- To increase non-airline generated revenues at TYS

##### **B. Funding**

All funds used in this Program shall be derived solely from non-airline revenues (i.e. parking and terminal concession income). Incentive benefits derived through this Program shall not have the effect of increasing the rentals, fees, or charges imposed on other aeronautical users of TYS, including other airlines. This Program shall be funded each year with an amount approved in MKAA's annual budget by MKAA's Board of Commissioners, including any subsequent budget amendments. Financial benefits conferred through the Program shall not exceed the budgeted amount in any Fiscal Year. In the event financial benefits conferred through this program do not equal or exceed the budgeted amount, the budgeted amount that is not so expended shall not be carried over to future Fiscal Years without the approval of MKAA's Board of Commissioners. MKAA will not enter into an incentive agreement that would cause MKAA to exceed the amount budgeted in any Fiscal Year for incentive benefits, unless otherwise approved by MKAA's Board of Commissioners.

##### **C. Existing Service**

This Program does not apply to increases in frequency of existing airline service to a destination or upgauging of existing airline service to a destination. Incentive benefits under this Program shall not be available in such cases.

#### **D. Term**

This Program shall become effective on **July 1, 2026**, and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2029, or until such time as it is modified, suspended, or terminated by MKAA's Board of Commissioners.

#### **E. Compliance With Federal and State Regulations**

This Program and any Incentive Agreement executed pursuant hereto are subordinate to the provisions of any and all existing and future agreements between MKAA and the United States of America or the State of Tennessee relative to the operation, maintenance, or development of TYS, the execution of which may be required as a condition precedent to the expenditure of funds for the development of TYS, or any part thereof. This Program is offered in accordance with air carrier incentive program (ACIP) policy issued by the Federal Aviation Administration on December 7, 2023. This Program shall be available to the public for review on MKAA's website at *www.FlyKnoxville.com*, and MKAA will make periodic reports of the ongoing Incentive Agreements entered into pursuant to this Program.

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## SECTION II: DEFINITIONS

**Airport Landing Fee Waiver** means waiver of the MKAA per-landing charge, which is calculated based on aircraft Maximum Landing Weight as set in each MKAA Fiscal Year and subject to change, for a New Service.

**Airport Lease and Use Agreement** means that Airport Lease and Use Agreement entered into between MKAA and an Eligible Airline.

**Daily Service** means at least one scheduled roundtrip flight operated at least six days per week between TYS and a destination airport.

**Eligible Airline** means an air carrier (including both New Entrant Airlines and Incumbent Airlines) providing Qualified Air Service.

**Fiscal Year** means the 12-month period starting on July 1 and ending on July 30.

**Incentive Agreement** means the Incentive Agreement executed by a Participating Airline and MKAA for Qualified Air Service, in a form similar to that of Section V herein.

**Incentive Period** means the time period that incentives are earned by a Participating Airline under an Incentive Agreement.

**Incumbent Airline** means any air carrier, or its regional affiliates operating with a similar name or livery, that is actively conducting scheduled commercial operations at TYS at the time an Incentive Agreement is executed.

**Less-Than-Daily-Service** means one to five weekly roundtrip flights between TYS and a destination airport.

**Marketing Assistance Incentive** means financial assistance provided by MKAA to support marketing and advertising programs directly associated with Qualified Air Service.

MKAA will provide an initial commitment of marketing, advertising, and promotional funds to a Participating Airline for each Qualified Air Service. Funds are subject to Section III of this Program and must be used within the Incentive Period, but in any event not to exceed eighteen (18) months from the date of the Incentive Agreement. Any unused funds will be forfeited.

**MKAA** means the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority.

**New Entrant Airline** means any air carrier, or its regional affiliates operating with a similar name or livery, that is not actively conducting scheduled commercial operations at TYS at the time an Incentive Agreement is executed and has not provided scheduled commercial operations at TYS in the previous eighteen (18) months prior to announcing new flights. A New Entrant Airline will become an Incumbent Airline after the initial twelve (12) months of operations at TYS.

**New Service** means 1) any nonstop service by an Incumbent Airline to a destination airport not currently served with nonstop service from TYS, or 2) any service to TYS provided by a New Entrant Airline.

**Participating Airline** means any Eligible Airline that has accepted the terms and conditions of this Program and has executed an Incentive Agreement.

**Priority I Airport** means an airport serving any of the top fifty (50) domestic and international origin-and-destination markets from TYS for the most-recent 12-month period as reported by United States Department of Transportation data.

**Priority II Airport** means an airport that serves a destination with origin and destination passenger traffic ranked between numbers 51 and 100 from TYS for the most-recent 12-month period as reported by United States Department of Transportation data. An airport that qualifies as a Priority II Airport but serves a larger market area also served by a Priority I Airport will be upgraded to a Priority I Airport.

**Priority III Airport** means an airport that serves a destination that has passenger traffic outside the top 100 origin-and-destination markets from TYS for the most-recent 12-month period as reported by United States Department of Transportation data. An airport that qualifies as a Priority III Airport but serves a larger market area also served by a Priority I Airport or Priority II Airport will be upgraded appropriately.

**Program** means this New Air Service Partnership Program.

**Qualified Air Service** means new airline service provided by an air carrier or one of its regional affiliates to an airport from TYS that is eligible for incentives under this Program. Flights that are transferred among an air carrier and any of its regional affiliates shall not be Qualified Air Service. Flights that are moved by an Incumbent Airline from one airport to another in destinations that are served by multiple airports will not be Qualified Air Service. Flights provided by a New Entrant Airline to any airport shall be considered Qualified Air Service.

**Seasonal Service** means scheduled roundtrip airline flights from TYS that, from the inception of such flights, are announced to be operated for less than seven (7) months of a calendar year.

**TYS** means MKAA's McGhee Tyson Airport.

**Unserviced Airport** means a destination airport for which no nonstop scheduled service has existed from TYS for at least 12 months prior to the commencement of the new airline service.

**Year-Round Service** means Qualified Air Service that is expected to operate for twelve (12) consecutive months or more from TYS.

### SECTION III: PROGRAM TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Each Participating Airline shall prepare a written Advertising and Marketing Plan for the Qualified Air Service and shall submit this plan to MKAA for review and approval prior to utilizing any incentives. Eligible marketing activities include (i) advertising (e.g., television, radio, newspaper, outdoor, magazine, Internet, etc.); (ii) cooperative television and media promotions; (iii) special events directly related to the Qualified Air Service; (iv) direct mail costs; or (v) outside fees for creative development and media placement. For purposes of this Program, MKAA reserves the right to disapprove any plan deemed to be excessive or inappropriate. The McGhee Tyson Airport name and logo must be prominently featured in all marketing programs.

Once the Participating Airline's Advertising and Marketing Plan is approved by MKAA and to receive the Marketing Assistance Incentives under the Program, the Participating Airline shall direct that all associated advertising and marketing-related invoices be sent directly to MKAA for processing and payment. As an alternative, the Participating Airline may pay all advertising and marketing costs and then submit a reimbursement invoice to MKAA that **must contain copies of paid invoices for all claimed expenses, along with documentation that the claimed expenses were actually paid.** All correspondence and documents should be sent to:

**Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority  
Attn: Marketing Department  
PO Box 15600  
Knoxville, TN 37901-5600**

2. MKAA reserves the right to audit any and all data reported by the Participating Airline at any reasonable time with reasonable notice by MKAA's agent. Should the audit indicate over-reporting flight arrivals or landing weights resulting in an incentive overpayment of 5% or more, then the Participating Airline shall be responsible for the cost of the audit and will pay MKAA the amount of the overpayment within 15 days of receipt of the auditor's report.
3. All incentives provided through this Program are subject to the approval of MKAA's Board of Commissioners. Incentives provided under this Program are only valid for Qualified Air Service implemented on or after July 1, 2026. Incentives are subject to annual budgetary constraints. This Program may be modified, amended, or terminated at any time without notice by MKAA.
4. To participate in the Program, each Eligible Airline must have on file with MKAA its fully executed Airport Lease and Use Agreement, or other written authorization to operate at the Airport, before any proposed incentives are submitted to MKAA's Board of Commissioners for approval.
5. Any Incumbent Airline otherwise eligible to participate in the Program must be current and in good standing on all MKAA invoiced charges and fees before any incentives or fee waivers are authorized.

6. Any Eligible Airline seeking incentives under this Program shall provide a written request detailing any proposed new or expanded airline service at least 60 days prior to the planned commencement of said service or such lesser period as is approved by MKAA. The written request should be addressed to Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority, Attn: Vice President Marketing & Air Service Development, P.O. Box 15600, Knoxville, TN 37901. Failure to provide the written notification may disqualify the airline from receiving any incentives.
7. It is the responsibility of the Participating Airline to provide all data requested by MKAA to determine compliance with the Program, including but not limited to dates of new airline service, flown passenger counts, calculation of fees, etc.
8. In the event a Participating Airline fails to comply with any other condition or requirement for the Program, the Participating Airline shall be billed and shall pay the Airport all rentals, fees, and charges waived under this Program for all past, present, and future flights as if no incentives under this Program had been granted.
9. MKAA reserves the unilateral right to revise the Program, including any incentives, or terminate this Program in its entirety, if such action is necessary to comply with any federal law, rule, regulation, order, policy or requirement.

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## SECTION IV: NEW AIRLINE SERVICE INCENTIVES

**Qualified Air Service shall fall into one of following three categories, with the corresponding incentive benefits:**

### **Category I: New Entrant Airline Nonstop Daily Service**

A New Entrant Airline that adds nonstop Daily Service to a Priority I, Priority II, or Priority III Airport from TYS will be eligible for incentives. The Incentive Period for service to an Unserved Airport from TYS may be offered up to twenty-four (24) months, while the Incentive Period for service to an airport that is currently served by an Incumbent Airline will be limited to twelve (12) months. Additional flight frequencies added by a New Entrant airline during the first twelve (12) months of service shall qualify for Category I Incentives for the remainder of the original Incentive Period.

Should a New Entrant Airline add additional service to other Unserved Airports during the first twelve (12) months of operations at TYS, then these new routes will be eligible for Category I incentives. The maximum Incentive Period for these expanded flights to additional airports shall not exceed the New Entrant Airline's initial Incentive Period.

Category I Incentives are composed of a Marketing Assistance Incentive and an Airport Landing Fee Waiver. The monetary limit of each incentive is set forth below:

#### **I. Marketing Assistance Incentive**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Priority I Airport   | Up to \$100,000 |
| Priority II Airport  | Up to \$75,000  |
| Priority III Airport | Up to \$50,000  |

#### **II. Airport Landing Fee Waiver**

The Airport Landing Fee Waiver is limited to the duration of the Incentive Period for the qualifying new service.

Should a Participating Airline elect to reduce frequency to Less-Than-Daily Service or Seasonal Service during the Incentive Period, then the Category I Incentive shall be terminated, and the airline service shall become subject to the provisions of the Category III Incentive.

## **Category II: Incumbent Airline New Daily Nonstop Service**

An Incumbent Airline that adds new nonstop Daily Service to an unserved Priority I, Priority II, or Priority III Airport from TYS will be eligible for incentives. The Incentive Period shall not exceed twelve (12) months. Additional flight frequencies added by an Incumbent Airline during the first twelve (12) months of service to an Unserved Airport shall qualify for Category II Incentives for the remainder of the original Incentive Period.

Category II Incentives are composed of a Marketing Assistance Incentive and an Airport Landing Fee Waiver. The monetary limit of each incentive is set forth below:

### **I. Marketing Assistance Incentive**

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Priority I Airport   | Up to \$75,000 |
| Priority II Airport  | Up to \$60,000 |
| Priority III Airport | Up to \$40,000 |

### **II. Airport Landing Fee Waiver**

The Airport Landing Fee Waiver is limited to the duration of the Incentive Period for the qualifying new service.

Should a Participating Airline elect to reduce frequency to Less-Than-Daily Service or Seasonal Service during the Incentive Period, then the Category II Incentive shall be terminated, and the airline service shall become subject to the provisions of the Category III Incentive.

### **Category III: Nonstop Less-Than-Daily Service and/or Seasonal Service**

A New Entrant or Incumbent Airline that adds new nonstop service with a Less-Than-Daily Service and/or Seasonal Service between TYS and an unserved Priority I, Priority II, or Priority III Airport will be eligible for incentives. *Incentives will be offered at proportionally reduced levels when compared to those offered for Daily Service or Year-Round Service.*

Category III Incentives are composed of a Marketing Assistance Incentive and an Airport Landing Fee Waiver. Monetary limits of each incentive will be negotiated based on the specific details of the frequency of the New Service and the Priority level of the destination airport.

Less-Than-Daily and/or Seasonal Service that converts to Daily and/or Year-Round service will not be eligible for additional Marketing Assistance Incentives and the increased flights may be credited under the Airport Landing Fee Waiver incentive.

Repeated periods of Seasonal Service may be eligible for incentives. For New Entrant Airlines, the maximum Incentive Period for Seasonal Service shall not exceed three (3) seasons lasting no more than seven (7) months each with a cumulative Incentive Period of no more than twenty-one (21) months in a thirty-six (36) month period. For Incumbent Airlines, the maximum Incentive Period for Seasonal Service shall not exceed three (3) seasons lasting no more than seven (7) months each with a cumulative Incentive Period of no more than twelve (12) months in a thirty-six (36) month period.

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## SECTION V: SAMPLE INCENTIVE AGREEMENT

### Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority

#### Sample New Air Service Partnership Program Incentive Agreement

This Incentive Agreement is entered into as of the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ by and between the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority, a body politic and corporate created under Title 42, Chapter 4 of the Tennessee Code Annotated, as amended, and owner and operator of McGhee Tyson Airport ("MKAA") and \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Airline" and collectively with MKAA, the "Parties") organized and existing under the laws of the state of \_\_\_\_\_, and is intended to memorialize the agreement between MKAA and the Airline under the terms of the New Air Service Partnership Program (the "Program"), adopted by MKAA's Board of Commissioners on [date] and effective on July 1, 2026, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein. Capitalized terms used herein and not otherwise defined shall have the meanings given to such terms in the Program.

MKAA and the Airline, by their signatures to this Incentive Agreement, acknowledge that this Incentive Agreement is to be governed by the Program. It is understood and agreed that the Airline and the new service that it is offering between McGhee Tyson Airport and \_\_\_\_\_ falls into Category \_\_\_\_\_ of the Program, with an initial Marketing Assistance Incentive allowance of \$\_\_\_\_\_, and an Airport Landing Fee Waiver for the period of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ (the "Incentive Period"). It is further understood and agreed that MKAA will waive the Airport Landing Fees attributed to the new service during the Incentive Period. The term of this Incentive Agreement shall be from the date hereof through the last day of the Incentive Period and shall terminate automatically thereafter. Airline expects that the new service covered by this Agreement will be [Daily Service][Less-Than-Daily-Service] and will be [Year-Round Service][Seasonal Service] and understands that MKAA has granted the incentives provided for by this Agreement based upon such expectation.

In the event the Federal Aviation Administration or its successors request modifications or changes in the Program or this Incentive Agreement which may or may not be a condition precedent to obtaining funds for the improvement of the McGhee Tyson Airport, the Airline hereby consents to any and all such modifications and changes as may be requested, and the Airline agrees to immediately execute an amendment to this Incentive Agreement to reflect the requested modifications or changes.

Airline acknowledges and agrees that the incentives offered by MKAA pursuant to this Agreement are subject to Airline's strict compliance with all of the terms and conditions of the Program. Violation of any provision of the Program is a default under this Incentive Agreement and will result in termination of all incentives hereunder.

Airline must have a current written authorization from MKAA to operate at the Airport and must be current in its financial or other obligations to the MKAA. This includes complying with all rules and regulations of the MKAA and paying all rates, fees and charges in a timely manner.

Incentives under the Program or this Incentive Agreement may not be transferred or assigned to another airline except if an airline succeeds to substantially all of Airline's assets by merger or acquisition.

Airline shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits, licenses, and/or approvals relating to its use/and or occupancy of the Airport and the service sought to be promoted.

If any clause or provision of this Incentive Agreement or the Program is found to be unlawful, invalid, or unenforceable during the term of this Incentive Agreement, or is determined to be inconsistent with any of MKAA's existing or future grant agreements with the United States of America or the State of Tennessee, it is the intention of the Parties that the remainder of this Agreement or the Program shall not be affected. It is also the intention of the Parties that each such clause or provision of this Incentive Agreement or the Program that is unlawful, invalid, unenforceable, or inconsistent with MKAA's grant agreements, be stricken from this Incentive Agreement or the Program, as applicable, and replaced with a clause or provision as similar in terms to such unlawful, invalid, unenforceable, or inconsistent clause or provision as may be possible and may be lawful, valid, enforceable, and consistent.

During the term of this Incentive Agreement, the Airline agrees to comply with civil rights provisions required by the Federal Aviation Administration and attached hereto as Attachment 1.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, MKAA and the Airline have caused this Incentive Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized officers, as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

METROPOLITAN KNOXVILLE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

AIRLINE

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Attachment 1**

### Civil Rights Provisions

[Insert the current civil rights language mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration]

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