



## CHARLES M. SCHULZ - SONOMA COUNTY AIRPORT

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### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport (STS) Receives Air Service Development Grant

*SANTA ROSA, CA* The Charles M. Schulz – Sonoma County Airport (STS) is honored to be named a recipient of a 2011 Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) grant in the amount of \$650,000. This is the second SCASPD grant the Airport has received; the first was awarded in 2004 when the Airport was awarded \$635,000. That grant was used to support the 2007 launch of Horizon Air service at STS. Airports are allowed three years in which to use the grant funds.

STS plans to use the current grant to support nonstop service to Denver on Frontier Airlines. A Denver flight will allow locals the opportunity to fly east through the well-connected and busy hub, and will enhance the ability for visitors to fly into STS. A letter of support provided by Frontier Airlines, and many support letters from the community, accompanied the grant application. The letters, along with the Airport's success with its last grant, were important factors in this year's award.

Although the grant is not a guarantee that Frontier will start service here, it allows the Airport and airline to begin the negotiations and evaluations involved in initiating a route. If Frontier determines the route will be safe and profitable, it may begin flights as early as June 2012. An Embraer E-190 99-seat regional jet would be used fly the route and it is likely the new service would be seasonal at first. Frontier has been watching developments at the Airport. The lengthening of the runway, if approved, will increase the likelihood of year-round daily flights.

The SCASPD grants, issued by the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Aviation Analysis, are designed to provide financial assistance to small communities to help enhance air service. The program is limited to a maximum of 40 grant awards and a maximum of four grants per state in each year the program is funded. This year, Santa Rosa and Crescent City (awarded \$200,000) were the only California airports to receive grants.

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