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COMMUNITY SUPPORTS COMMUNITY-BACKED SERVICE

In light of the imminent loss of scheduled commercial air service at the St. Cloud Regional Airport for the first time since the early 1990's, local officials are pursuing several opportunities for new air service. The most promising opportunity in our current economic situation is community-backed air service. Under the proposal, community investors would purchase aircraft time from a regional carrier. The community investors would control the schedule and the ticket price to ensure the service meets the needs of area travelers.

The St. Cloud Regional Airport hosted two meetings last week to present a proposal for community-backed air service from St. Cloud Regional Airport to Chicago O'Hare to community members. These meetings were intended to present the community-backed concept and solicit feedback from attendees. The nearly 100 attendees were largely supportive of the concept. The slides from the meetings are available on the St. Cloud Regional Airport web site. www.stcloudairport.com/

One of the next steps in the process is to gather as much community feedback as possible. Your input is essential in establishing routes, flight times, and ticket prices. If you have not already completed the air service survey, please do so prior to Thanksgiving by going to www.stcloudairport.com/. If you have questions or would like more information about our continuing efforts to expand air service in central Minnesota call or e-mailing Jami Bestgen at 320-252-2411 or jamibestgen@aol.com.

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