



DETROIT METRO • WILLOW RUN  
WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

L.C. Smith Terminal • Mezzanine  
Detroit, MI 48242  
ph 734 942 3550  
fax 734 942 3793  
[www.metroairport.com](http://www.metroairport.com)

# News Release

**Released: March 25, 2008**  
**Contact: Scott Wintner (734) 955-3745**

## Fourth New Airline on Approach to Detroit Metropolitan Airport

*--New Flights to Rockford, Ill. resume June 6*

Southern Skyways has announced plans to begin new, non-stop flights between Rockford, Illinois, and Detroit, making the airline the fourth new carrier in fewer than three months to announce plans to serve Detroit Metro Airport. The new flights will operate three-times per week beginning June 6.

“The addition of four new airlines to the Detroit Metro family in such a short period underscores the growth potential for air transportation to and from Metro Detroit,” said Lester Robinson, Wayne County Airport Authority CEO. “The Airport Authority remains committed to providing our region with a strong air transportation hub that also continues to be the hub of new opportunities for Southeast Michigan.”

Located 85 miles northwest of Chicago, Chicago-Rockford International Airport (RFD) is an alternative to Chicago’s larger, busier airports. Northwest Airlines briefly served the Detroit-RFD route from May 2005 to January 2006.

Southern Skyways’ new flights will depart Detroit at 10:00 a.m. ET and arrive at RFD at 10 a.m. CT, due to the change in time zone. Return flights will leave RFD at 7:00 a.m. CT and arrive in Detroit at 9 a.m. ET. Service will be offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday aboard a 115 seat McDonnell Douglas DC-9-30 jet aircraft.

“I’m not aware of another airport in the country to have gained four new airlines so far in 2008, but it is a testament to the strength of the Detroit market,” said Jack Vogel, Senior Vice President of Business Development for the Wayne County Airport Authority. “With high fuel prices it is even more gratifying that so many new airlines are starting to land in Detroit.”

*(more)*

Southern Skyways is the fourth new airline to announce its arrival in Detroit. KLM will resume daily Detroit service to Amsterdam on March 30 using wide-body Airbus A330-200 aircraft. AeroMéxico will begin service to Monterrey, México, with continuing service to Mexico City thrice-weekly starting April 7 using Next Generation Boeing 737 jets. China Southern Airlines, China's largest airline, will begin service in early 2009 with daily non-stops to its hub in Beijing. Also, low-cost carrier Frontier Airlines will also boost its Detroit service by 40% this summer with 56 flights per week to and from Denver--up from the current 40.

Tickets for the new Detroit-RFD service will soon be available online at [www.southernskyways.com](http://www.southernskyways.com). Initial fares will be as low as \$79 (each-way, plus taxes and fees), according to the company's announcement. The new service is a joint-venture between the company and the Greater Rockford Airport Authority.

Southern Skyways is expected to operate from the Berry Terminal, although details are still being finalized. The airline will relocate to the new North Terminal when it opens later this year.

# # #