

BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Welcomes Announcement of New International Destination from Southwest Airlines

Airline Announces Intent to Offer Service Between BWI Marshall and Costa Rica; First New International Market Introduced by Southwest

Southwest Airlines announced plans this morning to add international air service between Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and San José, Costa Rica, starting in March 2015. The carrier's plans were announced by Gary Kelly, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer for Southwest Airlines during remarks before the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

“This announcement from Southwest Airlines further enhances the international tourism, trade, and cultural opportunities for BWI Marshall Airport and for our State,” said Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley. “Like Southwest, we are committed to delivering excellent service for residents, businesses, and visitors across Maryland and the entire National Capital region.”

San José, Costa Rica would be the sixth international market served by Southwest Airlines from BWI Marshall. In July, Southwest Airlines launched its first-ever scheduled international flights. The airline currently serves four international markets from BWI Marshall—Aruba, Montego Bay, Nassau, and Cancun. Southwest will add service in November between BWI Marshall and Punta Cana. San José, Costa Rica is the first new international market introduced by Southwest. The previous international destinations were first-served by AirTran Airways, a subsidiary of Southwest Airlines.

“We continue working to grow air service opportunities for our customers,” said Paul J. Wiedefeld, Chief Executive Officer for BWI Marshall. “We are enhancing the airport for travelers while creating new international air service capacity.”

Design of the BWI Marshall D/E Connector program was recently completed. This multi-phase development will: construct a new secure connector between Concourse D and Concourse E, create a new security checkpoint to serve domestic and international travelers, and configure airline gates to support additional international flights. Construction is expected to start in coming months. International passenger traffic has grown steadily in recent years at BWI Marshall.

###