

US Airways cuts some fares to, from Rochester



Written by

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At the urging of Rochester-region businesses and U.S. Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-Fairport, **USAirways** has slashed some of its fares to and from the Greater Rochester International Airport, including the heavily traveled Washington and Philadelphia routes.

The fare reductions, which cover walkup and some advance ticket purchases, range between about 30 percent and 67 percent to 23 domestic destinations, including several in Florida. The changes took effect last Friday.

US Airways senior vice president Suzanne Boda said the reductions were in response to concerns raised by Slaughter, major local employers like the University of Rochester and Kodak, and the **Rochester Business Alliance**. They complained that fares to some cities were discouraging **business travel** and impeding local economic development.

US Airways, which handles about 20 percent of traffic out of the **airport**, was a focus of the discussion because of the number of daily flights it has into and out of Washington's Reagan National Airport and the Philadelphia International Airport.

Boda, who along with Slaughter and local **business** executives held a press conference Wednesday at the airport, said there was no planned expiration date for the fare cuts.

"We're hopeful this will maintain revenue for us," she said. "We will assess as we go, as we do with all our fares." US Airways is not raising other fares to compensate for the announced cuts, according to the company.

Slaughter said the move was a first step in making Rochester a more convenient place for air travelers. "I'm still working on getting **Southwest Airlines** to come in here," she said.

In the late 1990s, Rochester's **airfares**

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were among the most expensive in the nation. The arrival over the last decade of discount lines such as JetBlue and AirTran have reduced overall fares, though travelers, both leisure and business, continue to complain about high fares to some cities and the lack of direct routes.