



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Issued by the Department of Transportation  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2002

Served: July 10, 2002

Essential Air Service at

**THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA  
WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA  
MASON CITY, IOWA  
FORT DODGE, IOWA**

**Docket OST-2001-10642  
Docket OST-2001-10644  
Docket OST-2001-10682  
Docket OST-2001-10684**

under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

**ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION**

**Summary**

By this order, the Department of Transportation extends the service obligation of Mesaba Aviation, Inc., d/b/a Mesaba Airlines (Mesaba), at Thief River Falls, Minnesota, Watertown, South Dakota, Mason City, Iowa, and Fort Dodge, Iowa, for another 30 days, through [August 2, 2002](#).

**Background**

On September 17, 2001, Mesaba filed 90-day notices of its intent to suspend its subsidy-free service at Thief River Falls and Watertown effective January 1, 2002. Subsequently, on September 21, 2001, Mesaba filed 90-day notices to suspend service at Fort Dodge and Mason City, also effective January 1, 2002. By Order 2001-12-26, December 31, 2001, the Department prohibited Mesaba from suspending either service beyond the end of its 90-day notice period, through January 31, 2002, and requested proposals, with subsidy if necessary, from carriers interested in providing replacement service. As required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we have extended Mesaba's service obligation for additional 30-day periods, the latest through [July 3, 2002](#), by Order [2002-5-31](#).

Although we have received proposals from Corporate Airlines, Great Lakes Aviation and Mesaba, these cases will not be completed before the end of the current 30-day hold-in period. Thus, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Mesaba's service obligation at the four communities listed above for an additional 30 days, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

This order is issued under authority delegated in 49 CFR 1.56a(f).

**ACCORDINGLY,**

1. We require Mesaba Aviation, Inc., d/b/a Mesaba Airlines, to maintain essential air service at Thief River Falls, MN, Watertown, SD, Mason City, IA and Fort Dodge, IA, as specified in ordering paragraph 3 of Order 2001-12-26, for an additional 30-day period through [August 2, 2002](#), or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins service, whichever occurs first;<sup>1</sup>
2. We direct Mesaba to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documentation to support subsidy claims for payment, and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;
3. Dockets OST-2001-10642, OST-10644, OST-10682 and OST-10684, will remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. We will serve a copy of this order on the Mayors and Airport Managers of Thief River Falls, Watertown, Mason City and Fort Dodge, the Minnesota DOT, the South Dakota DOT, the Iowa DOT, and Mesaba Aviation, Inc.

By:

**READ C. VAN de WATER**  
Assistant Secretary for Aviation  
and International Affairs

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*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at  
<http://dms.dot.gov>*

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Mesaba's service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.