

Rochester, NY - Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today partnered with US Airways to announce temporary reductions on US Airways flights from the Greater Rochester International Airport to more than 20 domestic cities. Reduced fares have already gone into effect and have lowered ticket prices by up to 67 percent.

Rochester has long suffered high airfare. In the 1990s, Rochester passengers paid some of the highest airline fares in the nation. In a survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation in 1998, Rochester passengers paid the fourth highest amount in the nation per mile. While Rochester patrons paid 31.1 cents per mile, passengers to Las Vegas who were paying less than half that much: 11.1 cents per mile.

As a result, Slaughter has worked to bring airfares down and today's announcement by US Airways will provide much needed relief to local businesses and families who rely on service from the Rochester airport.

"For decades I have been battling the problem of overpriced airfares in Western New York so today I'm delighted to announce these necessary fare reductions alongside US Airways," said Slaughter. "Already in effect, these temporary reductions will affect service to 23 US cities. This is exciting news for families heading to Sarasota or Palm Beach on vacation and will now see reduced fares. It is also vital for our local business community who will benefit from reduced fares to Washington's Reagan National Airport and Philadelphia. Economic development cannot occur without affordable, accessible air transportation and today's announcement is another important step to grow our local economy and create jobs."

In September, Slaughter invited local business leaders to meet with U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood in Washington in an effort to reduce airline prices in and out of the Rochester airport. It was Slaughter who started the conversation between the business leaders and US Airways. Comments from local business leaders during that meeting are available [here](#).

Suzanne Boda, Senior Vice President, Airport Customer Service, International and Cargo said, "US Airways is pleased to partner with Representative Slaughter and the Rochester Business Alliance in this exciting new fare initiative. We are confident that these new

fares will be viewed positively by those traveling for both business and pleasure in this important market.”

Slaughter has worked closely with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Porcari on this issue along with local business leaders who have joined her in advocating for the need to reduce airfare to and from Rochester.

“As the regional chamber of commerce, we know that reducing the costs of doing business helps companies be more competitive in the global marketplace,” said Sandy Parker, president and CEO of the Rochester Business Alliance. “One of the costs our members often talk about is the expense of airfare to select locations, particularly Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. On behalf of the business community, we want to thank USAirways for listening to our concerns and taking a significant step in the right direction to reduce those costs.”

Slaughter has been a longtime leader fighting for improved transportation options in Western New York with the understanding that with improved transportation options allow a more vibrant local economy. Upon first arriving in Congress, Slaughter was instrumental in adding the Rochester Airport to the Federal Aviation Airport List which allowed the airport to receive millions of dollars in needed upgrades.

In 1999, she convened an Aviation Competition Listening Session with then Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater to hear from local and national leaders on the problems and proposed solutions to high fares plaguing mid-sized communities such as Rochester. This listening session provides a forum to highlight the significant challenges facing Rochester at that time.

Slaughter also lead the effort to convince JetBlue that they should serve the Rochester market by providing written commitments from Rochester-based corporations that would rely on their service. She also worked closely with federal transportation officials to ensure JetBlue landing and take-off rights at busy airports in New York and around the country. In 2000, Slaughter welcomed JetBlue to Rochester who's low cost competition saved local travelers over \$12.5 million in its first year of service alone, and ushered in a wave of lower fares from not only new carriers like AirTran, but from legacy carriers as well.

A Breakdown of US Airways Fare Reductions

The U.S. Airways Reduced Fare Program includes the following new fares:

- Walkup fares, which are those booked within seven days prior to travel, are being reduced by between **20 and 67 percent**.

These are the fares that so many of our local businesses rely upon to quickly and efficiently meet new opportunities.

- Leisure fares, which are those booked seven days or more in advance prior to travel, are being reduced up to **48 percent**.

- More specifically, travelers who book flights from Rochester to **Washington Reagan National Airport** within two weeks with no Saturday night stay will be reduced by 39 percent.

- Additionally, travelers who book flights from Rochester to **Philadelphia International Airport** within two weeks with no Saturday night stay will be reduced by 51 percent.

Fares are being reduced between Rochester and **23 domestic cities**.

To view a full list of fare discounts, [click here](#)

Destination Cities	Lowest Available Fare with No Advance Purchase*	Lowest Fare Available with Advanced Purchased**
Washington, DC (DCA)	61%	No Change
Philadelphia, PA (PHL)	51%	48%
Palm Beach, FL (PBI)	35%	28%
Gainesville, FL (GNV)	33%	32%
Melbourne, FL (MLB)	31%	5%
Sarasota, FL (SRQ)	35%	29%
Fort Walton Beach, FL (VPS)	52%	No Change
Birmingham, AL (BHM)	62%	2%
Montgomery, AL (MGM)	62%	31%
Huntsville, AL (HSV)	20%	No Change
Jackson, MS (JAN)	67%	No Change
Nashville, TN (BNA)	41%	15%
Charleston, SC (CHS)	40%	No Change
Myrtle Beach, SC (MYR)	59%	26%
Norfolk, VA (ORF)	56%	No Change
Charleston, WV (CRW)	44%	12%
Huntington, WV (HTS)	44%	12%
Louisville, KY (SDF)	42%	No Change
Columbus, OH (CMH)	40%	No Change
North Canton, OH (CAK)	43%	16%
Windsor Locks, CT (BDL)	43%	No Change
Warwick, RI (PVD)	56%	17%
Bangor, ME (BGR)	38%	No Change

* booked on same day of travel

** booked seven days or more prior to date of travel

Produced by the Office of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter