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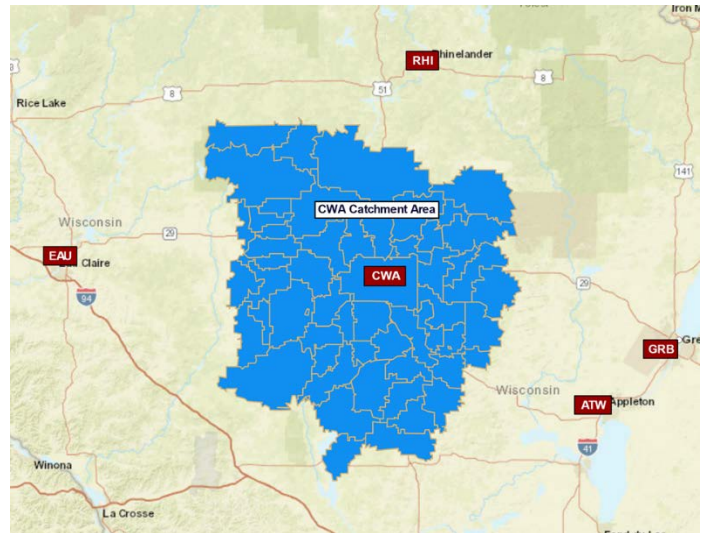
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2019 is a Great Year to Fly CWA!

Passengers are flying more and more from CWA. Airline ticket prices are coming down and flight schedules are better than ever. For the first half of 2019, passenger numbers have grown by over 15% at the Central Wisconsin Airport! At this rate, the airport could see nearly 300,000 passengers this year, a number that hasn't been seen since before the Great Recession of 2008. This growth is great news for the communities of central Wisconsin. As the total available seats fill up, the airlines will add more seats and potentially more destinations out of CWA. This growth will also drive airline ticket prices down even further.

So what's the reason for this? Well, in addition to lower prices and better airline schedules, there are more people flying out of our entire "catchment area". A catchment area is simply a geographic boundary of what airport you're closest to. Our catchment area is shown in blue. In 2015, this catchment area produced 516,086 passengers. Last year, there were 578,772 passengers. This year that number will be even higher.



The passengers in the catchment area use CWA approximately 40% of the time. The other 60% of the time travelers choose to travel long distances to other airports such as Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago. Increasing our passenger retention would certainly add additional destinations our community wants, such as Denver, Dallas, or Atlanta.

With this growth, the airport is experiencing "big city" challenges. Now, passengers need to show up at least 90 minutes before their flights. This is especially true for the the early morning departures between 5:30 am and 7:30 am. Daily, in one hour of the morning, our friends at TSA are tasked with screening nearly 200 passengers. The technology they are provided cannot screen more than 150 passengers per hour. The result of this math problem are wait-times. TSA has provided the following recommendations to make traveling easier:

Serving Wausau, Stevens Point and the Central Wisconsin Region

Prepare for security when packing: Check TSA's website feature "When I fly, can I bring my _____?" at tsa.gov. Type in an item to find out if you can bring it in your carry-on bag, checked bag, either or neither.

Wrapped Gifts: TSA recommends that you NOT bring wrapped gifts to the checkpoint. If the package alarms, we will have to unwrap it, and that makes everyone unhappy. Gift bags are a good alternative, or wrap your gifts when you arrive at your destination.

@AskTSA: Travelers with questions about security can contact a TSA employee for live assistance 365 days a year by tweeting questions and comments to @AskTSA.

Follow the 3-1-1 liquids rule for your carry-on bag. Let the TSA officer know right away if you're traveling with larger quantities of medically necessary liquids.

Be ready when you enter the checkpoint line: Have an acceptable ID and boarding pass out and ready to hand to the TSA officer.

TSA Cares: Travelers or families of passengers with disabilities and medical conditions can call the TSA Cares helpline toll free at 1-855-787-2227 with questions or for assistance 72 hours prior to traveling. Injured service members and veterans may contact TSA Cares to help facilitate the screening process.

To make the most out of your traveling experience, arrive early (at least 90 minutes), be prepared, get through security, and enjoy the Blind Rooster Café and Market for breakfast. Food is served at 4:15 am with Bloody Marys starting at 6:00 am.

On behalf of the airport and our airline partners, I want to express my gratitude for choosing to fly CWA. There are a lot of options out there. Having a hometown airport is special for our region.

Thank you for flying CWA!

Brian Grefe
Airport Director

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