

Steel City Flyer to Begin Non-Stop Service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania / November 7, 2008 — “Business travelers like to complain, but few are in a position to actually do something about it. We are putting our money where our mouth is in anticipation of support by business travelers.” With these words, transportation entrepreneur Robert A. Pietrandrea and his partner Henry Posner III announced the birth of the *Steel City Flyer*, a Business Class transportation service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. The service will be operated as a joint venture between Railroad Development Corporation and LeGrand America, a third-generation transportation company owned by George DeBolt and based in Pittsburgh’s Mon Valley.

The idea for the new service came from personal experiences traveling in and out of the “Steel City”. “In one case it took me 25 hours to get to Princeton, New Jersey, a distance of under 350 miles. In another case I was in New York City when my flight home was proactively canceled eight hours in advance because the airline thought that the weather might be bad,” commented Posner. “As an Extreme Business Traveler to destinations ranging from Cedar Rapids to Mozambique, my experience over the past several years has suggested that there has to be a better way.”

Two other events prompted the creation of the *Steel City Flyer*. The first was the elimination of air service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg by US Airways in early September, a service that had been relied upon by business travelers for more than 70 years. The second was the recent increase in both speed and frequency of Amtrak’s service east of Harrisburg. The *Steel City Flyer* will connect with Amtrak at Harrisburg’s Transportation Center, extending the benefits of improved rail service to destinations such as New York, Trenton, Philadelphia and Lancaster to western Pennsylvanians. An announcement is expected soon regarding joint fares and ticketing between Amtrak and the *Steel City Flyer* to complement the existing joint timetables.

One of the goals of the *Steel City Flyer* is to enable travelers between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg to use their en route time more productively. Exclusive on-board amenities will include continuous wi-fi service along the route, tray tables, pillows, movies, reserved seat assignments and attendant service. The *Steel City Flyer* will also have reclining seats, footrests, and overhead audio speakers, reading lights, and air vents at every seat.

Passenger convenience was a prime consideration in planning the route. Pick-up points are planned in the North Hills and Monroeville as well as in downtown Pittsburgh. In addition to the Transportation Center, stops in Harrisburg will include the State Capitol Building and the downtown Crowne Plaza Hotel-Harrisburg. *Steel City Flyer* service will begin with 2 leased Daimler Mercedes luxury coaches until 2 new custom built coaches featuring seat belts, AC power outlets at every seat, individual headphone connections and such state-of-the-art amenities as satellite TV are delivered. “If the Harrisburg operation proves successful, other markets will be considered,” said Posner.

An additional benefit of the *Steel City Flyer* is its positive contribution to the environment. With 40 passengers on-board, the *Steel City Flyer* may remove as many as 39 vehicles from the turnpike. An individual driving a car to Harrisburg may get 20 passenger miles per gallon of gasoline; with 40 passengers on-board, the *Steel City Flyer* will get 280 passenger miles per gallon.

The *Steel City Flyer* is scheduled to begin service on Monday, November 24th. The initial schedule calls for two non-stop roundtrips in each direction every business day with a running time of 3.5 hours between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. Schedules are tailored to meet the needs of 2 distinct markets: business travelers to Harrisburg and travelers to points east of Harrisburg via Amtrak's high-speed "Keystone" service. Departures from Pittsburgh will be at 7:00 AM and 2:15 PM; departures from Harrisburg will be at 9:15 AM and 3:45 PM. Special service will be added on November 30th, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, traditionally the busiest travel day of the year. A special introductory fare will be only \$69 per person each way.

The *Steel City Flyer's* on-line reservation system is expected to be operational in a month. In the meantime, reservations and information can be obtained from its operations center at (412) 461-9132 (toll free 1-877-743-5937). Please visit the website for schedule details at <http://www.steelcityflyer.com/> which is currently under construction.

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