Vision ups GSP connections

Passenger traffic at record high in April

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Upstate residents may find it a little easier to reach Las Vegas and other destinations with low-fare carrier Vision Airlines, effective June 1.

The Georgia-based airline began service between Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport and its hub at Northwest Florida Regional Airport at Destin/Ft. Walton Beach the end of March. A little more than a month later, it is responding to its passengers' desires by adding connections to various destinations through the hub.

Connections in Florida for GSP passengers will include Knoxville, Tenn., and Las Vegas, the airline said. Connections also are being added for passengers flying from Columbia; Asheville, N.C.; and Savannah, Ga., among others. The airline added 100 new options for flights through its Florida hub.

"Any time airlines offer our customers the opportunity to travel easier, it's good for the airport," said Rosylin Weston, GSP spokeswoman. "It's a win for everybody."

David Meers, Vision's chief operating officer, said, "When we launched our service in March, we felt it would be prudent to keep things simple which meant only allowing passengers to fly directly to a destination.

"Now, by opening our entire system with connections, our customers will have many new destination options. This will give our passengers so many more options to take advantage of our low fares and we are very happy to deliver this value at a time when it seems airfares from other air carriers are skyrocketing," he said.

Weston said that GSP passengers had begun making the connections themselves but that required two reservations and sometimes relatively long layovers. With Vision providing the connecting airlines, the trip can be done on one ticket with a shorter layover.

Las Vegas is one of the top 20 destinations for travel originating at GSP, she said.

"It is a place that people in the Upstate go to," she said.

The Las Vegas destination also makes it easy to reach the West Coast.

Vision's decision to provide easy connections "complements the airport," Weston said. "We're an easy airport to get into. We're an easy airport to get around. We want to provide easy travel."