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BRIDGE Presents Passenger Air Service Attraction Proposal to Bristol City Council

BRISTOL, TN - BRIDGE, a privately funded regional economic development organization, presented a detailed proposal for Bristol, Tennessee to help attract new passenger air service to Tri-Cities Airport at the Bristol City Council's Thursday work session.

BRIDGE aims to enhance regional connectivity and economic opportunities by expanding commercial air travel options for the region. Since the FAA does not allow airports to incentivize new air service, BRIDGE is filling that role.

BRIDGE is currently asking the airport owners (Bristol, Tennessee and Virginia; Johnson City; Kingsport; and Washington and Sullivan counties) and regional businesses to help fund an incentive for a specific route that would provide air service between Tri-Cities Airport and two major markets.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Bristol will hold all the funds it commits to the project until monthly invoices from the airline begin.
- At that time, BRIDGE will act as the pass-through organization, collecting only the invoiced funds from all supporters and paying the airline.
- BRIDGE will keep zero dollars, charging no fees and diverting no funds. Every dollar invoiced will go to the airline.
- The start date for the air service and the specific markets served will be announced once BRIDGE has collected commitments to fully fund the incentive and an agreement with the airline has been formalized.

"What we're asking of Bristol, and of all communities and companies supporting new air service," said John Rose, BRIDGE executive director, "is to provide a financial commitment in writing that helps fund the air service project and names BRIDGE as the recipient of the funds for the purpose of working directly with the airline. Tri-Cities Airport currently loses around 60% of the region's passenger traffic to other airports. By addressing airline recruitment and untapped passenger market potential, we can unlock significant economic benefits for the region."

BRIDGE will continue working to benefit Tri-Cities Airport and regional stakeholders by advancing the proposed air service attraction initiative.

About BRIDGE

BRIDGE is a privately funded regional economic development organization committed to fostering economic growth and opportunity in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia.



BRIDGE

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Development, Growth, & Engagement