



News Release  
For Immediate Release  
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## **Williston Basin International Airport welcomes first Las Vegas Sun Country Flight on Sept. 2nd**

Williston Basin International Airport (XWA) welcomed the first Sun Country Airlines flight SY 171 from Las Vegas, Nevada on the evening of Thursday, September 2, 2021. XWA and Williston Fire Department staff welcomed the incoming flight with a water salute on the tarmac and greeted flyers as they exited the plane. Anthony Dudas, XWA Airport Director, welcomed disembarking passengers and presented them with commemorative poker chips to celebrate the arrival of Sun Country Airlines at XWA.

"I am ecstatic we are beginning direct, low cost, flights from XWA to Las Vegas provided by Sun Country Airlines," said Dudas. "This would not have been possible at our former airport, and it is truly exciting to be able to accommodate and offer new travel options."

The City of Williston partnered with Sun Country to provide these flights to enhance the quality of life in western North Dakota. This agreement between the City and Sun Country is typical for new air service to smaller communities in that it helps to minimize risk to the air carrier and allows flyers the option of a new travel opportunity.

That evening, the same Sun Country plane, flight SY 172, turned around and flew back to Las Vegas with passengers from Williston and the surrounding communities. These passengers also received commemorative poker chips for the celebration. On the flight was the first XWA Las Vegas Giveaway winner, Brenda Mann.

"Both my husband and I are really excited about the trip! It's been a few years since we've been to Vegas and we're really looking forward to it!" said Mann. "We were

very pleased to hear that Sun Country was offering affordable flights to Vegas. It will be so nice to fly direct from Williston.”

Mann also mentioned that she loves the new airport and has been impressed by her flying experiences in and out of XWA.

Currently, this seasonal service to Las Vegas will pause on November 28, 2021 due to staffing and aircraft shortages among other reasons. A successful partnership with Sun Country will open doors to new leisure destinations and continuance of the current Las Vegas flight. Sun Country and XWA will monitor flight loads and Sun Country will make future schedule decisions based on this initial offering.

Dudas encourages Williston and the surrounding communities to show their support not only for XWA but for Sun Country coming to the region.

Book your Sun Country Airlines flight to Las Vegas today at [flywilliston.net/flyxwa](https://flywilliston.net/flyxwa).