



**Gulfport-Biloxi  
International Airport**  
*We Make Flying Easier.*

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## **SKYBUS AIRLINES**

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GULFPORT-BILOXI, Mississippi – The decision of Skybus Airlines to file for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11 came as a surprise to airport officials at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport (GPT) on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. “Other than their reduction of service to Greensboro, NC, our focus has been on building ridership to Columbus, OH,” said Bruce Frallic, Airport Director. Over the past four months of service, Skybus has brought over 24,000 passengers to GPT contributing greatly to the local Gulf Coast economy.

“In spite of this unfortunate development, the Skybus air service has clearly highlighted the Ohio - Gulf Coast market demand (as well as Greensboro, NC), and this will pay off for us in the long run and someone will fill the void,” said Frallic. “Skybus’ decision to suspend flights is a business decision and it does not reflect negatively on the strength of the Gulfport-Biloxi market, rather it is principally in response to rapidly rising fuel prices which have severely affected the entire airline industry.” Frallic went on to say that the Airport staff is working diligently to restore alternative flights to the Ohio market as soon as possible.

When the announcement came Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, local airline personnel did everything possible to accommodate Skybus passengers. Passengers may go to the Air Chef Aviation ticket counter for assistance and more information. Also, AirTran Airways announced a special program to assist those passengers affected by Skybus Airlines’ announced suspension of service. Beginning April 5, 2008, passengers ticketed on Skybus can fly on stand-by status on AirTran Airways for a one-way, refundable fare of \$50\* through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Details can be found at [www.AirTran.com](http://www.AirTran.com) or by calling 1-800-AIRTRAN.