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## Changes in North Texas travel

THE COLONY, Texas — The recent merger between American Airlines and US Airways and the pending expiration date of the Wright Amendment, has raised many questions about the future of air travel in north Texas. While more time is needed before we can fully understand how these changes will affect us, one thing we can count on is more choices.

2014 will be an exciting year for aviation in North Texas.

The merger between American Airlines and US Airways gives Dallas Fort Worth major bragging rights as the home to the world's largest airline, American Airlines Group Inc. For now we can only speculate that this will bring with it more stability and better operations performance. US Airways has a solid on-time track record.

The merger is expected to take an estimated 18 to 24 months to complete.

The Wright amendment, the federal law that has restricted flights out of Dallas Love Field since 1980, expires on October 13, 2014, allowing Love Field to service nonstop long-haul flights anywhere in the United States and compete with other major carriers.

For North Texans this means more choices between not only carriers, but airports. The increased non-stop routes will allow travelers out of Love Field more choices in destinations since they serve different airports.

Increased traffic and competition for certain routes could mean lower rates or special introductory rates. Travelers are already seeing improvements related to both the merger and end to the Wright Amendment in facility improvements, terminal upgrades and improved parking.

Expect more details to be shared in the upcoming months. American Airlines Group will likely begin rolling out answers to questions about their frequent flyer program and a new look while Southwest is expected to unveil its new schedule of non-stop flights out of Love Field approximately six months prior to its fall schedule of ticket purchases.

As for us, we couldn't be happier to have two great airports and more flights available to those who wish to visit The Colony and the North Texas area.

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