



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, April 4, 2016**

## **WATERLOO REGIONAL AIRPORT REPORTS CONTINUED INCREASES IN PASSENGERS USING THE AIRPORT**

### **First Quarter Passenger Traffic Reflects Airport is off to a Great Start for 2016**

**WATERLOO, IA** – City of Waterloo and Airport officials previously reported that passenger traffic for CY-2015 reflected an increase of 11.625% over CY-2014.

However, City and Airport officials are very pleased to report that CY-2016 is off to an excellent start, as for the 6,260 passengers used Waterloo Regional Airport during the months of January – February – March, reflecting an increase of 795 outbound passengers or an increase of approximately 14.50% over the First Quarter of CY-2015. This increase resulted in being the best First Quarter with over 2,000 outbound passengers each month since CY-2007 when Waterloo saw 7,062 passengers use the airport.

Keith Kaspari, Director of Aviation for Waterloo Regional Airport commented that, “This First Quarter of passenger travel is very good news for our passengers located throughout the Cedar Valley Region. Spurred by a strong response from Spring Break travelers, and combined with excellent service by American Airlines with flights to Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport and the hundreds of domestic and international connections available through Chicago, very competitively priced fares, cheap parking at only \$5.00 per day, and a new schedule that took effect on February 11<sup>th</sup>, continues to place Waterloo Regional Airport in a favorable position to continue to grow and recapture our Region’s passenger base from travelers using larger regional and international airports.”

Kaspari continued, “When taking into account the time to drive many hours (and back) to the larger airports in Iowa, or possibly outside of Iowa, the possibility of driving through adverse winter and early-spring weather, the higher cost of vehicle parking, the longer lines waiting to get checked in for the flight, and waiting through longer lines of security screening, allows Waterloo Regional Airport to again be looked at more favorably by local and area passengers located throughout the Cedar Valley Region as they are becoming more aware that flying from Waterloo – and the Fly-Drive Contrast, allows our passengers to save even more money knowing they do not have to pay for an added gas expense, more expensive parking, and their personal or business time driving to and from the larger airports.”

Kaspari provided closing comment, “As we closeout the winter season and transition to both Spring and Summer travel, I’m optimistic that Cedar Valley area passengers will continue to look at Waterloo as their preferred airport to begin their air travel as officials at American Airlines continues to provide an excellent product for our region.”

###