

Harrisburg-New York air service ending, attributed in part to Amtrak

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Nonstop air service between Harrisburg, Pa., and New York City will cease April 6, an apparent victim of fuel prices, airport congestion, and Amtrak.

Colgan Air, a subsidiary of Pinnacle Airlines Corp., began the short-distance service last September. Colgan has not commented on its decision to end service.

But a spokesman for Harrisburg International Airport said Colgan load factors for flights between the two cities averaged 25% to 30%, below Colgan's targeted 40% threshold. The spokesman noted that, due to frequent flight delays, Amtrak service linking the two cities was time competitive and less costly.

Amtrak, in conjunction with Pennsylvania, recently increased service on the Keystone Corridor, linking Harrisburg and Philadelphia, after upgrading infrastructure between the two cities. It also extended the service onto its Northeast Corridor to provide more direct service between Harrisburg and New York.

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