The new aircraft will reduce the flying time between New York and Los Angeles on the present one-stop route via Chicago to 8 hours and 10 minutes eastbound and 8 hours and 55 minutes westbound. The present flying time on this route is 9 hours eastbound and 9 hours and 55 minutes westbound. Non-stop service would be faster, depending on the route followed.

With this DC-7 project, engineers of American Airlines and Douglas are cooperating once more in the development of a new aircraft. The famous DC-3 and the postwar DC-6 were both conceived by American Airlines engineers and built to American's specifications by Douglas. The DC-3, which made its first flight late in 1935, was fully tested by American's Dan Beard, now the airline's Chief Engineer and project director on the DC-7. The DC-3 went into service on American Airlines in June, 1936.