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Airport Authority Approves City of Phoenix Membership

MESA, Ariz. – May 22, 2006 – At its regular Board meeting today, the Williams Gateway Airport Authority voted 3-1 to approve the City of Phoenix as the fifth member government in the Williams Gateway Airport Authority.

Mesa, Gilbert, Queen Creek and the Gila River Indian Community comprise the remaining membership. Each member government has a single Board seat and vote.

“Williams Gateway welcomes the City of Phoenix as a member and as a formal partner in the Airport Authority,” said Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Chairwoman, Williams Gateway Airport Authority.

Under the terms of its membership, Phoenix will commit \$5 million in capital funds to WGAA in fiscal year 2007 and \$1.3 million annually to the operating budget for FY 2007-2011. This amounts to 33.3 percent of the total operating investment required from all members for FY 2007. For FY 2007-FY2011, voting weight for each year would be based proportionately on each member’s operating investment for that fiscal year. For FY 2012 and beyond, voting weight for an individual member would be based on that member’s cumulative investment as a percentage of the total investment made by all members beginning in 1993.

Williams Gateway and Sky Harbor personnel have worked together on a number of key initiatives throughout the past 12 years. Sky Harbor officials have helped Williams Gateway establish policies and procedures, accounting systems, environment documents, and noise monitoring and response mechanisms. For the past several years, Phoenix has also helped fund a portion of WGAA’s marketing program.

Phoenix officials will work with the other members of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority to encourage commercial passenger service and cargo airlines to use Williams Gateway Airport to its full potential.

- - - Airport Fact Sheet Attached - - -

Airport Fact Sheet

The Williams Gateway Airport Authority was founded in 1994 to establish a commercial airport and revitalize the area following the 1993 closure of Williams Air Force Base. Today, the airport is recognized nationally as a model military base reuse effort.

Williams Gateway has grown to become a state aerospace industry hub and a major Valley economic engine that contributes an estimated \$300 million annually to the local economy. With tenants including Boeing, L-3 Communications, and International Simulations and Training Systems, the airport is currently home to more than 1,400 mostly high tech jobs. It has experienced 73% job growth over the past three years. The Williams Gateway area is projected to have more than 100,000 jobs by the year 2035.

With more than 276,000 takeoffs and landings in 2005, Williams Gateway Airport has grown to become the 42nd busiest in the United States, just behind Washington, DC's Ronald Reagan National Airport.

It is estimated that more than 700,000 Greater Phoenix residents live within a 30 minute drive of Williams Gateway Airport, a number that is expected to more than double to 1.5 million in 2020.

Sky Harbor is the nation's seventh busiest airport with more than 41.2 million passengers in 2005, numbers that are projected to grow to more than 50 million passengers by 2015.

As Sky Harbor passenger traffic and the population of Greater Phoenix grow in decades to come, Williams Gateway will be increasingly relied upon as a reliever airport for point-to-point North American air travel. This would be comparable to airport service in other major U.S. cities such as Los Angeles (LAX, Burbank, Ontario), Chicago (O'Hare and Midway) and San Francisco (SFO and Oakland).

Williams Gateway Airport marked a milestone to this end on April 6 when Vision Airlines became the first air carrier to offer regularly scheduled passenger service. The airport hosted more than 20,000 private charter passengers in 2005.

Williams Gateway Airport is owned and operated by the Williams Gateway Airport Authority, which includes the Gila River Indian Community, Gilbert, Mesa, Queen Creek and Phoenix. For more information, visit www.flywga.org.