



Airport Completes Runway Improvements

MESA, Ariz. – July 6, 2006 – Williams Gateway Airport has completed the installation of new safety features on two runways and reopened its center runway to aircraft operators.

The construction of new paved curbing – or shoulders – for runways 12R/30L and 12C/30C now provide an increased level of safety in the event an aircraft deviates from the runway surface.

“An aircraft inadvertently leaving a runway is a rare occurrence. Asphalt shoulders along the runway edges give a pilot more opportunity to correct the aircraft’s position, similar to a vehicle driving on the shoulder of a freeway,” said Williams Gateway Airport Executive Director Lynn Kusy.

“Reopening the center runway is important to the aviation community as it is the only runway in the Valley equipped with an instrument landing system on which pilots do practice approaches. Pilots fly in from other states and other Arizona airports to use this system,” Kusy added.

Construction was funded with grants from the Federal Aviation Administration and ADOT Aeronautics. The combined projects utilized approximately 20,000 tons of asphalt concrete and 200,000 square feet of painting. The depth of the shoulders varies from 4" to 6", including the necessary sub-surface preparation. The project began October 2005, with each runway closed for approximately 90 days.

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