

GREG STANTON
ARIZONA'S 9TH DISTRICT

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AND THE INTERNET

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 11, 2022

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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Steve Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

RE: Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport's Application for the Airport Terminal Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Administrator Dickson:

I write in support of Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport's (Gateway Airport) application to the Airport Terminal Program (ATP) requesting \$19.3 million to construct a permanent five-gate terminal facility to replace a portable temporary four-gate annex facility that has been in place for nearly 15 years.

Gateway Airport in Mesa, Arizona, is one of the fastest-growing commercial service airports in the country. Since launching commercial passenger service in 2007, the Airport has grown to welcome nearly two million passengers annually, offering nonstop service to over 60 popular destinations in the U.S. and Canada. It serves as a key economic driver, providing over 10,200 jobs and annually contributing \$1.8 billion to our regional economy.

As the frequency of flights and passenger demand increased, Gateway Airport put in place a portable 10,000-square-foot "temporary passenger terminal annex" with four gates, meant to accommodate passengers until a permanent structure could be constructed. However, continued rapid growth forced the Airport to prioritize additional terminal projects and delayed replacement of the temporary terminal annex. It constructed three new permanent terminal buildings in 2010, 2012, and 2014, bringing the terminal's total square footage to 116,000 square feet and total airline gates to ten. Despite these additions, the temporary annex building - and its four gates - remains in daily use. The aging annex building requires costly repairs and creates inefficiencies in the Airport's operations. Replacement of the annex building is Gateway Airport's number one priority as passenger traffic is expected to grow by more than 50% over the next 10-15 years.

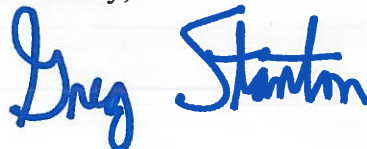
Gateway Airport's proposed Terminal Modernization Project fulfills all of the goals of the ATP and USDOT's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Framework:

- Increase capacity and passenger access: The proposed project increases aircraft gate capacity and provides passenger spacing to meet current standards, including an enclosed walkway.
- Replace aging infrastructure: The current temporary annex is eight to ten years beyond its intended useful life, requires costly maintenance, and creates safety concerns.
- Achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including expand accessibility for persons with disabilities: The proposed project improves ADA capabilities by removing stairs/ramps, increasing ADA restroom facilities, and incorporating resources for hearing and visually impaired individuals.
- Improve airport access for historically disadvantaged populations: The new ADA-compliant terminal facility will expand travel and job opportunities, particularly for rural and Native American communities in close proximity to the Airport.
- Improve energy efficiency including upgrading environmental systems, upgrading plant facilities, and achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accreditation standards: The proposed terminal facility and restrooms will utilize a wide array of energy efficiency components.
- Improve airfield safety through terminal relocation: The proposed project relocates aircraft parking gates to allow larger aircraft to use the taxiway, creating a safer environment.
- Encourage actual and potential competition: The expanded terminal capacity will attract additional airlines, destinations, and charter activity to the Airport.
- Create good paying jobs: The proposed project will create 500 construction jobs and hundreds of permanent jobs through increased airline, hospitality, concessionaire, and retail utilization.

The Airport provided \$950,000 to complete design and engineering, so this project is truly shovel ready. With its continued growth and dedication to service, Gateway Airport is an ideal candidate for ATP funding and will serve as a powerful example of the Administration's commitment to building new terminals thoughtfully, equitably, and sustainably in communities that need them most.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress