



**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE  
MESA GATEWAY AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS | February 18, 2025**

A public meeting of the Mesa Gateway Airport Authority (MGAA, Authority) was convened on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room (Saguaro A&B) of the Gateway Administration Building, 5835 S Sossaman Road, Mesa, Arizona.

**Members Present**

Mayor Julia Wheatley, Queen Creek  
Lt. Governor Regina Antone, Gila River Indian  
Community  
Mayor Mark Freeman, Mesa  
Mayor Scott Anderson, Gilbert  
Mayor Chip Wilson, Apache Junction  
*\* Neither present nor represented*

**Airport Staff Present**

J. Brian O'Neill, Executive Director/CEO  
Scott Brownlee, Deputy Director/COO  
Chuck Odom, CFO  
Misty Johnson, Clerk of the Board  
Jill Casson Owen, Attorney

1. **Call to Order** at 9:01 a.m. (Mayor Wheatley, Chairwoman)

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Call to the Public**

Prior to the start of the Board meeting, City of Mesa Vice Mayor/District 6 Councilmember Scott Somers submitted to the Clerk of the Board a public comment card to speak on the topic of the Boyer Commercial Development and his desire to see high quality retail and hospitality development opportunities.

4. **Executive Director's Report** – J. Brian O'Neill, A.A.E., Executive Director/CEO  
Executive Director O'Neill provided a briefing on various Airport projects.

- Representatives from the following companies provided a briefing on the development projects for their respective organizations. Due to a last-minute scheduling conflict, Gulfstream was unable to attend.
  - **Virgin Galactic** - Megan Hellam, Director, Technical Operations, Analysis & Performance
  - **Boyer/Gateway East** – Matt Jensen, Partner, Boyer Company
  - **SkyBridge Arizona** – Will Moseley, General Manager
  - **Gateway Commerce Center III** – David Wetta, Founder Wetta Ventures
  - **Redevelopment Project** – Devon Gentry, Senior Analyst, Phoenix Rising Investments on behalf of AMPLify
- Air service development
  - December and January passenger activity up 17% and 7% respectively
  - Allegiant added nonstop service to Colorado Springs on February 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Allegiant's schedule shows a 35% increase in flights in March and 32% in April
  - 2025 Mead & Hunt Air Service Conference is on April 1-3, 2025 in Phoenix
- The Triennial Emergency Preparedness Exercise was held at Mesa Gateway Airport (Airport) on February 4, 2025. The live training drill prepares the Authority, first responders, and mutual aid organizations for an actual emergency. The Authority acknowledges the many participating municipalities, agencies, airports, companies, and volunteers that generously gave their time, energy, and expertise to make this year's training exercise event a success.

- The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is preparing for the 2025 wildfire season. Aircraft have begun arriving at Gateway Airport for training. The USFS plans to open its Mesa Base on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March.
- The Authority has hosted several newly elected officials for tours of the Airport. These tours aid in understanding the economic importance of the Airport to the Phoenix East Valley and the State. The Executive Director invited all elected officials to tour the Airport or to have an Airport representative come and speak at a City or Town Council meeting.
- May 7, 2025 is the federal deadline for domestic airline travelers to have a federally compliant form of identification called Real ID, or in Arizona it's called Travel ID. Standard Arizona drivers' licenses and ID cards will no longer be accepted at TSA checkpoints.
- The reconstruction of Runway 12R-30L will be completed over the next two years. Phase I began in October 2024. Once the southern portion is completed in April, Phase II, the northern half of Runway 12R-30L, will be reconstructed after receiving the proposed grant. Concrete from the southern half of the 10,400-foot runway has been removed and crushed, and will be reused as the base course under the new concrete. This important infrastructure project totals approximately \$45MM, with a majority of the funding coming from FAA grants.
- The Authority is updating the signage for the front entrance of the Airport at the intersection of Ray and Sossaman Roads. A new monument sign, landscaping, irrigation, and lighting will be completed by the end of March 2025.
- The south end of the Airport's airside service road has been reconstructed to accommodate fuel trucks traveling between the east side and west side of the airfield. The service road is paved and will be open for use by the end of February 2025.
- The Authority has received a federal grant to update the airfield electrical system. Over the next two years the electrical system will be updated in conjunction with ongoing runway projects. This will include new LED lighting, upgrading the vaults, and the wiring connecting the three 10,000 ft. runways and ramp areas.
- A new TSA checked baggage system will replace two older Reveal machines that can only clear 200 checked bags an hour. The new upgraded explosive detection equipment will be capable of clearing 800 – 1,000 bags an hour. This additional capacity will be necessary as the Airport continues to grow. This project is scheduled to get underway in August 2025.

#### **5. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Presentation – Chuck Odom, Chief Financial Officer**

- Mr. Odom provided a presentation on MGAA's proposed FY26 Operating and Capital Budget for the Board's review. The Board will be asked to consider the budget for approval at the March 18, 2025, MGAA Board meeting.

#### **6. Consent Agenda**

- a) **Minutes** of the Board Meeting held on **January 21, 2025**.
- b) **Resolution No. 25-05** – Authorizing the purchase of a vehicle from **San Tan Auto Partners, LLC, dba San Tan Ford (San Tan Ford)**, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 under CIP 1278.
- c) **Resolution No. 25-06** – Authorizing the purchase of Jet A and 100LL Avgas fuel from **Ascent Aviation Group, Inc. (World Fuel)** for Airport Authority resale in the amount of \$2,225,000.

**Mayor Chip Wilson moved to approve the Consent Agenda.**  
**Mayor Mark Freeman seconded the motion.**  
**The motion was carried unanimously.**

**7. Board Member Comments/Announcements.**

None.

**8. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2025** at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room (Saguaro A&B) of the Gateway Administration Building, 5835 S Sossaman Road, Mesa, Arizona. Members of the Mesa Gateway Airport Authority may attend either in person or by audioconference.

**9. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.

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Misty Johnson, Clerk of the Board