

WASHINGTON— The Mesa City Council's unanimous approval of a detailed plan for the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport-area is an important step to boost significant economic growth in the East Valley, U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell said today.

Mitchell applauded the efforts of the council, including Mayor Scott Smith and former Mayor Keno Hawker, to get the plan approved.

"This is an important step toward capitalizing on an airport which is already having a significant economic impact on the East Valley," said Mitchell.

The airport is already "supporting more than 4,500 jobs in its service area" with an economic impact of nearly \$500 million in 2007-08, according to a September report issued by Arizona State University. [Source: East Valley Tribune, Sept. 9, 2008]

The Gateway-area plan outlines how 32-square miles of land surrounding the airport will be utilized to create jobs and promote economic growth.