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W. Valley airport blueprint ready for officials' review

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GOODYEAR - A master plan for the Phoenix Goodyear Airport will soon land before leaders with both cities.

After 18 months of study, consultants and airport officials have firmed up a blueprint that maps out the next 20 years of growth.

The next step will be to present the plan to Phoenix, Goodyear and aviation officials.

Coffman Associates, with offices in Missouri and Phoenix, developed the plan with airport managers, Phoenix and Goodyear officials, and a planning advisory committee.

The plan hasn't been updated since 1986 and needs a fresh look.

"The area is growing pretty rapidly, and aviation demands are going to grow equal to that," said Jim Harris, a principal with Coffman.

The population of the airport's service area is expected to grow by 660 percent in the next 20 years, according to the Maricopa Association of Governments.

The master plan is divided into three phases. The first will address safety needs and environmental issues.

All three phases would cost an estimated \$92 million to implement. At build-out, the number of hangars at the airport would jump from 206 to about 750, and there would be a second runway south of the existing one.

The airport's character will essentially remain the same, serving only private planes.

The master plan is key to Goodyear, which intends to turn the airport into a hub for a 4,000-acre employment corridor.

Goodyear resident Susan Lutz, a real estate agent and aspiring pilot, is pleased to see the planning for the airport's expansion.

"Because we are growing so much, we need a nice, well-maintained airport," she said.