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Williams Gateway to add new flights to L.A.

By Sarah Lynch
Tribune

East Valley residents looking to hop a flight to the Los Angeles area may not have to deal with the hassles of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport anymore. SkyValue, a passenger service that currently offers flights from Mesa's Williams Gateway Airport to the Chicago area, is planning to offer flights to the Ontario International Airport in Southern California, said Gabrielle Griswold, executive vice president of SkyValue.

SkyValue currently offers three flights a week to and from Williams Gateway to the Gary/Chicago International Airport in Gary, Ind. The plan is to have a continuous flight between the three destinations, with only a 30- to 40-minute stop at the Mesa airport, she said.

"SkyValue's story is about the marriage of putting together service using these up-and-coming regional airports," she said. "That offers alternatives to people where they don't get stuck in traffic. They can get in and out."

She said the target audience for these flights are travelers to the areas surrounding Los Angeles and Chicago. Ontario is about 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. The Gary/Chicago Airport is about 25 miles from downtown Chicago.

According to surveys conducted by Williams Gateway, the Los Angeles area is a top destination for residents, said airport spokesman Brian Sexton. The addition of passenger service to that area would help fill demand, and it would also help bolster the airport's fuel sales, he said.

Griswold said her company is still in negotiations and has not yet established a launch date for the new service.

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