



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **DFW International Airport Releases New Economic Impact Assessment of Proposed American Airlines DFW-Beijing Route**

### **Flight would generate \$180 million annually for State of Texas**

DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (September 20, 2006) -- A new economic survey performed by the respected global aviation consulting firm SH&E confirms that the proposed new nonstop service from DFW International Airport to Beijing, China on American Airlines would be a boon to the state and regional economies, adding \$180 million to the Texas economy every year.

DFW had previously reported that the new flight - the first non-stop flight from to China from the State of Texas - would bring \$120 million to North Texas, an impressive figure but based on calculations from several years ago. The full economic impact will be generated by job creation, trade stimulation through increased imports and exports, visitor spending in North Texas and service growth to support the new flight.

"Texas has strong economic ties to China, and it continues to grow annually," said Texas Governor Rick Perry. "Approval of American Airlines' application for a DFW-Beijing flight will benefit not only the business men and women who travel there regularly but will boost tourism between the two destinations."

If the flight application is approved, the DFW to Beijing flight will provide convenient one-stop Beijing service for 30 airports in eight states. In Texas, those airports include Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, College Station, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Houston, Killeen, Laredo, Longview, Lubbock, McAllen, Midland/Odessa, San Angelo, Tyler, Waco, and Wichita Falls. Overall, the DFW Airport-Beijing route will provide one-stop service between Beijing and 95 airports in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

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"We thought it was important to recalculate this economic impact assessment using the most recent data available to ensure that the Department of Transportation is aware of the potential economic impact of this flight, and to emphasize that the State of Texas is the appropriate place to launch this new service," said Joe Lopano, executive vice president of marketing and terminal management at DFW. "It is clear that the entire southern sector of the United States will benefit by having a quick and easy connection from DFW to this incredible city and it will open up new opportunities for new business and jobs around our great state and the North Texas region."

China is Dallas-Fort Worth's largest trading partner, with total trade valued at more than \$13.6 billion in 2005. And China is second only to Mexico as the largest trading partner with the State of Texas, with more than \$22 billion in imports and exports last year. The DFW gateway serves as the epicenter of the booming trade connection between Texas and China, with cargo volumes of 66,313.6 metric tonnes in 2005, an increase of 145 percent over the past three years. American Airlines' strong presence in Latin America also enables the use of DFW as a hub between China and Central and South America for international cargo as well as passengers.

"China is our number one trade partner in Dallas/Fort Worth, and we will see a significant increase in economic development activity if we are approved for a DFW–Beijing non-stop route on American Airlines," said Dallas Mayor Laura Miller. "The Dallas City Council strongly supports this critical development."

"We fully understand and appreciate what a direct link to Beijing would mean to Fort Worth and our regional economy," said Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief. "It means real jobs and real opportunities for thousands of our fellow citizens and businesses. The city of Fort Worth strongly supports making this flight a reality as soon as possible. Now is the time for non-stop service to Beijing. The market is here and this region deserves this needed service."

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American Airlines announced it would seek the DFW-Beijing route on July 23 at the Airport's new International Terminal D, the world's newest international airline terminal. In its first year of service, Terminal D has hosted nine million domestic and international passengers. The terminal has won a number of industry awards for its architecture and design and most importantly has scored high marks in polling of travelers, with 89-percent of international travelers "pleased and delighted" with their experience in the \$1.2 billion facility.

The economic impact study was conducted by SH&E, one of the world's leading independent aviation consultancy firms and the largest consulting firm dedicated exclusively to the air transport industry.

Visit [www.flytochinaonaa.com](http://www.flytochinaonaa.com) to learn more about the proposed DFW-Beijing service.

## **BY THE NUMBERS**

DFW-Beijing flight on American Airlines:

Annual Economic Impact for State of Texas      \$180 million

Total Texas Trade with China      \$22.3 billion in 2005

Total DFW Trade with China      \$13.6 billion in 2005

DFW Percentage of Texas trade with China      64%

DFW-China Trade Growth since 2002      216% in dollar values

## **About DFW International Airport**

Located halfway between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, DFW International Airport is the world's third busiest, offering nearly 1,900 flights per day and serving 59 million passengers a year. DFW International Airport provides non-stop service to 133 domestic and 36 international destinations worldwide. For the latest news, real-time flight information, parking availability or further details regarding the many services provided at DFW International Airport, log on to [www.dfwairport.com](http://www.dfwairport.com).

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