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# News Release

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## **Proposed China Flights Would Provide Economic Boost to Detroit Region**

*--Annual impact estimated at \$265 million*

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) expressed strong support for Northwest Airlines' application filed today with the United States Department of Transportation to offer daily nonstop service between Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and both Shanghai and Beijing, China. Northwest is asking that the Shanghai service begin immediately, with the Beijing service scheduled to start on March 25, 2009.

An economic impact study commissioned by the WCAA shows that the combined impact of the two new flights will generate \$265 million to the southeast Michigan economy. The impact includes visitor spending, increased activity by Northwest at DTW as well as an increase in trade and business activity that will result from the new, nonstop service.

"Detroit and southeast Michigan stand to benefit significantly from nonstop service to China," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "Northwest's hub in Detroit is the ideal gateway for new service between North America and China, and the Wayne County Airport Authority strongly supports this new service."

DTW is Northwest's largest worldwide hub and primary U.S. international gateway. Northwest operates from Detroit's award-winning Edward H. McNamara Terminal, which continues to receive international recognition for superior passenger satisfaction. The proposed Detroit-China flights will provide thousands of new travelers with a non-stop link to this world-class transportation hub.

Northwest plans to operate a 747-400 aircraft in 2007 and 787-8 aircraft in 2009. Northwest will be the first North American carrier to operate the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner when it first takes delivery of the aircraft in 2008.

The U.S. Department of Transportation is expected to make a final decision by mid-August of this year.

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*More details regarding the Northwest Airlines announcement can be found at <http://www.nwa.com/corpinfo/newsc/2007/pr071620071861.html>.*