

## **AVIATION AND TRANSIT BOARD MINUTES**

### **Wednesday, December 4, 2024**

The Aviation and Transit Board met in the Administration Conference Room at the Billings Logan International Airport on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 4:00 pm. Those in attendance included:

#### **Aviation and Transit Board Members**

David Hummel, JR  
Steve Tostenrud  
Barbara Schneeman  
Denis Pitman  
Megan Bostrom

#### **City Staff**

Jeff Roach, Director of A & T  
Shane Ketterling, Assistant Director of Aviation  
Rusty Logan, Assistant Director of Transit

#### **Guests**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Steve called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

### **COURTESIES**

### **Informational Items**

The Board Members received a ride from the Airport to MET Transit Facility in one of the new EV MET Buses. Rusty explained some of the differences between the Fuel and Electric Buses.

- **Transit Facility Construction**

Rusty gave a tour of the MET Transit Facility remodel project area and provided construction updates to the Board members.

- **Electric Bus Rollout**

Rusty utilized one of the electric buses to transport staff and Board members from the Airport to the METroplex and back for the construction tour; upon arrival at the METroplex, Rusty briefly discussed some of the features of the electric vehicles. Rusty informed the Board that the electric bus chargers are partially installed, but MET is still waiting on the switchgear between the transformer and the chargers to be able to charge the EV buses at MET. MET recently charged one of the buses at a public charging station to determine if using the station was feasible, tests are ongoing. Further, MET may be able to train staff using the public chargers so they can move forward with getting the buses on the street. Denis asked Rusty who will be doing the maintenance on the EV buses, Rusty responded that the Mechanics at MET will be handling all of that.

- **Transit Administrative/Operational Reports**

Rusty informed the Board Members that MET participated in the 2024 Holiday Parade. Rusty updated the Board Members about newly secured advertisement contracts including an additional Paul Davis bus wrap. Rusty was pleased to announce that there are no current vacancies at MET. Rusty informed the Board that there has been 50% growth in ridership over the course of the fiscal year; however, the Paratransit ridership has decreased by 17%. He was thrilled to report that the average daily ridership numbers are at 2,040. The Heights connector continues to be the single busiest bus and provides approximately 22 riders per hour. Barbara asked if the ridership numbers will go down due

to SD2 being out for Christmas break, Rusty said that the student ridership will decrease, so numbers would likely go down. He also stated that weather influences ridership.

- **Airport Administrative/Operational Reports**

Shane informed the Board Members that over Thanksgiving week, the Airport opened the paved overflow parking lots that filled up quickly and parked another 200 cars in the grass areas. SP Plus was charging for the parking in the overflow lots. They had a QR code set up that customers would scan and pay for their parking. The Airport Operations staff provided a shuttle to those that parked in that area. Shane will report in February on the status of how much revenue that brought in and how it all worked out.

Shane was happy to report that over the Thanksgiving Holiday there were no issues and that all flights were able to arrive and depart on time. Shane did report that TSA had an issue with one of their machines, which had a little impact on the passengers. Shane informed the Board that they had their first meeting with M&M, Collaborative Design and Swanson Rink on Phase 1 for the Terminal project.

Shane was thrilled to report that the Airport Police officer that was out on FMLA is back to work full time and is in good spirits.

Jeff reported that there were 12% more flights and 17% more seats available in December. He will have more information at the next meeting on the actual numbers.

Jeff informed the Board Members that BIL did an Advertisement/Commercial with Q2 for the month of December to encourage travel from BIL. If the commercial is a success, there will be discussion if there will be more advertisements in the future.

- **Community Air Service Development Meeting (January 16<sup>th</sup>)**

Jeff informed the Board Members of the Air Service Development Community Breakfast meeting, on January 16, 2025, at the Northern Hotel. Invites will be emailed out to the Board Members. They will be inviting close to 120-150 people to this Breakfast and Meeting.

Jeff will have Headquarters meetings next week (December 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>) with Delta and Avelo over Zoom. He will also attend Headquarters meetings with Alaska and West Jet in the in the spring of 2025. Unfortunately, Sun County is undetermined if they will have flights out of BIL in the summer of 2025. Jeff will keep the Board informed as soon as he knows more information.

Jeff informed the Board that Allegiant is continuing the LAX flight in 2025, June – August, with flights twice a week. He will keep the Board informed, as the dates get closer.

Jeff will give a report to the Board in February on the enplanement numbers from both Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as the year-end numbers for CY2024.

- **Art Display Areas on B Concourse**

Jeff asked board member David Hummel, JR to talk to the Board Members about the history of the Art Display Areas on the B Concourse. David informed the board that he donated money to the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM) to be earmarked for art to be displayed at the Airport. Barbara thanked David for all of his hard work and dedication towards the Art Display Area for the Airport. Jeff informed the board that he will be reviewing the art before it is displayed. One requirement from the YAM is to have a railing in front of the wall area to prevent people from touch the art. Shane reported that there will be a glass wall and hand rail installed that is similar to the glass wall on the other side of the walkway/ramp. He also stated that there will be an Agreement signed between the YAM and BIL, and the requirement of Insurance by the YAM.

## **Board Elections**

The Board Members voted to wait until the February 2025 Meeting, with the seating of the new Board Members. The nominees will be approved by the City Council at the December 9, 2024 City Council Meeting.

## **Items from the Board**

Jeff presented David Hummel, JR with a plaque for his dedicated service to the Aviation and Transit Board. David's second four-year term expires this year; he has been on the board since 2017, David will be greatly missed.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 5:10 pm

jm

cc: Aviation and Transit Board  
Chrono  
City Administrator- Via e-mail  
Mayor- Via e-mail