

AVIATION AND TRANSIT BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

The Aviation and Transit Board met in the Administration Conference Room at the Billings Logan International Airport on Wednesday, June 4, 2025. Those in attendance included:

Aviation and Transit Board Members

Steve Tostenrud
Barbara Schneeman
Denis Pitman
Ron Spence
Allison Corbyn
James Mariska
Megan Bostrom

City Staff

Shane Ketterling, Assistant Director of Aviation
Rusty Logan, Assistant Director of Transit

Guests

No Public Present

CALL TO ORDER

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

Minutes - Ron moved to approve the May 7th, Minutes, seconded by James. Motion was approved.

Courtesies – No courtesies.

Public Comment Opportunity – there were no public speakers.

Informational Items

- Clear Program – At Denis' request, Jeff explain how Clear worked, noting that BIL does not have the passenger volume, nor the TSA screening delays, to entice Clear to operate at the airport..
- Budget Presentation – Jeff explained the status of the City Council Budget approval. Jeff and Rusty ran through the airport and MET Transit budget presentations given at the City Council budget work session on May 20th.
- Airport Update
 - Jumpstart Air Service Development Conference. Jeff stated that the BIL air service development team would be meeting with nine air carriers at the Jumpstart ASD Conference June 9-11 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
 - Airport Master Plan Update. Jeff provided a synopsis of the presentations and feedback for the AMP Update TAC and CAC meetings conducted on May 13th. The public meeting to gain feedback on draft alternatives will be held later this summer.
 - Construction Update. Shane presented updates on the airport's Overlook Drive and Runway 7/25 projects and operational issues.
 - Due to the July 4th holiday, there will be no July meeting of the board.

- MET Transit Update.

Rusty reported on the following:

- Transit Financial Sustainability and Governance Study
 - Recommending award to SRF - previously worked with SRF on the Transit Development Plan
 - SRF provided a much more comprehensive response including value-added actions such as developing economic return on transit investment models for the Billings area
 - A contract will be an agenda item for award on the City Council meeting this coming Monday – June 9, 2025.
- Unified Planning Work Program
 - Starting presentations over the annual planning program with the MPO
 - Significantly less funding than last year due to the other MPOs being online so funding is now divided 5 ways instead of 3; this is a loss to MET of around \$130k. Due to this, more limited activities and no large studies are planned.
- Planned activities include
 - 1. APC recertification
 - 2. Fares analysis supplemented by the funding study
 - 3. Paratransit eligibility improvements
 - 4. NEPA activities for related construction projects (security cam project, transfer center improvements)
 - 5. More in-depth look at the West End to Downtown Rapid Connection
- Electric chargers are working as of today! Buses are charging and should be on the street this week.
- Personnel
 - 1 dispatcher vacancy (new one starting Monday)
 - 2 drivers (one starting Monday)
 - Maintenance Mechanic
- Ridership for May
 - Again broke 50,000 rides (53,407: up 15.6% total)
 - Fixed route @ 50,067 (up 18% from last year)
 - Paratransit @ 3,340 (down 11.2% from last year)
 - Current year-over-year growth is at 35.76%

Items from the Board - There were no additional items from the board.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.