



AVIATION AND TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, October 4, 2016

The Aviation and Transit Commission met in the Administration Conference Room at the Billings Logan International Airport on Tuesday, October 4, 2016. Those in attendance included:

Aviation and Transit Commission Members

Ken Behling, Chair
Ron Spence
Peggie Gaghan

City Staff and Guests

Kevin Ploehn, Director of Aviation & Transit
Shane Ketterling, Assistant Director of Aviation & Transit
William Brenny, Airport Operations Supervisor

TOUR OF EDWARDS JET CENTER'S NEW HANGAR

The Commission meeting began with a tour of the newest Edwards Jet Center hangar, as well as a tour of the aircraft maintenance facilities located in two of Edwards Jet Center's other hangars. Edwards FBO Manager, Robb Bergeson, showed the Commission the facilities. Mr. Bergeson explained to the Commission how the aircraft are stored in a large hangar and the logic to how the aircraft are placed within the hangar. He also explained how the industry has changed and the challenges that piston driven aircraft are facing compared to the turbine powered aircraft. The tour was both informative and interesting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A public comment period was offered. No public comments were received.

AIRPORT AND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATIVE/OPERATIONS REPORTS

- ▶ Mr. Ploehn and Mr. Ketterling began by introducing the new Airport Operations Supervisor, William Brenny. Mr. Brenny provided some background information about himself and told the Commission he was glad to be in Billings.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling updated the Commission on the construction projects taking place. He started with the Pond D project, identifying that the contractor was finishing up with the 48" pipe being installed to hook up to the two tunnel borings under the main runway. This would be followed up with connecting piping to the existing storm drainage system to take on some of the water that goes to Detention Ponds A, B, and C. Additionally, due to extremely hard rock encountered during the boring process to get a storm water pipe from the Airport's elevation to the Sun Valley right-of-way elevation, the Airport recently asked the City Council to approve a \$440,000 change order for the project. The additional funds will be used to bring in a larger drilling rig, similar to drilling for oil, to finish the boring process. The project should finish up in November.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling briefed the Commission on the Concourse B improvements, stating that the temporary construction walls were up and demolition of the hold room area formerly used by Cape Air was underway. Because the construction requires the relocation of a major electrical feed, staff was trying to determine how to shut off the power for around four hours to allow the electricians to rehook up a new power feed without significantly impacting airline and TSA operations.

- ▶ Mr. Ketterling provided a construction status update on the new West End General Aviation area being developed for the larger hangars. He explained that the first pavement lift for the taxiway and ramp area was put in place last Friday, and when the weather dries out a bit, the following two lifts will also be laid. He thought the majority of the remaining work would be completed in the next two weeks.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling also informed the Commission that the ARFF group was performing live burn practice this week. They started on Monday and will also have burn practice this Wednesday and Friday nights. The focus of this practice is to use the ARFF fire trucks to put out the fires utilizing the trucks' water and foam turrets.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn announced that the Airport had just submitted a new Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) application with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He pointed out that this would be a fairly noncontroversial application since it was to recover eligible local share dollars that had previously been spent on eligible projects, or as the local share match to a completed project funded with FAA grants via the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn reminded the Commission that on October 14, at 5:00 p.m. there would be a reception for the newest and last kite exhibit by Terry Lee.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn announced that with the recent arrival of three new smaller buses, five of the six ordered buses were now in Billings. The first two are in route service and the latest three are going through an inspection process. The last of these smaller buses should arrive this month.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn explained that Transit Manager, Jim Perez, has been negotiating with the City College leaders regarding a number of items, including a passenger pick up area and possibly a shelter too.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn finished up by providing the Commission with some of the year-to-year Summer month concession revenues. He pointed out that while the enplanement traffic remained comparable to last Summer, all concession revenues had increased.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

Commissioner Gaghen discussed a recent article on how the airlines were pricing seats to entice folks to sit in the unpopular middle seat by raising the price on aisle and window seats.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

KP:mdb

cc: Aviation and Transit Commission
Chrono
City Administrator
Mayor
City Clerk