



AVIATION AND TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, May 2, 2017

The Aviation and Transit Commission met in the Administration Conference Room at the Billings Logan International Airport on Tuesday, May 2, 2017. Those in attendance included:

Aviation and Transit Commission Members

Ken Behling, Chair
Dan Farmer, Vice Chair
Peggie Gaghen
Ron Spence
Chuck Tooley
David Hummel, Jr.

City Staff and Guests

Kevin Ploehn, Director of Aviation & Transit
Shane Ketterling, Assistant Director of Aviation & Transit

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

UPCOMING FEDERAL AUDIT

Mr. Ploehn explained to the Commission that during the last week of June 2017, two ladies from the FAA's Civil Rights Division would be coming to our Airport to do an audit of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program, the Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) Program, and a mini-review of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Mr. Ploehn pointed out that in the 24 years he has been at the Airport this is the first time that a compliance officer has come on site to review these programs. Mr. Ploehn noted that the two FAA compliance ladies plan to interview contractors, consultants, and concessionaires while they are here over the two days. He also pointed out that attached to each of the letters were questionnaires and requests for documents that they would like sent to them by May 26.

MET STUDENT TRIPPER CHANGES

Mr. Ploehn showed the Commission the new School District 2 middle school boundary map. He pointed out that with the new Ben Steel Middle School opening up this autumn, the School District has realigned the middle school boundaries, and to accommodate the new middle schools they will be bussing most kids to school in the name of safety. Subsequently, the Lewis and Clark and Will James Middle Schools will not be getting any school bus service. So MET has been looking at how they can provide tripper service to these two schools. The first map Mr. Ploehn showed the Commission reflected the entire school district. He then showed a closer view of the Will James and Lewis and Clark districts. He also pointed out that middle school student populations are reflected in sectioned areas to help with planning the new routes. Mr. Ploehn then pointed out a couple of possible routes that staff is looking at. He pointed out that when driving the route in a car, one route was under 30 minutes, and the other was over 30 minutes. In the next few days, staff will take a bus out to do the runs and simulate typical student boarding patterns to see what the route may look like. He anticipated both routes would probably be around 40 to 45 minutes. He pointed

out that the Transit Planner recently met with the principals to discuss this new tripper and asked for their support. They were very gracious and definitely happy we are looking at this for their students. We have committed to get them route information by early August so they can send out the new route information in their Welcome Back to School letter.

AIRPORT AND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATIVE/OPERATIONS REPORTS

- ▶ Mr. Ploehn updated the Commission on the pending American Airlines Inaugural scheduled for June 2. Some of the plans include doing a water arch for the flight coming in and going out. Gift bags for the first arrivals, a dignitary welcome line, possibly some live music, refreshments, and other ideas. All of this will come together in the next few weeks. He told the Commissioners that if they wanted to come up for the festivities, to let him know by May 26. On the business side of things, Mr. Ploehn said that all of the agreements for this operation are being scheduled for the May 22 Council meeting. There is still one section of the revenue guarantee agreement that the City Attorney and American's attorney will need to work out.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn reminded the Commission that one of the projects that the Airport has been pursuing is the purchase of the land west of the Airport. Because the whole appraisal process is taking longer than anticipated, and we will be opening bids on the Runway 10R Extension project next Tuesday, he is seeking to put in place an easement on the property for the approach protection area on the property.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn noted that there has been a lot of discussion on the United debacle regarding pulling a passenger off the plane. He passed out an article that discusses how we got to this point. Mr. Ploehn offered that it was very informative and worth reading. The discussion on airline overbooking had now moved to Capitol Hill with committee hearings taking place and legislation being drafted up. He pointed out that the smartphone that records things and then instantly is put on the internet is a powerful force to reckon with.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling informed the Commission that every year the Airport is required to do some sort of disaster exercise, usually just a tabletop discussion; however, every third year the Airport must do an actual mock disaster to respond to as a training exercise. This year is one of the disaster exercises and it will entail an active shooter event in the baggage claim area. Given the recent active shooter event in the airport in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this event seemed timely. Typically, these tri-annual drills center around an aircraft disaster, this Terminal active shooter event required the approval of the FAA, and the focus for our ARFF staff had to be on the victim triage and transport. Mr. Ketterling discussed that the scenario would have the shooter come into the baggage claim, shoot a number of bystanders, and then flee up the concourse exit stairs. From there the law enforcement would pursue the shooter and Billings Fire and AMR would respond. The event will take place Wednesday, May 17 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and finishing up around 11:30 a.m. Mr. Ketterling extended an invite for the Commission to attend and observe.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling also said that on Tuesday, May 23 there would be a Runway Safety Action Team (RSAT) meeting at the Airport. This is an Air Traffic Control led meeting with invitations to our tenants and pilots to discuss safety issues that may exist on the airfield. The discussion will also go over any pilot deviations or incidents, which usually stem from poor radio communications. This process, has in the past, identified some area of concern, especially with airport geometry, which the Airport then proceeded to fix during other construction projects.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling noted that the Airport was also notified that we would be going through our annual FAA Certification Inspection June 8-10. This entails having an FAA inspector look at the airfield to ensure everything meets the FAA's requirements, and then a thorough review of the Airport's records on training, inspections, and many other items.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling finished up by informing the Commission that last Wednesday night, the ARFF division completed a live burn to practice hand line fire fighting, and that tomorrow staff would be doing interviews to fill a vacant Airport Police Officer position.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

- ▶ Commissioner Spence asked if Transit could provide busing for special events like the Garth Brooks concert. Due to the traffic in/out of the Metra Park, he thought that bus service could really help out the concert goers and maybe provide MET with some extra revenue. Mr. Ploehn replied that MET has done something similar for the Magic City Blues concerts held at South Park. However, the only way MET can do this is if the private sector has been given the opportunity to provide the service and they decline. Then MET can step in, but it rarely makes MET any additional revenue due to the fact we are paying the drivers overtime to do the work.
- ▶ Commissioner Hummel inquired about aircraft deicing and if anything could be done to speed up this process, like a centralized deicing pad similar to what Denver has. Kevin explained that each airline is responsible for deicing their own aircraft. Airline staff regularly turns over; therefore, the employees are not proficient on how to deice. Previously, we have looked at building a centralized deicing facility, but the FAA would not pay for it, and the airlines would probably not want to pay for this improvement either.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

KP:mdb

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