



AVIATION AND TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, April 3, 2018

The Aviation and Transit Commission met in the Administration Conference Room at the Billings Logan International Airport on Tuesday, April 3, 2018. Those in attendance included:

Aviation and Transit Commission Members

Peggie Gaghen, Chair
Dan Farmer, Vice Chair
Ron Spence
Mark Astle
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.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM 2018

- ▶ Mr. Ketterling provided a visual presentation showing a number of pictures that helped to describe the construction projects that are planned to take place at the Airport this Summer.
- ▶ The first project discussed by Mr. Ketterling was the demolition of the old officer's club building (IP-8) at the Airport Business Park in order to clear space to build a new warehouse for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Ketterling reminded the Commission that the BLM Fire Cache operation currently uses two of the old air base hangars to store a lot of wildland firefighting supplies in. One of the planned projects that will take place in 2019 is to remove the four, old Air Force ready hangars and convert that space into an aircraft parking ramp in order to accommodate the busy freight operations and heavy itinerant firefighting aircraft utilizing that area. In order to accomplish this ramp expansion project, the Fire Cache supplies in the old hangars need to be relocated into a new warehouse. Mr. Ketterling discussed the site plan for the new BLM Building, showed a conceptual design of what the new warehouse building will look like, including new lease lines and what the new BLM campus will entail. He explained that staff is currently working on a new lease with BLM, and plans to advertise this project soon with a bid opening on May 1. Construction will take place sometime this Summer.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling identified that the Airport Operations Center is now 25+ years old, and described a number of projects planned for this facility, which includes replacing the roof and possibly the exterior siding. Due to the age of the building, hailstorms, and other weather related factors, the roof has surpassed its useful life and needs to be replaced. Additionally, due to the age and poor condition of the asphalt surfaces surrounding the building, a project is being bid to replace the pavement around the entire building and adding more concrete in front of some of the bay doors to reduce surface rutting from occurring due to the weight of the snowplows and firetrucks. Fortunately, this ARFF ramp paving project is FAA AIP grant eligible and we estimate it will cost approximately \$500,000, with the Airport responsible for a 10% local match. Mr. Ploehn indicated that the Airport has already advertised for bids to replace the Operations Center's Exterior Insulation Finishing System (EIFS) twice, and has come up empty both times. The EIFS exterior on the building is cracking and in some areas failing, allowing moisture to seep

behind the exterior. When contractors were questioned as to why they did not bid, most indicated that it was too large of a project for them. Mr. Ploehn told the Commission that staff was pursuing alternative exterior materials for the building.

- ▶ Mr. Ketterling said another project taking place this Summer is the construction of a new Airline Support Facility (ASF), which will be built north of the Airport Operations Center. This new facility will allow the airlines to empty their lavatory waste carts at the Airport versus having a contractor remotely pump out their waste carts numerous times each week. The ASF will also provide a water fill station for the airlines to fill/mix their deicing trucks in the Winter, versus having to utilize the equipment parking bay of the Airport Operations Center as a water source. The building will be an open ended, covered facility that will provide some shelter and still work well for the airlines. Additionally, a new sewer line will be installed under the ARFF ramp during the paving project that will connect with an existing line located near Overlook Drive.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling showed the Commission an aerial picture of the Executive Hangar area on the west end of the Airport where the pavement within the vehicle parking lot and road approach will be replaced or rehabilitated. Shane explained that the road approach is in very poor condition due to its age. It is rutted, has large potholes, and needs to be replaced. Additionally, a contractor will perform patch paving, crack sealing, and slurry seal work in the parking lot. Unfortunately, this will require us to provide a temporary parking location in order to accommodate numerous vehicles that park at the hangars. The anticipated project cost will be less than \$50,000 and will be paid for with local capital funds.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling explained that the Airport is currently bidding for the purchase of two new multitasking snowplows, and showed the Commission a picture of what this new equipment will look like. The Airport will replace two 20-year-old snowplows with two new pieces of equipment that are capable of simultaneously plowing and brooming contaminants off of the airfield pavement surfaces, improving snow removal efficiency and safety for all aircraft. Mr. Ketterling explained that the manufacturers have improved upon the technology and design of airport snow removal equipment over the past 20 years. Currently, each equipment operator only has the ability to perform one function at a time, for example, plowing with a snowplow. This new equipment will allow the operator to perform multiple functions and provide the ability to plow and broom pavement surfaces simultaneously. Additionally, the broom is located behind the operator rather than in front of the cab, substantially improving the driver's ability to see, making it much safer to operate. Visibility is also enhanced with much larger windows on all four sides. These new snowplows are estimated to cost approximately \$750,000 each, and will be paid for with Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) funds.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling explained that staff has finalized the contract for the purchase of a new 21 foot Cupping Snowplow Blade and showed the Commission what it will look like. This new snowplow blade will attach to an existing front-end loader to move large amounts of snow off of the air carrier ramp where larger snowplows struggle to maneuver around commercial aircraft. Currently, the straight blade that is used is over 25 years old, showing signs of metal fatigue and has been welded on many times over the years to keep it in service. The straight blades drop snow/ice off of each edge, which is a hazard to aircraft and requires more passes to remove it. The new cupping blade technology allows the operator to fold each end of the blade in towards the center, via hydraulic cylinders, in order to contain all of the snow/ice and move it off the ramp surface much faster. The Airport currently has one of these cupping blades and it has worked extremely well, and staff is looking forward to adding another one to the Airport's fleet of equipment. It is anticipated that the new cupping blade will cost approximately \$63,000 and be paid for with Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) funds.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn reminded the Commission that one of the projects that the Airport is pursuing is the replacement of the 300-ton roof top chiller that was initially priced at \$500,000. Staff realized that the location of that chiller is right over an area that will likely get a raised roof in the Terminal Expansion Project. After some head scratching, staff believes they can now abandon

that chiller and add on to the smaller chiller unit in the basement with three additional multi-stack units for about half the cost. The only drawback would be the loss of back up redundancy, but since this system is totally made up of multi-stack units, the chance of complete failure is very small.

AIRPORT AND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATIVE/OPERATIONS REPORTS

- ▶ Mr. Ploehn pointed out that the MET has recently had a number of vehicles that have been put out of commission. He informed the Commission that three of the buses are having engine work completed, one bus is having transmission issues, and one of the newer cutaway buses is out of service after it got into a head on collision. Mr. Ploehn showed a picture of the damaged bus and told the Commission that no one was hurt. He described how the driver of the bus had just been in the wrong place at the right time; as the vehicle he ran into was knocked into his drive path after that vehicle had been rear ended.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling showed a picture of the location for the new vendor operating the massage chair business that was discussed last month. Serene Williams is going to operate the mobile chair massage business near the gift shop on the concourse for our passengers and employees during the noon bank of flights.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn informed the Commission that last week a person in a wheelchair was hit by a hotel van in the cross walk by Door 3. He admitted that this was the first time during his 24 years at the Airport that someone had been hit by a vehicle out front. Staff has already responded by placing traffic cones in front of the cross walk areas to help with the visibility and to help alert drivers of the cross walks.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn pointed out to the Commission that over the years, two of our tenants have taken it upon themselves to have vehicles towed out of their concession lots when folks improperly park in those lots. This has happened at both the car rental parking lot and the paid parking lot. Needless to say that when folks return from a trip and find that their vehicle was towed, and that they now have a large towing and storage bill on top of a possible parking charge, they can get extremely excited and animated. Mr. Ploehn told the Commission that in order to diffuse this situation to some extent, he was going to look at putting a towing policy in place and possibly take that function over, to include placing the vehicles in a locked ware yard on the Airport so that the storage charges can be mitigated. Once he had the policy flushed out, he committed to let the Commission review it.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn updated the Commission on the recent NAIA Division II Women's National Basketball Tournament that was held in Billings. He said by all indications it was a great success. All teams that needed to fly here except two used the Airport. He was unsure why those two teams used Bozeman. Commissioner Spence indicated that it might have had to do with scheduling.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn told the Commissioners that the next thing staff was pursuing on the design of the new Terminal Expansion was going out for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM). Staff would like to bring in the GC/CM during the schematic and finish design architectural work so that they could offer insight into constructability, phasing ideas, review the designs, and offer up construction product ideas. Mr. Ploehn asked if any of the Commissioners would like to participate in the selection. Vice Chair Farmer volunteered and Chair Gaghen said, she would participate as well if needed. There was discussion that Commissioner Behling might be a good candidate as well, and we could ask him at the next meeting.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn pointed out that in the near future the Aviation and Transit staff would need to put together the annual budget presentation for the City Council. Since the Commission has a number of former City Council members, he wondered if they had any insight into what the City Council would benefit most from in a presentation. Some ideas included pictures of the Airport's equipment, pictures of the Terminal Expansion, a good discussion of the Department's funding

sources, and the number of hours and dollars needed to keep the Airport open during the Winter. Mr. Ploehn thanked them for their input.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

- ▶ Commissioner Tooley offered corrections to the March 2018 minutes, indicating that he was present at the March meeting and that Chair Gaghen's first name is spelled Peggie not Peggy.
- ▶ Commissioner Hummel informed staff that the new Yellowstone Art Museum's (YAM) Art Director is Brian Nicely and that he was interested in possibly displaying some of the numerous pieces that the YAM has in storage up here at the Airport. He also noted that both Missoula and Kalispell were getting direct flights to Los Angeles this Summer.
- ▶ Commissioner Spence informed everyone that the Marine Corp League would be holding their annual Summer convention in Billings during August of 2019. The group of retired Marines could total 800 plus family members.
- ▶ Chair Gaghen pointed out the American Airlines ad that was recently in the *Billings Gazette*, the Airport's ad in the *Destination Sheridan* magazine, a recent article on the new Butte Airport Terminal, that the fairly famous wildlife mitigation dog in Michigan had passed away, and that UPS reported a profit of \$1.1 billion.
- ▶ The Commission was interested to go and see the new art display provided by Zack Terakedis. It was decided that immediately after the meeting the Commission would go and look at the exhibit.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

KP:mdb

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