



AVIATION AND TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES
Tuesday, September 4, 2018

The Aviation and Transit Commission met in the Administration Conference Room at the Billings Logan International Airport on Tuesday, September 4, 2018. Those in attendance included:

Aviation and Transit Commission Members

Peggie Gaghen, Chair
Dan Farmer, Vice Chair
Ken Behling
Ron Spence
Mark Astle
Chuck Tooley

City Staff and Guests

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

CONSTRUCTION TOUR

The September Commission meeting began with a tour of this year's construction related projects. The first project looked at was the new asphalt paving in front of the Airport Operations Center bay doors, as well as the enhanced approach for the south ARFF bay doors. Mr. Ploehn and Mr. Ketterling pointed out that concrete pads were poured in front of the bay doors to eliminate the pavement rutting that previously took place on the asphalt approaches due to the weight of the Airport equipment. Just north of the Operations Center was the next project, which is the Airline Support Facility. This project was just getting underway, but would be completed before Winter. The Commission was reminded that this facility would be used for the airlines' lavatory dumping and for Wintertime deicing fluid mixing. The tour then continued to the Airport's Executive Hangar area where the Commission observed the new and reconditioned pavement on the Executive hangar's public side where tenants park their vehicles. Mr. Ploehn explained that the majority of this pavement was put down in the mid 1980s and was deteriorating. The project will give this area many more years of use. During the tour, Mr. Ploehn pointed out that a small building had been placed in the overflow parking area so that the parking concessionaire, SP+, could begin to collect parking fees in this area when it was being utilized. Next, the Commission's attention was directed to the south end of the long term parking lot, which was practically empty. Mr. Ploehn discussed how the Airport was going to do some pavement maintenance in the long term lot and would need to do it in three separate phases to still accommodate some parking. Finally, the Commission was taken onto the air carrier ramp north of the Terminal where Mr. Ketterling pointed out some painted markings to represent the location and scale of the proposed new Terminal Concourse expansion. This visual really helped the Commission visualize the size and scope of the project. The tour then concluded and the Commission meeting resumed in the Airport's Administrative Conference Room.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

AIRPORT AND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATIVE/OPERATIONS REPORTS

- ▶ Mr. Ploehn informed the Commission that Transit's new Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system would be installed by the vendor this upcoming Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Training on the system for the MET drivers and administrative staff will take place later in the month, with the

expectation of going live with the program in early October. Staff is planning a number of different ways to get the word out to the public before Winter sets in.

- ▶ Mr. Ploehn notified the Commission that the Airport just received its final two FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants for this year. One, for \$2,318,410, was for additional Terminal expansion design fees. The other grant was for \$193,165 to cover the design fees to replace the impacted ramps around the Terminal after the expansion project, and to replace two ramps immediately that have a bad case of Alkali Silica Reaction (ASR) and are beginning to crack and fleck off causing Foreign Object Debris (FOD).
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn let the Commission know that the City Council approved the Sletten Construction contract to be the Airport's GC/CM last Monday, August 27. He told them that staff is in the final stages of formalizing the language and should have a signed contract by the end of the week. He also told the Commission that Sletten Construction had been fully engaged prior to the contract being approved and they are contributing to the design process.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn then followed up with telling the Commission that tomorrow the whole design team would be in this very conference room for another long day of design discussions. These large design meetings have been very productive sessions.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn reported to the Commission that the local car rentals at the Airport have been going through a consolidation period. First, Overland West/Hertz bought out the Dollar/Thrifty Group, and now Enterprise is buying out the Corpat group, which includes the Alamo and National brands. Since the contract with the Airport has three years left, he advised that the car rentals would still be required to maintain their respective counter spaces.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn pointed out that the July statistics were very good and indicated that if the use of the Airport maintained the pace it is currently on, there was a chance a new enplanement record might be set.
- ▶ Mr. Ploehn relayed to the Commission that there had been a small mishap at MET as a result of the roofing project that is taking place. The roofing crew apparently did not totally seal up the roof membrane they were working on the weekend that it just happened to rain almost one inch, and had somehow funneled the rainwater to a hole that flooded the MET offices. The roofing contractor's insurance will pay for the repairs.
- ▶ Finally, Mr. Ploehn reminded the Commission of the Boards and Commissions Volunteer Appreciation Dinner next month.
- ▶ Mr. Ketterling reported that our Airport Operations and Police Divisions have spent the majority of their time over the past week meeting with Secret Service and White House staff in preparation for President Trump's visit to Billings on September 6 and 7. He explained what is being discussed during the coordination meetings and described all of the work that is taking place by Airport staff in order to successfully facilitate the arrival, overnight parking, and departure of Air Force One, which will be a B-747. Mr. Ketterling informed Commissioners that the President's motorcade will be arriving on a C-17 tomorrow and that they are all invited to tour the vehicles that will be parked in the Airport Operations Building. He also passed along the arrival and departure times of Air Force One, the security procedures that will be in place, and that motorists coming up to and leaving the Airport may be delayed for short periods of time due to the President's motorcade.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION

- ▶ Commissioner Spence asked why the Missoula Airport's numbers were growing. Mr. Ploehn responded that Missoula and Glacier airports are a similar situation as at the Bozeman Airport, where a large number of people are flying into those two airports to go see Glacier Park. Also, these areas are seeing lot of out of state, part time residents who like to come to Montana for the Summer.
- ▶ Regarding the Terminal Expansion, Commissioner Spence asked what the improvement timeline was and then what the old Terminal concourses would be used for. Mr. Ploehn replied that the

design was set to be complete around next June with construction getting underway next July. He also speculated that some of the internal demolition might start sooner. The large west end phase of the project would probably take two years and the east end portion about one year, for a total of approximately three years of construction. Mr. Ploehn explained how the majority of the old Concourse A would be repurposed with Cape Air moving into it. The center of the old concourse becomes the new screening area, the old screening area a hug and kisses departure lounge, and finally, the majority of Concourse B will be rebuilt.

- ▶ A request was made to possibly meet at MET in the near future. Mr. Ploehn responded that he would look at scheduling the November meeting at MET.
- ▶ Chair Gaghen asked if the MET detour into the MetraPark during the Fair was successful. Mr. Ploehn stated that while some folks took advantage of this service, it was still fairly meager.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

KP:mdb

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