

Montana and the Sky

Montana Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division

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February 2021

\$2 Million in Airport Grants and Loans Awarded at Annual Aeronautics Board Meeting

This year's Annual Aeronautics Board Meeting provided a challenge for Aeronautics Board members with a record number of applications (49) and almost \$10,000,000.00 in requests from airports across the state. Funding for this monetary program is provided by a \$0.045 / gallon tax on fuel sold to commercial and general aviation aircraft in Montana, which was increased during the 2019 Legislative session with the passing of HB661. Most of the money awarded in grants and loans each year goes to leverage 90/10 Federal (FAA) match dollars for airport improvement projects.

The positive effects of CARES money assisted airports with local match obligations to FAA grants. This assistance proved vital to many airports to maintain their critical infrastructures and move forward with planned projects. Due to the pandemic, reduced aviation fuel sales generated less airport grant money, \$1.4 million, to be distributed for airport projects in Fiscal Year 2022. Additionally, \$600,000 in low interest loans were also made available to airports from a separate loan account. The Board awarded funds for 71 of 116 project requests for twenty-three of Montana's public airports, which included federally and non-federally funded projects.

The Board meeting took place virtually on December 29 and 30. The first day involved presentations from airport applicants followed by a second day of deliberations by the Board to allocate the funds with a public comment period.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2021, and will cover extension requests to grant applications. All airport extension requests must be submitted in writing to the Aeronautics Division by May 21, 2021.



*Big Timber Airport before pavement rehab project.
Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff*



*Big Timber Airport after pavement rehab project.
Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff*

Airport projects funded for Fiscal Year 2022 are listed on page two.

Continued from Page 1

AIRPORT	GRANT	LOAN
BAKER – Construct Fuel Farm	\$23,150	\$0
BIG TIMBER – Install/Rehab Airport Beacons	\$7,000	\$0
BROADUS – Construct Hangar	\$20,275	\$0
CHINOOK – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron	\$11,750	\$6,450
CULBERTSON – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Install AWOS, Acquire Snow Removal Equip.	\$42,650	\$14,300
FAIRFIELD – Rehab Runway	\$185,000	\$0
FORSYTH – Construct Fuel Farm, Construct Hangar	\$31,250	\$0
GERALDINE – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Const. Twy, Rwy Lighting, Install Approach Aids	\$167,250	\$158,000
GLENDIVE – Expand Terminal Building	\$209,000	\$103,000
HARDIN – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron	\$16,800	\$0
HARLOWTON – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Const. Twy, Construct Hangar	\$49,250	\$0
HYSHAM – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron	\$18,587	\$0
LAUREL – Install miscellaneous Approach Aids	\$8,500	\$0
LIBBY – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron	\$150,000	\$0
LIVINGSTON – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Install Airport Beacons	\$20,300	\$0
PLAINS – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Install Airport Beacons	\$19,050	\$0
PLENTYWOOD – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Install Airport Beacons, Install AWOS	\$14,500	\$0
ROUNDUP – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron	\$95,466	\$95,464
SHELBY – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Install Approach Aids	\$22,000	\$0
THOMPSON FALLS – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Const. Twy, Install/Rehab Rwy Lighting, Install PAP	\$203,600	\$194,000
TURNER – Construct Apron, Remove Obstructions	\$12,019	\$6,510
TWIN BRIDGES – Acquire Snow Removal Equipment	\$13,750	\$0
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS – Rehab Rwy/Twy/Apron, Install AWOS, Remove Obstructions	64,250	\$22,250
Totals	\$1,405,397	\$599,974



Tim Conway, Administrator

Montana and the Sky
Department of Transportation

Greg Gianforte, Governor
Malcolm Long, Director

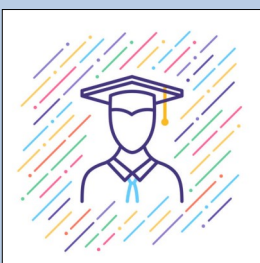
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**2021 Scholarship Winners
Will be Announced in the
March Newsletter**

Montana Aerial Firefighting Operation Helping Fight COVID-19

Specializing in aerial wildfire response and management, Bridger Aerospace is familiar with operating in emergency situations.

To help the surrounding community respond to the pandemic, Bridger offered its facilities and aircraft to support local health organizations and emergency services before the 2020 fire season took off while they had staff and resources available to help Montana battle the virus.

Bridger offered its fleet of Daher Kodiak 100s and piston-engine and turboprop Twin Commanders to support Bozeman Health and regional blood-drive efforts. The company also temporarily repurposed its newly constructed hangar which was built to support the company's new Viking Canadair CL-415EAF Super Scooper firefighting aircraft where employees assembled plastic medical face shields for area medical providers.

Way to go, Bridger Aerospace!



Photo credit: Bridger Aerospace

New COVID Relief Bill Includes \$45 Million For GA Airports

The latest COVID relief funding bill, passed by Congress and signed by the President in late December, includes about \$2 billion in support for the nation's airports, including \$45 million for general aviation airports. Awards to specific airports have not yet been made; it is unknown if any airports in Montana will receive any of the new relief funding.

The relief package also provides an additional \$15 billion in payroll support for air carriers, which also applies to many

general aviation operators and businesses, and \$284 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program loans for small businesses to continue to meet their payroll obligations.

Hopefully, some of this relief supports general aviation and smaller airports, which are a critical part of our infrastructure and economy and a lifeline for small businesses and rural communities around the country.

General aviation helps businesses of all sizes to transport tools and personnel, access plants and supply chains, and reach thousands of communities inaccessible by commercial air service. About 85% of the businesses that utilize general aviation are small- to mid-sized companies, and there are more than 5,000 airports across the country, with most commercial traffic operating out of the top 30 hub airports. As a result, for thousands of communities across the country, general aviation aircraft and airports are a literal lifeline, supporting economic activity and emergency services such as fire-fighting, cargo deliveries, law enforcement, medical transportation, search and rescue, powerline maintenance and pipeline inspection, and many other services. Many rural Montana communities are no exception to this reliance.

General aviation has also been vital in distributing personal protection equipment to hospitals and rural communities across the county, as well as flying test samples to labs and many other supplies to communities and patients in need, more now than ever due to the pandemic. The long awaited COVID vaccines are continuously being delivered by major air cargo carries that connect to regional air cargo aircraft. Have you seen any of the many Cessna Caravans, Twin Cessna 402s, Beech 1900s/99s, ATRs, or Brazillas that relentlessly deliver all our essential supplies, and all your Amazon boxes, every day to small airports across Montana?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, general aviation traffic has been down more than 20% compared with the same period in 2019 across the United States.

Summarized with permission from General Aviation News



Cessna Caravan waits for cargo at Wolf Point
Photo credit: Aeronautics staff

Essential Air Service Granted Additional Extension

The United States Department of Transportation is issuing a notice in the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program addressing the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on all communities receiving subsidized air service. A previous notice, issued on April 29, 2020, outlined conditions under which air carriers providing EAS may receive compensation for certain non-completed flights as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency. That notice was effective through June 30, 2020, and was extended twice, through September 30, 2020, and through December 31, 2020. The latest notice extends the effective date of the policy through March 31, 2021. The Department observes that carriers participating in the EAS program continue to encounter record-low demand, although with some signs of very slow recovery. Therefore, the Department is acting now to extend the effective period of the notice through March 31, 2021.



Cape Air passengers board a Cessna 402 in Billings, 2016.
Photo Credit: Billings Gazette

Montana has seven airports in rural communities served by EAS operated by two airlines. This allows Montanan's to travel from five of these airports to Billings on Cape Air starting as low as \$49 each way with connections to other states on major airlines. Butte and Yellowstone are served by Delta Airlines, operated by Skywest, connecting to Salt Lake City.

Aircraft Registration

Deadline **March 1, 2021**

REGISTER NOW

Montana does not have any taxes for aircraft but does assess an annual registration fee in lieu of tax for annual

aircraft registration. The fees are set by the Legislature and are determined according to the type and age of the aircraft.

Aircraft customarily kept in Montana, and those with a Montana address on their FAA registration, must be registered with the Montana Aeronautics Division **on or before March 1** every year and within 30 days of purchase. Aircraft renewal invoices are sent the first week of December; a reminder is sent in January. A statutory penalty for late registrations must be assessed in the amount of five times the registration fee if payment or affidavit isn't received on time.

Please keep in mind that aircraft out of annual inspection are not considered "unairworthy" as defined by administrative rule and are subject to annual registration fees.

Online aircraft and pilot registration services are available at: <https://app.mt.gov/aeronautics>. Vendor fees apply.

PLEASE POSTMARK OR TIMESTAMP YOUR REGISTRATION PAYMENTS OR AFFIDAVIT FOR FEE EXEMPTION WITH REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 FOR A RENEWAL, OR BEFORE 30 DAYS AFTER A NEW AIRCRAFT PURCHASE, TO AVOID THE PENALTY.

For other questions, please contact the Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506.

***ACTION IS REQUIRED BY AIRCRAFT OWNERS ON ALL AIRCRAFT REGISTRATIONS EACH YEAR**

HB-20, Courtesy Cars for State Airports

Most state-owned airports exist because, at one time or another, the local municipality was either unwilling or unable to support the airport. Existing statute only allows municipalities to receive an airport courtesy car grant. Therefore, the local supporters of state-owned airports are often challenged to obtain a courtesy car. This bill will provide an alternative for these airports by making third-parties eligible to receive airport courtesy car grants at state-owned airports.

A "third party" may be a fixed base operator, an airport manager, a nonprofit organization, or other responsible party. There is no fiscal impact from the proposed changes. Testimony was heard in the legislature on January 6 and is moving through the legislative process.

Virtual Montana
Aircraft
Mechanic
Refresher &
IA Renewal
Seminar

Zoom Meeting
February 27, 2021

Registration Fee:
\$50 per person

A strong internet connection, microphone, speakers, and an email address are required for participation. A camera is recommended, but is not required.

You can join the Zoom call through a computer (recommended) or a compatible tablet or smart phone.

For more information or for a registration form, please visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml> or contact Aeronautics at: mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov or (406) 444-2506.



PAPER REGISTRATION FORMS REQUIRED
THIS YEAR

Registrations and payments must be received by February 19, 2021.

For more information regarding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Inspection Authorization Renewal requirements and forms visit:

https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/field_offices/fsdo/hln/

**8 Hours are required to meet Part 65.93.
Attendance will be taken online at the beginning of each session.**

**Saturday, February 27, 2021
Mountain Standard Time (GMT-7)**

Morning Session

7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. – Login and test sound and video

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Jeff Vercoe, FAA

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Martin Clemons ADSB/Electrical systems, and troubleshooting

10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. – BREAK

10:10 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. – Kristi Dunks, NTSB

11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. – Tim Gauntt, Hartzell Engine Technologies

12:10 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. – Lunch/Break

Afternoon Session

12:50 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. – Vince Bechtel, Tempest Aero Group

1:50 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. – Roger D. Fuchs Aviation Consulting

2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – BREAK

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Greg Cross, Cross Petroleum Service

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Jessie & Mike Ellis, PinnaCal

Please return your registration and payment prior to February 19, 2021

Once your registration and payment have been received, you will receive an email with an invitation link to the Zoom call. Please save this email, it is how you will access the course on February 27!

Please log into Zoom ahead of time to test your equipment and familiarize yourself with its operation; it is very easy to use! We are unable to process refunds for those with technical difficulties.

Please Note: Date and time for speakers at Aircraft Mechanics Refresher Seminar & IA Renewal are subject to change without notice.

Spokane Hill Airway Beacon

Spokane Hill Airway Beacon, located approximately five miles northwest of Winston Montana, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places as of December 16, 2020. This beacon was one of the original 84 beacons in Montana which was a part of a beacon airway system originally containing approximately 1,500 beacons. The beacon airway system operated from 1934 until the Federal Aviation Administration decommissioned the system in 1979. Broadwater County owns this beacon today; it is currently in operational status for historical preservation purposes as long as it continues to function.



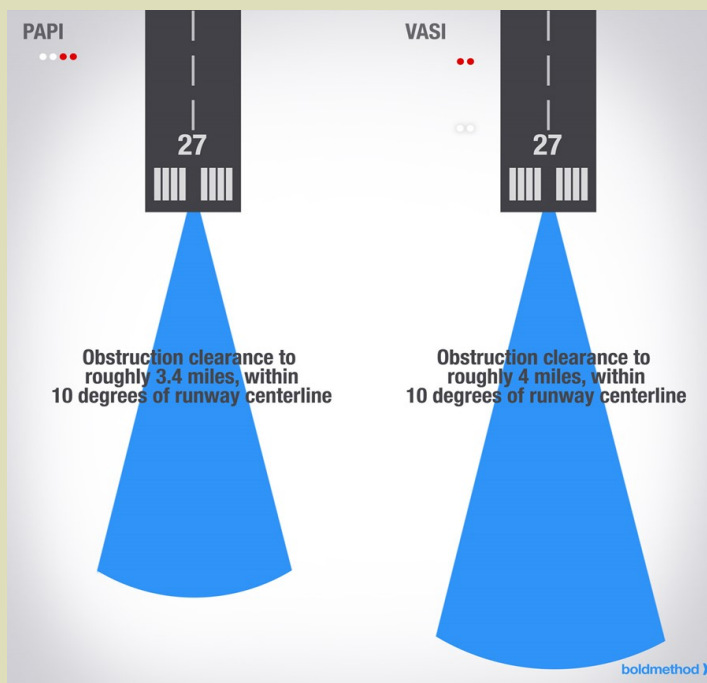
Aviation Quiz



- 1) How many non-federally funded public use airports are in Montana?
 - A: 511
 - B: 84
 - C: 65
 - D: 126
- 2) How much can frost reduce your wing's maximum lift?
 - A: 10%
 - B: 20%
 - C: 30%
 - D: Frost wont affect lift
- 3) Which WWII era bomber was most produced?
 - A: B-17
 - B: B-24
 - C: B-29
 - D: B-32
- 4) The busiest airport in Montana is?
 - A: Helena
 - B: Billings
 - C: Yellowstone
 - D: Bozeman
- 5) The longest scheduled airline passenger flight in the world is?
 - A: 9,536.5 miles
 - B: 4,278 miles
 - C: 16,411 miles
- 6) On average, one inch of rain is equivalent to how many inches of snow?
 - A: 8 inches
 - B: 10 inches
 - C: 12 inches
 - D: 14 inches
- 7) You need to fly through visible moisture to get carb ice?
 - A: False
 - B: True

PAPI Verses VASI Did you know?

Lighting is important during the daytime as well as at night. Make sure you understand what type of approach path indicators (if any) the airport has. At night, check the VFR sectional or chart supplement to see what lighting is available and if you can control runway and taxiway lights. Graphic credit: Bold Method



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Yellowstone Airport Pilot Campground

It is the dead of winter and we are longing for blue skies, green grass, and airplane camping! Many of us are busy researching where we want to recreate with our aircraft this summer. The Yellowstone Airport offers a FREE campground to pilots and their passengers who visit. Four maintained campsites are complete with a fire ring and grill cooktop. A new pavilion to escape the elements as well as a brand-new outhouse facility were added in 2020. Donations are accepted at the campground to assist with the cost of maintenance and improvements.

Campers can enjoy convenient access to the campground by contacting the Fixed Base Operator (FBO), Choice Aviation, on the Common Traffic Advisory Frequency to notify the ramp agent of your intentions to camp. The agent will park your aircraft on the far north end of the apron closest to the campground. During normal FBO business hours (7am-6pm) during the operating season, the FBO can assist campers and provide vehicle escort on the apron to the campground to unload groceries and other belongings. Vehicles are not permitted to remain on the apron overnight. Vehicles should park outside the perimeter fence around Gate 1. This practice allows campers to access their campsite by vehicle while keeping aircraft and the airport secure after hours. The FBO can also have rental cars standing by prior arrangement.

The Yellowstone Airport is excited to welcome fly-in campers to the campground and hopes to see you there this year! The airport typically opens for the season at the end of May. For questions or more information, please feel free to contact the airport directly at (406) 646-7631.



Photo Credit: Aeronautics Staff

Calendar of Events

All events are subject to modification or cancellation per the latest COVID-19 guidance

February 27, 2021 — Aircraft Mechanic Refresher & Inspection Authorization VIRTUAL Seminar. Online Zoom Seminar. For more information, contact Matt Lindberg at (406) 444-9568 or email mlindberg@mt.gov. See Page 5 for details. For a registration form, visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/events.shtml>.

March 1, 2021 — Aircraft and Pilot Registration Renewal Deadline.

May 15, 2021 — Aviation Organization of Montana (AOM). Spring meeting, time to be decided.

June 10, 2021 — Aeronautics Board Meeting. For more information, please contact MDT Aeronautics at (406) 444-2506.

Quiz Answer Key: 1:C 2:C 3:B 4:D 5:A 6:B 7:A

WANTED: Your Montana Aviation News

Do you have exciting aviation news from Montana to share? Did you know you can send it to the Aeronautics Division to be considered for publishing in the *Montana and the Sky* newsletter? We love to hear about and share your Montana Aviation news, photos, and stories. Please send contributions to mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov before the first Friday of each month for the next month's issue.



VISION ZERO

zero deaths · zero serious injuries

MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

February 2021

5403

Aeronautics Division
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Vision Zero: A Goal for Everyone

In 2020, there were 209 fatalities on Montana roads.

What does that mean? 209 parents, children, grandparents, friends, siblings, spouses, and other loved ones had lives that were cut short. It also means countless tears and shattered lives for those left with the aftermath of unsafe driving behaviors. Which loved one are you prepared to lose? If your answer is none, then Vision Zero is also YOUR goal.

It will take every one of us to work towards the day that Vision Zero is met, and the fatality total reads "ZERO." Two of the highest contributing factors to traffic fatalities in 2019 were alcohol and no seat belt.

These are behaviors that can be changed! Start by always wearing your seatbelt and planning for sober transportation. Remind your loved ones and those around you to do the same.

-Director Malcolm Long, MDT

Visit www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero for more information.

VISION ZERO ★
zero deaths · zero serious injuries

**MONTANA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION**

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