

**Montana Aeronautics Board
Loan and Grant Application Meeting
Montana Department of Transportation; Auditorium
2701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, MT
Wednesday, January 12, 2022**

Aeronautics Board

Bill Lepper, Board Chair
Wade Cebulski, Vice-Chair
Robb Bergeson
Pam Chamberlain
Dan Hargrove
Tim Robertson
Tom Schoenleben
Tim Sheehy
Greg Smith

Department of Transportation

Tim Conway, MDT Aeronautics
Marc McKee, MDT Aeronautics
Karen Speeg, MDT Aeronautics
Shannon Buswell, MDT Aeronautics
Valerie Balukas, MDT Legal

Guests

Craig Canfield, KLJ
Jason Slezak, KLJ
Nathan Schroht, KLJ
Travis Eickman, Morrison Maierle
Andy Galen, Morrison-Maierle
Lance Bowser, Robert, Peccia & Associates
Jim Greil, DOWL

Steve Smith, Red Lodge Airport Board
Jeff Wise, Red Lodge Airport Manager
Doug Phair, Miles City Airport Commission
Kevin Myhre, Century Co. Inc.
Todd Clark, Kalispell City
Chelsea Rayfield, Legislative Audit Division

Call to Order

- Chairperson Lepper called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

In-Person Applicant Presentations of Loan/Grant Applications Continued

- **Livingston Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**
- **Malta Airport** – Jason Slezak from KLJ provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
Mr. Cebulski asked why the project is not AIP funded. Mr. Slezak responded.
- **MDT Airport** – Marc McKee, Airports & Airways Bureau Chief for MDT Aeronautics provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
It was asked if the proposed locations are off airports. Mr. McKee responded that some are on airports, some are for passes. This application is for airports, but the block grant for mountain passes was withdrawn. This grant goes toward any airport who wants to apply. The airport will need to match 50% of the cost.
It was asked why Aeronautics recommended \$0 for the grant when they applied for it. Mr. McKee responded that Aeronautics does not take emotion or opinions into consideration when making recommendations, that primarily the PI associated with the project is used.

The question was asked if Aeronautics knew how often the cameras were accessed. Mr. McKee responded that Aeronautics does not know for sure how much Montana's cameras are being used yet, but Aeronautics has personally utilized them quite a bit to get into Lincoln.

The board asked if any cameras would be installed on mountain passes with the funds, since Aeronautics withdrew the mountain pass grant. Mr. McKee responded yes.

It was asked if Aeronautics had a list of airports who would receive cameras through this grant, and if the board would have input as to which airports would receive cameras. Mr. McKee responded that the intent behind this application was as a convenience to the board, so they did not have to analyze every location, but if they want to be involved with the process, they can. This was to provide the board options.

- **Miles City Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ and Doug Phair from Miles City Airport Commission provided a presentation on behalf of the airport. As part of the presentation, Mr. Phair spoke to possible revenue-generating possibilities.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**
- **Plains Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA, representing Sanders County provided a presentation.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Mr. Cebulski spoke about the minimums being high even for a circling approach. He asked if approaches have been diagrammed, even without an AWOS. Mr. Bowser responded that a feasibility study has been submitted.
 - Mr. Cebulski asked if studies have been done, and about FAA funding. Mr. Bowser responded regarding case studies. AWOS with the FAA has been a question for about 5 years. There is currently a case study in Alaska.
 - Mr. Smith asked about 316 vs. 300 discrepancy. Mr. Bowser responded that there is more than \$300,000 in FAA money available.
- **Red Lodge Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA, Steve Smith with the airport board, and Jeff Wise, airport manager, provided a presentation on behalf of the airport. As part of their presentation, Mr. Wise thanked the board for their consideration, and Mr. Smith noted the tremendous interest in hangar space in the last 6 months. Mr. Bowser noted that it was not an option for Red Lodge to do this master study; that the goal of the master plan is to meet FAA standards and maintain funding.
 - **Questions from the board:**
 - Mr. Robertson asked for additional information on the taxiway. Mr. Bowser responded that it would be half retroactive, and they would do surface work this year; years away from when they could accomplish it.
 - Mr. Robertson questioned the low cost of the taxiway, and the three presenters responded with clarification on length, locations, and specifics.
 - Mr. Robertson asked if the taxiway was going to meet FAA standards in the long-term. Mr. Bowser responded that yes, it would meet FAA standards.
 - Mr. Hargrove asked for additional information on the timeline of the project. Mr. Bowser responded.
- **Scobey Airport** – Nathan Schroht with KLJ, representing Daniels County Airport Commission, provided a presentation.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**
- **Shelby Airport** - Lance Bowser with RPA, representing Toole County and the City of Shelby, provided a presentation.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**

- **Sidney Airport** – Jason Slezak from KLJ, representing Sidney Richland Airport Authority, provided a presentation.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**
- **Stanford Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA, representing Judith Basin County, provided a presentation.
 - **Questions from the board:**
Mr. Cebulski asked if there was a current waiting list. Mr. Bowser responded that there was not a documented waiting list yet, prior to the firm plan to build.
- **Stevensville Airport** – Andy Galen from Morrision-Maierle provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**
- **Superior Airport** – There was no presentation for this application. They were just applying for weather cameras.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**
- **Terry Airport** – Craig Canfield from KLJ, representing Prairie County Airport Authority, provided a presentation on behalf of the airport.
 - **Questions from the board:**
Mr. Hargrove asked about the fence and whether or not it is a separate project. Mr. Canfield provided clarification.
- **Thompson Falls Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA, representing Sanders County, provided a presentation.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**
- **Three Forks Airport** – Travis Eickman from Morrision-Maierle, representing Gallatin County and the airport board, provided a presentation.
 - **Questions from the board:**
Mr. Sheehy asked what the order of priority is for their application. Mr. Eickman responded.
Mr. Sheehy asked if repaving was higher priority over lengthening, and Mr. Eickman confirmed that yes, it is.
Mr. Sheehy asked what the current status is of floodplain for this airport. Mr. Eickman provided the new status of floodplain and what is not currently included in the floodplain.
- **Townsend Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA, representing the Townsend Airport, Broadwater County, and the City of Townsend, provided a presentation.
 - **Questions from the board:**
Mr. Bergeson asked about whether the rehabilitation project was tied to this land acquisition, and Mr. Bowser responded that they are not tied together.
- **Twin Bridges Airport** – Lance Bowser, with RPA, representing Madison County, provided a presentation.
 - **There were no questions from the board.**
- **White Sulphur Springs Airport** – Lance Bowser with RPA, representing Meagher County and the City of White Sulphur Springs provided a presentation.
 - **Questions from the board:**
Mr. Smith asked for clarification on whether funds have been used or not, and Mr. Bowser responded no.

Mr. Lepper asked for further clarification about funds being requested. Mr. Bowser responded that the request was only for \$40,000.

A break was called as of 9:28 a.m. Meeting reconvened as of 9:50 a.m.

Public Comment

- *There was no public comment.*

Loan/Grant Allocations

Ms. Balukas provided the board an overview of their capacities in awarding loans and grants. It was reiterated that the board has absolute discretion to award grants and loans in the way the board decides. The board is able to convert between grants and loans at their discretion, and do not have to just follow what is on each application. Consistency has historically been a board preference, but this is not a requirement of the board.

Mr. Hargrove asked Ms. Balukas for clarification regarding if the board cannot fund a grant, should they do a loan. For example, in the past, if the applicant did not ask for a loan, the board might not offer one. Ms. Balukas stated that the board can offer a loan, and anyone has the ability after the board meeting to not accept a loan.

The board discussed wanting to support projects that are safety items, followed by prioritizing surface rehabilitation projects, then all other projects after these priorities. The board decided not to fund buildings or land, while prioritizing runways and focusing on safety, and projects that have to do with the flying public.

Review of Loan/Grant Applications

Loan Rate - The loan rate for the fiscal year 2022 is 1.625% which is half of the prime rate.

The board completed a first-round review of each application.

A break was called as of 11:45 a.m. Meeting reconvened as of 12:48 p.m.

The board asked for several clarifications from Scott Eaton with the FAA, who was available via telephone to answer the board’s questions.

After two rounds of deliberation regarding each application, the following award amounts were proposed:

<u>Applicant:</u>	<u>Grant Amount:</u>	<u>Loan Amount:</u>
Anaconda –Master Plan/Lighting	\$30,500	\$0
Bridger - Beacon	\$14,000	\$14,000
Broadus - Pavement Rehab	\$14,900	\$0
Browning – Fencing	\$140,250	\$0
Choteau – Pavement Rehab/Signs	\$15,000	\$0
Columbus – Weather Cameras	\$7,500	\$0
Conrad – Pavement Rehab/Lighting	\$23,000	\$0
Cut Bank – Pavement Rehab	\$39,300	\$0

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Deer Lodge – Construct Runway Safety Area/Weather Cameras	\$24,900	\$0
Dutton - Pavement Rehab/Construct Taxiway	\$88,200	\$0
Ekalaka – Beacon	\$16,000	\$0
Eureka – Weather Cameras	\$7,500	\$0
Fairfield - Pavement Rehab	\$78,060	\$0
Gardiner – Pavement Rehab	\$580,000	\$102,852
Glasgow – Pavement Rehab	\$50,400	\$0
Great Falls – Snow Removal Equipment/ Extend Taxiway	\$117,000	\$0
Havre – Emergency Generator/ Weather Cameras	\$28,750	\$0
Helena – Weather Cameras	\$3,750	\$0
Kalispell City – Lighting	\$394,187	\$0
Laurel – Master Plan/Fencing	\$51,000	\$0
Lewistown - Pavement Rehab/Fencing	\$297,450	\$29,550
Libby – Weather Cameras	\$7,500	\$0
Livingston – Construct Taxiway	\$31,500	\$50,000
Malta – Beacon	\$15,845	\$0
MDT Aero – Weather Cameras	\$17,305	\$0
Plains – AWOS	\$36,000	\$0
Red Lodge – Pavement Rehab	\$36,150	\$0
Scobey – AWOS/NAVAIDs/Rehab Runway	\$38,050	\$3,950
Shelby – AWOS	\$32,400	\$0
Sidney –Pavement Rehab/Lighting	\$315,000	\$35,000
Stanford – Construct Taxiway	\$30,000	\$15,000
Superior – Weather Cameras	\$7,500	\$0
Terry – Master Plan	\$11,500	\$11,500
Three Forks – Pavement Rehab/ Extend Taxiway/Taxiway Lighting/Weather Cameras	\$363,603	\$88,148
White Sulphur Springs – AWOS	\$36,000	\$0
TOTALS	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 350,000

Mr. Sheehy made a motion to approve the loans and grants as presented. Mr. Hargrove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meetings

- There was general agreement to have a board meeting at the aviation conference in Missoula, 3/3/22, from 1:30-5:00 p.m.
- The June Extension meeting is tentatively set for 6/9/22 at 10:00 a.m. at Bridger Aerospace.
- The next Annual Loans and Grants board meeting is tentatively set for 1/17/23 at 12:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bergeson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Bill Lepper, Chairman

Wade Cebulski, Vice-Chairman