

Public Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment  
Intent to Impose and Use and New Passenger Facility Charge  
Helena Regional Airport  
Helena, Montana

Date: September 12, 2017

Mail comments to: Helena Regional Airport  
2850 Mercer Loop  
Helena, Montana 59602

Deadline: October 16, 2017

The Helena Regional Airport Authority intends to file an application with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), to impose and use a new Passenger Facility Charge for improvement projects at the Helena Regional Airport, Helena, Montana. As required under Section 158.23 of Part 158 – Passenger Facility Charges, the Authority is hereby providing written notice to all known air carriers operating at the Airport and the public.

The following paragraphs provide information required under Section 158.23 of Part 158 for the notice to air carriers serving the Helena Regional Airport of the Airport Authority's intent to file the aforementioned Notice of Intent to impose and use PFC Revenues.

### **SECTION 158.23(a)(1). DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS**

The Helena Regional Airport Authority will file a Notice of Intent with the FAA to amend, use and impose PFCs for the following projects. The projects listed are necessary to maintain the Airport in safe condition for the operation of aircraft and for the safety of traveling public.

#### **1. TAXIWAY F – WEST, REHABILITATION – FY-2016**

Request to Amend – from \$229,100 to \$119,091

Request to Use - \$119,091

This project, completed in April, 2017, consisted of the reconstruction of Taxiway F – West, starting at the east end of the terminal aircraft parking ramp and ending at the connection of Runway 9. The pavement was originally constructed in 1983, with a fog seal in 2008. The decrease is due to actual costs.

#### **2. TERMINAL EXPANSION – FY- 2018**

Request to Amend – from \$143,400 to \$1,100,000

Request to Use - \$1,100,000

The original request was based on a cost derived from a Master Plan Study, completed for the Helena Airport in 2011. The project and project cost have been revised in accordance with a subsequent planning study and conceptual design.

The 2011 plan discussed the need for terminal modifications particularly in the secure hold areas on the first and second floor. The intermediate term solution identified in the 2011 plan was a minor remodeling project which added on a new gate and holdroom with little modification to the existing building. Terminal planning was not a major scope component of the 2011 plan and it was recognized that more focused study of terminal needs would be required prior to proceeding with the project.

In 2016, the Master Plan was updated with a focused Terminal Master Plan element. Through a series of work sessions and refinement, a conceptual design was developed to comprehensively address the deficiencies of the existing terminal and future terminal requirements including congestion in the security screening area, poor passenger flow and inadequate secure side concessions space, additional gates and additional secure-side lobby area. The expansion is phased to allow orderly growth of the terminal through the life of the building. The proposed project is “phase one” of a design which will ultimately accommodate seven gates and incremental expansion of all functional areas of the terminal as needed.

Currently, secure lobby areas are undersized for peak times. Changes in the airline industry away from the small 50 seat regional jets to a larger more fuel efficient aircraft with greater seat capacity are leading to exceeded capacity in the holdrooms. This will be compounded if and when additional flights are added to the schedule. In addition, secure side restrooms are undersized and concessions are poorly located and inadequately sized. The first floor security screening area shares space on the first level with a ground level boarding gate. As a result, the security screening area is cramped and difficult to expand should additional lanes be required in the future. During peak times, queuing for security screening extends into the main circulation area of the terminal.

Phase one includes a reconfiguration and expansion of the upper level holdrooms to accommodate three gates. Two gates will utilize teleradial boarding bridges, which “swing” between two aircraft parking positions so that, in phase one, the terminal can serve up to five aircraft on the apron. Secure lobby areas on the second floor will be expanded to accommodate approximately 370 seats, appropriately sized restrooms and a food service concession. The ground level gate is eliminated and passenger screening and queuing is reconfigured to improve flow, bring queuing out of the main circulation area and accommodate future expansion when needed.

This project is considered primarily 100% FAA eligible, which is, 90% FAA dollars and 10% Airport dollars. Total project cost is estimated at \$11,000,000.00. Total cost Federal Share for the project is estimated at \$9,900,000.00. The PFC portion is estimated at \$1,100,000.00.

### **3. JET BRIDGE ACQUISITION – FY 2018**

Request to Impose and Use - \$60,000

The terminal expansion project will result in three aircraft gates on the second level. As the airport currently owns two jet bridges, acquisition of a third jet bridge will be necessary in conjunction with the terminal expansion. The jet bridge will be teleradial in order to allow service of two aircraft parking positions from the same gate.

### **4. PFC PROGRAM CONSULTING FEES – 2017 APPLICATION**

The PFC program consulting fees are the engineering services provided by Morrison-Maierle, Inc. to prepare the 2017 PFC Application.

This project was considered not FAA eligible. Total cost is \$5,000.00. The PFC portion is \$5,000.00.

## PROJECT COST SUMMARY

	Project		TOTAL COST (100%)	FEDERAL SHARE	PFC COST
1	Taxiway F West - Rehabilitation - FY 2016	AIP 49	\$1,190,919.78	\$1,071,827.80	\$119,091.98
2	Terminal Expansion - FY 2018	TBD	\$11,000,000.00	\$9,900,000.00	\$1,100,000.00
3	Jet Bridge Acquisition – FY 2018	TBD	\$600,000.00	\$540,000.00	\$60,000.00
4	PFC Program Consulting - 2017	N/A	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
			<b>\$12,795,919.78</b>	<b>\$11,511,827.80</b>	<b>\$1,284,091.98</b>