

# Blaine County Airport Strategic Plan – 2/28/2012

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## Overview

In an effort to communicate effectively with all stakeholders involved with the airport project, the Board of County Commissioners has developed a strategy map to articulate steps necessary for a successful airport project. This document presents the following:

- Guiding principles
- Community perspective
- Replacement Airport
- Friedman Memorial Airport

## Guiding Principles

Below are six guiding principles determined by the Board of County Commissioners to be essential to the success of the airport project.

**Guiding Principle 1** - Robust commercial and general aviation transportation service and infrastructure are vital to the economy of Blaine County.

**Guiding Principle 2** - Meeting federal design and safety standards in air and ground operations is paramount in planning for air service and related infrastructure.

**Guiding Principle 3** - Air service and infrastructure improvements are affordable and achievable.

**Guiding Principle 4** - Minimizing environmental impacts is a high priority in planning for and implementing air service and infrastructure improvements.

**Guiding Principle 5** - Air Service is an important and interconnected mode of transportation for Blaine County and the region.

**Guiding Principle 6** - A replacement airport south of Bellevue along State Highway 75 is the long term solution and objective.

## Community Perspective

As a community, we seek better air access to Blaine County than exists today. This will improve and enhance the visitor experience, contribute to the success of local businesses and allow for more efficient movement of people and products into and out of our region. We also believe that the best outcomes can be achieved by involving the community in an open and transparent process and seeking balance among all stakeholders.

## **We will accomplish this by:**

- Retaining service - maintain good relationships with our air carriers
- Improving service – strive for lower approach minimums to reduce diversions and cancellations significantly
- Developing service - in cooperation with Fly Sun Valley Alliance (FSVA), seek new carriers and/or markets
- Engaging a Friedman Memorial Airport Authority (FMAA) communications director
- Maintaining a public website or other effective channels for distributing information
- Soliciting feedback actively from stakeholders and the community regarding present and future needs and priorities
- Minimizing on- and off-site environmental impacts of airport redevelopment or new development

## **Replacement Airport**

We believe a replacement airport is the best solution to meeting Blaine County's long-term commercial and general aviation needs.

## **We will accomplish this by:**

- Identifying a reasonable location for a replacement airport
- Modifying the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) study purpose and need statement
- Ensuring that at least one Category 1 minimums instrument landing approach is attained at a replacement site
- Developing and confirming an affordable funding plan for a replacement airport
- Establishing benchmarks for the replacement airport planning, acquisition and construction processes
- Being accountable, reviewing and measuring benchmarks annually and modifying them, if needed
- Maintaining an active partnership with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) through the EIS process
- Engaging other transportation stakeholders in the development of the Master Plan and an Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for the replacement site
- Exploring and pursuing regional partnerships for long-term success
- Planning for and accommodating operational practices to ensure long-term positive cash flow and airport sustainability
- Incorporating robust risk management practices into all these planning and implementation processes
- Implementing all the terms of the Amended Joint Powers Agreement between Hailey and Blaine County

## **Friedman Memorial Airport**

We believe critical improvements to Friedman Memorial Airport (FMA) should be made in the short and medium term to improve air service as soon as possible and meet current and targeted future aviation demand.

### **We will accomplish this by:**

- Minimizing design deviations from standard federal safety requirements
- Developing a new FMA ALP
- Engaging other transportation stakeholders in the development of a FMA ALP
- Implementing the new FMA ALP in cooperation with all airport tenants and users
- Deploying technology solutions effectively and efficiently to provide the best possible service to all FMA customers, including the general public, air carriers and general aviation customers
- Acquiring adjacent land in order to expand outside the existing FMA property boundary, if necessary, to accomplish these short and medium-term objectives
- Developing and implementing an affordable funding plan for FMA improvements
- Continuing operational practices and adopting others that maintain FMA's positive cash flow and sustainability
- Considering decisions in the context of long-term planning for a replacement airport
- Incorporating robust risk management practices into these planning and implementation processes
- Addressing airport governance issues timely, including implementation of all the terms of the Amended Joint Powers Agreement between Hailey and Blaine County and further amendment as needed