



OUR TOWN

Sustaining Hailey's Community

October 2011
Issue No. 97

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Calendar

Important dates

City Council*	10/10/11, 10/24/11
Hailey Arts Commission	10/06/11
Historic Preservation Commission	10/25/11
Hailey Library Board	10/19/11
Parks & Lands Board	10/04/11
P&Z Commission**	10/03/11, 10/17/11
Tree Committee	10/13/11
Urban Renewal Agency***	10/17/11

- * *Woodside Blvd Public Hearing on 10/24/11*
- ** *Quigley Annexation Public Hearing on 10/03/11*
- *** *Special meeting in Jerome (9:30am) and Twin Falls (12pm)*

Friedman Memorial Airport Update... and What Next

The City of Hailey, Blaine County, and the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority (FMAA) have encountered a significant impediment in the long-time effort to improve air service for the Wood River Valley in Central Idaho by siting and constructing a replacement airport. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has suspended work indefinitely on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a replacement airport based primarily on the increased cost of the project and the impacts to wildlife, particularly sage grouse.

These circumstances prompt many questions and will require the community to revisit some long-held assumptions, including potentially the community's long held position that Friedman Memorial Airport (FMA) should not expand beyond its current configuration. In short, given the FAA's suspension, all options are subject to re-evaluation and further community input.

We hope this edition of *Our Town* will provide useful information and historical perspective as we chart the path forward.

What We Know:

- The suspended EIS has exhausted approximately \$6.1 million dollars of the budgeted \$7 million dollars in Airport Improvement Grants (AIP). The grants are configured so that \$6,650,000 of those funds are

provided by the FAA and the remaining \$350,000 is provided by local funds, in other words, 95% federal funds and 5% local funding.

- Local funds that fund airport operations and matching funds for FAA studies are produced through FMA revenues. FMA receives no local tax revenue. Airport local revenues are the exclusive result of airport user fees. Federal funds invested in airports via AIP are also the exclusive result of aviation user taxes/fees.
- The EIS suspension does not mean that any Replacement Process options have been eliminated from consideration. It does mean that all options are subject to re-evaluation and further community input.
- Compliance with FAA criteria will require an expansion of the existing FMA site should the community wish to utilize this site.
- Alternatives for constructing a replacement airport elsewhere may not be affordable.
- Inability to achieve a compliant, reliable airport may jeopardize commercial air service for the community.
- The option of "Doing Nothing" at FMA does not translate to a closure of FMA. Historic acceptance of federal funding (AIP) insures that FMA must continue to operate at the very least, as a General Aviation facility.

Where Are We Now?

- ◆ National economic conditions, along with evolving environmental (wildlife) concerns at the two final alternative sites have given the FAA cause to recommend that the community explore "best case scenario" concepts to bring the existing FMA site, as well as previously-identified alternative sites, into compliance with design, demand and reliability criteria
- ◆ FAA has stated that FMA remains obligated to correct deficiencies in design standards and seek to improve reliability. FAA has also stated without reservation that design standard deficiencies, reliability and demand issues cannot be resolved within the current

boundaries of the existing FMA site.

- ◆ Improvements outside the existing footprint of the FMA site as an option would warrant further study by the City of Hailey, Blaine County, consultants, FMAA Staff and Board and the community as a whole.
- ◆ The FAA-approved 1994 FMA Master Plan preamble states that "...as pressure for uses reaches the physical limits of the facility, we need to look for alternatives away from the valley cities rather than expansion at the existing site."
- ◆ Reconsideration of alternatives at the existing site requires significant community involvement, with particular involvement from Hailey, Bellevue and Blaine County.
- ◆ FMA presently operates within its design standard deficiencies through an agreement on "operating restrictions" between the airport and the air traffic control service provider with approval by FAA. The agreement is subject to termination at any time, by any of the parties.
- ◆ Frequent delays in commercial and general aviation arrival and departure operations are among the effects of FMA's "operating restrictions".
- ◆ The degree of financial support from the FAA for significant alterations to FMA cannot be identified until a further evaluation of concepts is completed. There will be a local funding requirement.
- ◆ Alternative considerations at FMA aren't likely to include expansion north, east or west of the airport.

Loss Of Commercial Air Service Is Potentially Accompanied By:

- ◆ Reduction of current AIP funding from approximately \$1,400,000.00 in annual entitlement and Passenger Facility Charge revenue to approximately \$150,000.00.
- ◆ Reduction in Airport Staff—Reduction or loss of Airport Services such as Aircraft Rescue Firefighting, Snow Removal Operations, Airfield maintenance, etc.
- ◆ Reduction in Airport revenues from sources such as fuel flowage, tenant leases, Passenger Facility Charges (PFC), rental car revenues, parking revenues, etc. Results could include:
 - ◆ Inability to appropriately maintain Airport

infrastructure.

- ◆ Loss of federally subsidized Air Traffic Control (ATC) service.
- ◆ Loss of services provided at the Airport by tenants and associated job loss.
- ◆ Potential use of general fund revenue from the sponsors (Hailey and Blaine County) to support Airport operations.
- ◆ Necessitated increase in general aviation rates and charges.
- ◆ Loss of L.O.T. funds.
- ◆ Possible reduction in tax base for the cities of Blaine County.

What Commercial Service Means:

Friedman Memorial Airport's impact in the community could be quantified as follows:

Estimate of Commercial Service Visitor Expenditures:

\$52,325,700 per year

Commercial Service Visitor-Related Employment:

726 year-round jobs

Total Visitor Tax Impact:

\$8,695,500 per year

Based on the Idaho Division of Aeronautics 2008 Airport System Plan, developed by Wilbur Smith Associates and IMPLAN multipliers

How Did We Get Here?

The City of Hailey, Blaine County and FMA have worked diligently for many years to make the replacement airport a reality. Here is a brief summary of the effort.

In 1994 an FMA Master Plan was completed

The preamble to that plan stated: "The goals of this Master Plan are to eliminate as many of the safety deviations as possible while not expanding the impact on the adjacent community. We seek the highest quality and safest airport possible within the physical limits imposed by the geography and the human use of adjacent lands. As pressure for use reaches the physical limits of the facility, we need to look for alternatives away from the valley cities rather than expansion at the present site."

The preamble to the 1994 Master Plan became a guiding principle for all future planning decisions.

The 1994 Master Plan also recommended designing to B-III standards. A small expansion outside of the fence was necessary to eliminate many of the most critical safety deviations for aircraft of the time. The Master Plan established a policy that this expansion would be the last before looking for a new site. B-III refers to the most demanding aircraft using the airport at the time of the planning effort. A B-III aircraft is slightly larger than Skywest's current commercial plane, the Embraer Brasilia.

In 2004 an Updated Master Plan was completed

The conclusion of this planning effort was that the airport must achieve compliance at a new site and construct feasible short-term improvements at the existing site.

- ◆ FMA was required by the FAA to resolve issues related to ARC C-III compliance, as the airfield was ARC B-III classified and significant C-III aircraft were operating at the airport.
- ◆ ARC is an FAA acronym for Airport Reference Code. Essentially this classifies the most demanding aircraft that is using an airport. Based on who is using the airport, different standards apply. As frequency of planes using the airport moves towards faster and larger, so do margins of safety in design standards.
- ◆ Aircraft currently contributing to the C-III classification include larger corporate jets, Horizon Airlines commercial aircraft, and if utilized in the future, most regional jets.
- ◆ A number of alternatives were developed, each depicting improvements required to meet safety standards and recommended to meet the projected demand of the airport. Some facility improvements could be accomplished; however, badly needed safety improvements would require major reconfiguration of the airport and/or building areas and would require the airport to expand beyond its current property boundaries. FMAA decided to proceed with meeting design standards at an alternative site.
- ◆ Due to the extensive time frame necessary to move an airport, interim upgrades continued at the existing site to improve air service and move the airfield closer to design standard compliance.

In 2006 a Site Selection Study was completed

The conclusion of this planning effort was that the City

of Hailey and Blaine County requested the FAA evaluate Site 10 for environmental impacts.

- ◆ 16 alternative sites were initially evaluated. The number of sites was reduced to a "short list" of 3 feasible sites.
 - ◆ Site 9 located in Northern Lincoln county east State HWY 75
 - ◆ Site 10 located in Southern Blaine County east of State HWY 75
 - ◆ Site 13 located in eastern Camas county south of US HWY 20
- ◆ The report evaluated 4 alternatives for full C-III compliance at the existing site – all required significant expansion beyond the current configuration.
- ◆ The FMA Board decided to pursue a replacement airport at Site 10 or in the immediate vicinity in lieu of expansion at FMA.
- ◆ The 2006 Site Selection study made clear that, "a major expansion undertaken in an effort to resolve [operational] deficiencies at the [Friedman] site would significantly impact the surrounding community and would have substantial environmental consequences. Moreover, expansion would not resolve several critical issues at the current site, such as geography constraints."
- ◆ FAA agreed to proceed with an EIS process.

2007 to Summer, 2011 — FAA performed Environmental Impact Statement efforts

This environmental review takes a detailed, independent, look at the site selection study and the possible impacts on the environment. In August, 2011 the FAA suspended work on the environmental impact statement citing concerns over possible impacts to wildlife, and affordability.

- ◆ The National Environmental Policy Act requires an "arms length" approach for the FAA in their review of impacts and limits community input on the process.
- ◆ 17 Sites were independently evaluated for ability to meet design standards, to provide significant improvement to reliability (fewer diversions), and to provide for the airport to grow if necessary in the future (demand).

- ◆ Three finalist sites, all located within Blaine County were narrowed to two in 2010.
- ◆ Site 10A is located near Site 10 in southern Blaine County.
- ◆ Site 12 is located along US HWY 20 on the Blaine/Camas county line.
- ◆ Initial planning of sites 10A and 12 completed in the summer of 2011 indicate total project costs for either site to be in excess of \$300M, with approximately one half of the burden being requested to be paid by the airport and possibly the citizens of Blaine County.
- ◆ During the environmental review period Western Sage Grouse habitat became a significant concern across the west leading to calls to list the species.
- ◆ Idaho Fish and Game along with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in early 2011 raised significant concerns over the possible impact on habitat that Site 10A could cause.

This pause allows the FAA to enter into discussions with the community on affordability and possible reconsideration of basic assumptions leading to the potential sites being evaluated. This could include reconsideration of utilizing the existing site as the anchor point for any modifications. Depending on options pursued, certain operational and physical constraints could still remain that could be resolved at a new site but possibly at a much higher cost.

What's Next?

In the coming months a community dialogue is necessary.

- ◆ On September 27th a community stakeholder meeting was held in the Continental Room at the SV Inn, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.
- ◆ In the upcoming weeks additional meetings will be held in the community including the regular FMAA meetings at the Blaine County courthouse and the Monday night City Council meetings.
- ◆ Updates will be communicated via the *Idaho Mountain Express*, www.flysvra.com, KECH radio, and the Hailey City website as appropriate.

The City of Hailey wants to hear what you want to see now and into the future for the airport in light of recent events.

Highlighted EVENTS

1. Farmers and Artists' Market

- Thursdays, 06/16/-10/13/11, 2:30pm-6:30pm, Main St. between Sturtevant's and B of A.

2. Trailing of the Sheep

- Saturday, 10/08/11, 7am-5pm, McKercher Park

3. Hailey Community Climate Challenge Workshop—Cold frame garden building with reclaimed materials

- Saturday, 10/15/11, 10am-12pm, at the Building Material Thrift Store. Call 726-4333 for details.

4. Hailey Halloween Hoopla "Witches' Tea"

- Thursday, 10/27/11, 3pm-6pm, all ages welcome, wear your favorite witch costume. Held at the Ellsworth Inn call 788-3484 or 788-7070 for details.

5. Hailey Halloween Hoopla

- Monday, 10/31/11, 3pm-6pm, Trick or Treat local merchants and view great store front displays. Costume contest at the Liberty Theatre grouped by age prizes to be awarded call 788-3484 or 788-7070 for details.

Free Cold Frame Building Workshop...
extend your gardening season using reclaimed building materials



Build your own along with others or just watch and get ideas!

October 15th, 10am-12pm Building Material Thrift Store—3930 South Woodside Blvd.

Frame plans/design and instruction will be provided by Rebecca Bundy and Tom Harned. Reclaimed materials will be available for purchase from the Building Material Thrift Store (quantities are limited). Please RSVP with the ERC : 726-4333



Sustainability

Bradley Construction saves money and reduces waste

Jim Bradley, owner of Bradley Construction and participant of Hailey Community Climate Challenge’s construction recycling pilot program, says the building process for a new single family home in Hailey typically produces enough waste that its disposal can cost him anywhere from \$800-1,000. The home he’s building on Winterfox Lane in Woodside is different.



Although he is a participant in the program, he expects he could drastically reduce his costs, even without the \$500 rebate that the program offers contractors who are willing to recycle. His goal for the entire project is just one, six cubic yard dumpster of waste. Bradley said he estimates about half of the material that is disposed of on his jobs is cardboard. “The free cardboard disposal is great! Without it, I typically have to empty a 10 cubic yard dumpster 3-4 times for a project of similar size.”

His challenges include making sure employees keep things separated, keeping other people from dumping their personal waste in his receptacles, and confusion about



which plastics and metals can and cannot be recycled. Overall though, he says it has been pretty easy and things are going well.

In Hailey, there is no charge for cardboard and commodities recycling, such as tin, plastic, glass, etc. Construction clean wood waste disposal is not free, but it is less expensive compared to the cost of disposing general waste.



Utilities

Billing Changes

The City Council adopted the following changes to utility billing at their September 26th meeting to go into effect on

Oct. 26, 2011.

- Owners may opt to waive the tenant deposit on new landlord tenant agreements.
- Deposit will be reduced to \$150 to reflect an average of 3 months water/sewer bill.
- The utility account collection period will be reduced for delinquent accounts from 45 days to 10 days.
- Customers with a “good payment history” period of 1 year may request certain waivers, such as the insufficient funds fee and the shut-off deposit.

City Council will conduct a 2nd and 3rd reading of the changes in October, when public comments will continue to be taken.

Yard Waste Collection

Clear Creek Disposal will collect yard waste at the Hailey Park & Ride lot. Branches must be no more than 3’ in length and 3” in diameter, no plastic bags, and you must be able to load the debris into the dumpster provided.

When: Sat., October 22, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Hailey Park & Ride (Bullion & River St.)

Election 2011

Election Day

Voting will take place on **November 8th, from 8am-8pm** at the Community Campus gymnasium in Hailey.

Absentee voting will be taken until **Friday November 4th 5pm** at Blaine County Elections office – 206 1st Ave. South, Suite 200 (location for voter registration as well).

This years election is for :

- Mayor**
- Council Seat #3**
- Council Seat #4**
- Initiative Ballot** to eliminate single-use, carryout, plastic bags distributed by Hailey retailers.



Plastic Bag Reduction Measure

An initiative ballot brought forth by the Wood River High School Environmental Club Students to ban

certain plastic bags in Hailey will be put before Hailey voters on November 8, 2011. The ballot measure will ask whether voters want to ban single use carry-out plastic bags from all retail stores in Hailey, including but not limited to grocers. If adopted, the following types of bags would not be banned:

1. Bags used by consumers inside stores, including but not limited to restaurants, delis and bakeries, to:
 - a. Package bulk items, such as fruit, vegetables, nuts, grains, candy, or small hardware items;
 - b. Contain or wrap frozen foods, meats, or fish, whether prepackaged or not;
 - c. Contain or wrap flowers, potted plants, or other items which require dampness or cold conditions; or
 - d. Contain unwrapped prepared foods or bakery goods.
2. Bags provided by pharmacists to hold prescriptions drugs;
3. Newspaper bags, door-hanger bags, laundry dry cleaning bags, or bags sold in packages containing multiple bags intended for use as a garbage, pet waste, or yard waste bags; and
4. Bags provided by the customer and not provided by the Retail Store.

The ballot measure aims to promote the use of reusable bags, but allows retailers to continue distributing paper bags; however, they must contain a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content.

The History of Plastic Bags in Hailey

The city of Hailey received a grant for Just Bag It! in 2009. For two years Just Bag It! promoted plastic bag source reduction through education and outreach. Part of the education and outreach included distributing reusable bags at Atkinson's, Albertsons, and Kings on Earth Day. Just Bag It! volunteers were recruited each Earth Day to man a booth that promoted plastic bag source reduction at each partnering store. In the winter of 2011, the City of Hailey received another grant for the Hailey Community Climate Challenge, which provided continued funding for Just Bag It! along with seven other programs. Just Bag It! does not promote or advocate for a ban on plastic bags.

The Wood River High School Environmental Club Students were frequent volunteers at the Earth Day event. The students have stated that Just Bag It! helped spark their interest in the issue and motivated them to pursue a bag ban. Initially the students drafted an ordinance amendment for the City Council to review that proposed a ban on plastic bags. Rather than vote on the ordinance themselves, the Council preferred that the students do an initiative petition in an attempt for the

students to get the measure on the ballot and allow Hailey citizens to vote on it.

City staff has assisted the students in 1) understanding the initiative petition process and requirements and 2) sharing information with the partners, interested businesses, and Hailey Chamber of Commerce on the student's progress and the language of the proposed initiative. In addition, in June 2011, city staff helped organize a public workshop with the students and interested public to discuss the student's proposal to ban plastic bags and to get feedback for the students, from the business community.

LIBRARY EVENTS

October Events at the Library!

Teen Read Week

October 16th-22

Picture It @ your library® encourages teens to read graphic novels and other illustrated materials, seek out creative books, or imagine the world through literature. Deadline to submit for Teen Movie Poster Contest is October 15th, for more information contact Jeanie Johnston or check out our website.

Discussion on Paranormal Activity

October 22nd 4PM

The International Paranormal Reporting Group from Boise, ID will discuss their methods of researching paranormal activity using scientific methods.

Resume Development Workshops

October 27th 6-8PM

Resume writing techniques and effective cover letters. Pre-registration is required.

www.haileypubliclibrary.org

LIBRARY EVENTS



Public Hearing

Woodside Blvd. Improvements - Project Status

October 24th, 5:30pm
Hailey City Hall,
Council Chambers