

Requested by: Chair, Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission

Prepared by: Merrill Field Airport

RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
RECOMMENDING THAT THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE PROVIDE THE MERRILL FIELD AIRPORT
REQUISITE SPONSOR SHARE MATCH OF FEDERAL AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR MERRILL FIELD
AIRPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission supports the mission and goals of Merrill Field Airport and feels that airport services are at reasonable levels considering the frugal airport operating budget; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission recognizes the airport's need to continue to be self-sustaining by assessing costs for services in compliance with FAA mandates,

WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission recognizes that Merrill Field rates and charges are at the high end of south central Alaska airport charges and that the airport must remain price and service competitive with these airports in order to retain tenants and encourage further private sector development; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission recognizes the significant development that has occurred on Merrill Field over the past several years, including \$40,438,786 in FAA Airport Improvement Program funding investment in airport capital improvements over just the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission notes that these FAA Airport Improvement Program grants require a sponsor match of 5% to 6.25% of the total AIP grant, which grant can only be used for FAA approved capital improvements, and that the Municipality Of Anchorage is officially the airport sponsor; and

WHEREAS, the Merrill Field Airport enterprise fund has provided this sponsor match in the amount of \$1,981,147 over the past five years alone and is literally borrowing the required \$669,912 sponsor share match to accommodate the 2018 AIP \$12,338,088 grant funded capital development project now underway; and

WHEREAS, Merrill Field can no longer financially continue to provide such matching funds; and

WHEREAS, failure to provide said sponsor match will preclude receipt of additional FAA Airport Improvement Program funding and the subsequent loss of significantly leveraged multi-million dollar capital improvement funding for needed airport safety related improvements, as well as the loss of directly related economic impacts within the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, failure to provide needed safety improvements to Merrill Field will discourage additional private investment capital improvements on Merrill Field, which, over just the past five years, has resulted in construction of twenty-one new hangars, with several more planned for 2019 construction; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission supports continued vigorous pursuit of needed FAA Airport Improvement Program funding investment for airport capital improvements, with the concurrent substantial economic benefits to the Municipality of Anchorage;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission recommends the Municipality of Anchorage as the legal airport sponsor of Merrill Field Airport provide the requisite sponsor match of all FAA Airport Improvement Program grants to be received and used for capital improvements at Merrill Field Airport.

Passed this 6th day of September, 2018.



Jamie Patterson-Simes, Chair

Yeas 6

Nays 0

Abstain 0

Absent 0