



MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 10, 2025

Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights Rd., Bldg. C, Rm 9  
Anchorage, Alaska

The Purpose of the MAAAC is to advise and make recommendations to the Assembly and the Administration regarding the Airport budget and operations.

**1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Dan Owen called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Stormy Jarvis, Chair  
Dan Owen, *Vice Chair*  
Ransom Jones  
Karl Kisser  
John Pratt  
Marty Edwards  
Dave Frazier

*Quorum met*

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

AIRPORT STAFF PRESENT

Earl Malpass, Airport Manager  
Julie Hixenbaugh, Commission Secretary  
Amy Garcia, Assistant Airport Manager

**2. Review & Approval – Meeting Agenda**

**MOTION**

Karl Kisser moved to approve  
John Pratt seconded the motion.  
The board voted unanimously to approve.

**3. Review & Approval - of the Minutes**

**MOTION**

Karl Kisser moved to approve, June 5, 2025.  
John Pratt seconded the motion.  
The board voted unanimously to approve.

**4. Informational Reports**

**A. Chair**

- None

**B. Airport Management PowerPoint (Exhibit A)**

- Earl's FYI
- Community Relations
- MRI Budget Status

- MRI User Group (**Exhibit B**)
- Upcoming Events

**Follow up discussions on Earl's power point presentation:**

- Earl will find out if the gas levels will be monitored on the Northside of Merrill Field.
- It was proposed to limit the 5/23 nightly closure for the SCS emergency methane gas project from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Additionally, there was a suggestion to implement a displaced threshold for the 5/23 closure to ensure safe usage.
- Taxiway Golf is not slated for closure due to the emergency methane gas project.
- Utilization counts for the field are not available once the tower has closed for the night.
- Medivac flights will continue to be able to land during nighttime hours.
- Solid Waste Services (SWS) will be responsible for overseeing and funding the two-year emergency order rehabilitation methane gas project on Merrill Field, with SCS Engineers serving as the contractor.
- MRI conducts weekly meetings with SCS and SWS regarding the emergency methane gas project and will distribute relevant information across the field.
- The bids for the Master Plan (MP) have not yet been advertised but are expected to be announced by the end of August. The infrastructure funding will continue to be allocated towards supporting the MP.
- The MAAAC budget subcommittee met multiple times in May and will submit a resolution to the Assembly in support of the proposed 10% rate increase at MRI.

**5. Organization Reports**

- A. MRI ATCT- None**
- B. AOPA-None**
- C. AACA-None**
- D. Anchorage Community Councils – None**

**6. Old Business –**

**A. Runway 7/25 Rehabilitation Update- Matt Wavra (QAP)**

- QAP apologized for the delay in opening runway 16/34 this morning. They have reviewed the incident and implemented protocol changes to prevent it from occurring again.
- The runway pavement work is scheduled to commence on July 21.
- Thank you to the MRI ATC for their excellent collaboration with the QAP team.

**Follow up discussions on HDL and QAP presentation:**

- Graphics and charts are available on the [MRI 07/25 RW Rehab CA](#) website.
- There have not been any VPD's associated with the construction project.

**B. ATAAPS Ad Hoc Update – Dan Owen**

- The final draft, incorporating numerous recommendations from the ATAAPS advisory committee (which is not a binding authority), has been submitted to the FAA.
- The committee's primary focus was on the airspace, particularly Class C, with the elimination of Part 193 items.
- The public comment input process will start in the fall.

**Follow up discussions on ATAAPS Ad Hoc presentation:**

- The FAA is expected to reach a conclusion by February 2027.

- Thank you to the ATAAPS committee members for taking the time and effort to represent pilots from Merrill Field.
- There were recommendations pertaining to the instrument approaches at MRI in the draft, and MRI might have 2 more instrument approaches developed with lower minimums.

## 7. Business Items –

- Earl presented the Economic Impact Information Packet. (**Exhibit C**).

## 8. Public Comments-

- Earl and the MAAAC Board commended the ATCT for their exceptional performance. They have demonstrated outstanding dedication in managing traffic during the closure of runway 7/25.
- Mike Schoder, President of ACE Hangars, informed that their leasehold is in the process of installing security cameras, which will operate 24/7 and provide coverage of Taxiway Golf and the Golf North aircraft gate.

## 9. Commission Comments-

- Dave Frazier, a resident of Rogers Park, reported that several aircraft are operating below minimums during takeoff from runway 16. He suggests raising awareness among general aviation pilots regarding the importance of pulling back their propeller during takeoff, possibly by including this information in the MRI advisory.
- Earl has reached out to aircraft owners with noise complaints and provided them with the Fly Friendly protocol. Additionally, he has distributed the Fly Friendly Protocol to all users at the field.
- **MOTION**

Stormy Jarvis proposed a Motion for Resolution (**Exhibit D**) to endorse MRI's proposed 10% rate increase across the board for leaseholders and tiedown holders. Marty Edwards seconded the motion.  
The board voted unanimously to approve.

## 10. Next Meeting Date

- ➔ MAAAC Meeting: Thursday, August 7, 2025, 12 PM  
Anchorage Fire Department Training Center  
1140 Airport Heights Road, Building C, Room 9

## 11. Adjournment - **MOTION**

Dan Owen moved to adjourn  
John Pratt seconded the motion.  
No objections were made, meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM

EXHIBIT A

# Merrill Field Airport Operations Report **July 10, 2025**



# June's Operations Activity

## Earl's FYI's –

- ALP "Patch" awaiting FAA's Response. Estimated completion by ~~May~~ July 1st
  - HDL submitted on time. FAA Reviewing
- Runway 7/25 Rehab (MRI's role)
  - Receiving regular updates from HDL & QAP
  - Socializing to all communities complete.



# June's Operations Report

## Earl's FYI's - Continued

- Landfill Gas Mitigation:
  - Meetings with SWS Dept and their contractor (SCS) regarding Landfill Gas Collection System repair.
  - Project will take place over 2 years; Will require occasional, temporary, and select relocation of tiedowns in taxiway Q area.
  - Priority I is in progress. Priority II at 95% design.
  - **QUESTION:** How much would it affect the tenants if 5/23 (along with 2 paved runways) is closed at night?
- Earl & Amy met w/ FAA Alaska Airport's team.
  - FAA review of RFP for Term Contract for engineering services didn't include Airport Planning.
  - What does this mean? MRI's Airport Master Plan must go out for bid, and HDL can't bid.
  - What does this mean? MRI will have to hire a different firm for Master Plan.



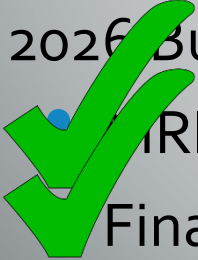



# June's Operations Report

## Community Relations

- All Community Councils have been briefed at least once on runway rehab.

## MRI Budget Status:

- MRI 2025 "End of Month" budget - **As Expected at 50% YTD.**
- 2026 Budget in process.
-  MRI and MAAAC subcommittee met to review 2026 rate increase proposal.
-  Finalized MRI's report, narrative, and recommendations to Admin & IEUOC
- Awaiting IEUOC's decision if an in-person briefing is required.

## ATAAPS Ad Hoc meetings

In progress. **Dan to Update**



# June's Operations Report

## Upcoming Events:

- Runway and light Construction: June 1st-August 2025
- ALP w/ IAP; Awaiting FAA Review
- Airport Gate & Security Environmental Grant (Apply 2025)  
Environmental phase.
- Snow Removal Equipment (SRE) Grant for snow blower.
- Snow Removal Equipment Building (SREB) Grant. Design phase
- Airport Master Plan – Phase I (2025)
  - On hold per FAA.





## USER GROUP MEETING

July 9, 2025

### Discussion Topics:

- Runway Construction
- Airport Security
- MRI Bulletin
- Rate Changes
- Private fuel tanks on field
- Master Plan
- Restaurant on field

## EXHIBIT C

### Merrill Field Airport A Pilot's Airport

Merrill Field Airport (MRI) is a key general aviation hub near downtown Anchorage, supporting over 40 businesses and 840 aircraft owners. It offers air taxi operations, hangar rentals, flight training, and aircraft maintenance services. MRI supports UAA's Aviation Technology Division, enables medevac access to Alaska Regional Hospital, and connects more than 150 remote communities across Alaska.



**160,000**

flight operations  
per year to 150  
communities

**30,000**

enplanements  
per year

**\$241.5M**

in economic  
output

**\$9.7M**

in local and state  
tax revenues



[www.muni.org/flymri](http://www.muni.org/flymri)



# Merrill Field Airport Health Benefits

EXHIBIT C

*Providing a critical lifeline in Alaska's healthcare network*

With a runway directly adjacent to Alaska Regional Hospital, Merrill Field Airport enables fast, reliable medevac access for patients from remote areas across the state—where air travel is often the only option.



**1,657**

*hospital visits  
supported by MRI*



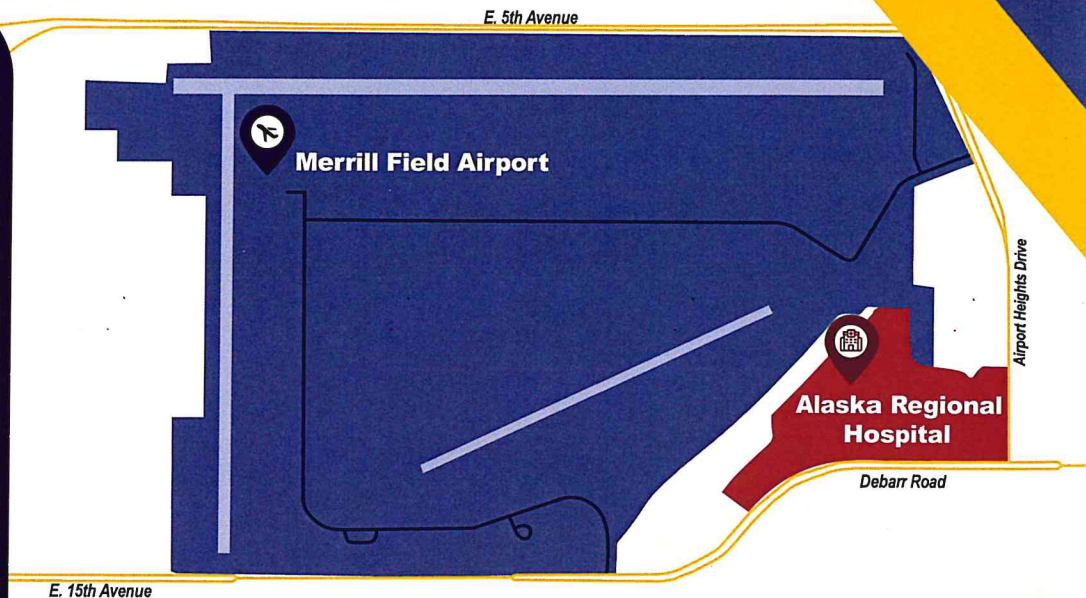
**1.5%**

*of total hospital visits  
came through MRI  
access*



**\$67.1M**

*in physical health  
benefits facilitated\**



## Supporting Access to Critical Healthcare

- MRI provides “through-the-fence” medevac ramp access to Alaska Regional Hospital
- Enables safe and efficient transport for patients needing urgent and routine care
- Connects patients to hospitals and healthcare providers across Anchorage
- Supports over 7,630 hospital visits in 2024—including Alaska Regional
- Helps ensure patients receive critical treatment and well-managed care

\*Analysis assumes a split of 83.7 percent non-surgery and 16.3 percent surgery visits, based on findings from the 2019 Mountain Division Community Impact Report's hospital statistics for Alaska Regional airport. Non-surgery visits account for a physical health benefit of \$970 per visit, based on findings from Godavarthy et al., 2014, adjusted to \$2024. Surgery visits are appraised with a benefit of \$243,590 per visit using USDOT's BCA guidance for an injury with unknown severity. The number of hospital visits were determined using Alaska's



# Merrill Field Airport Local Economics

EXHIBIT C

*Delivering jobs, revenue, and statewide value*

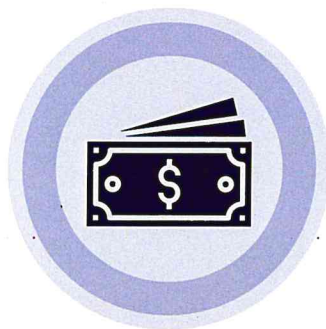
Merrill Field is more than a runway—it's a major economic engine for Anchorage. Through capital investment, tenant activity, and regional access, MRI supports local businesses, connects communities, and drives millions in economic value.



**1,135  
jobs supported**

*Across airport operations, tenant businesses, and local services*

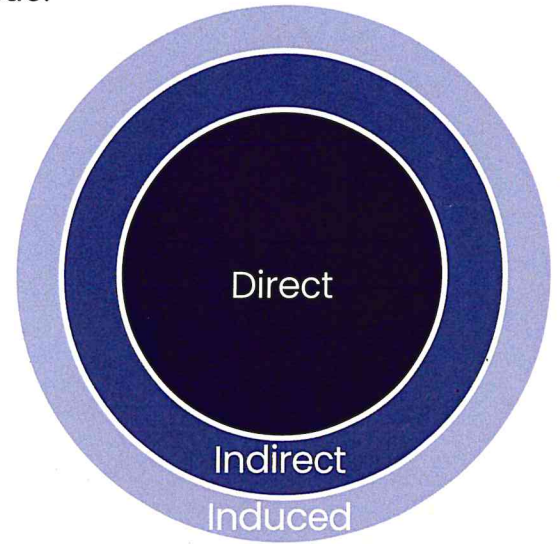
615	215	255
-----	-----	-----



**\$241.5M  
in economic output**

*From capital projects, operations, tenant activity, and visitor-related spending*

\$142M	\$53M	\$46.5M
--------	-------	---------



## Where the Impact Happens

- Economic impacts focused in Anchorage, but span across Alaska
- 95% of impact is local to Anchorage
- 5% dispersed throughout the rest of the state



**\$85.3M  
in employee earnings**

*Direct, indirect, and induced labor income generated through MRI-related activity*

\$55.6M	\$14.1M	\$15.6M
---------	---------	---------



**\$9.7M  
in tax revenue**

*Returned to communities through MRI-enabled economic activity*

\$5.5M	\$2.3M	\$1.9M
<b>\$4.1M</b>		

*in local taxes*





# Merrill Field Airport: A “Mall” of Tenants

EXHIBIT C

*Supporting air travel, local business, and aviation careers*



Merrill Field is home to a dynamic mix of aviation-related businesses, training programs, and federal users. From flight instruction to aircraft maintenance, the airport functions like a “mall” of essential services, supporting jobs, innovation, and connectivity for Alaska.

## On-Airport Impacts



### **Air Taxi Services**

*MRI is a hub in Alaska's statewide airport system.*



### **Hangar Rentals, Aircraft Part Sales, MR&O**

*Key on-site services supporting aircraft operations & maintenance*



### **Flight Training / AMT & ATCT Training**

*On-site programs support aviation career pathways*

# 840+

*aircraft owners  
at MRI*

# 33

*tenants and  
major users  
participated in  
MRI's economic  
impact study*

## Tenant Survey Respondents

- A&W Services, LLC
- Alaska Air Carriers Association
- Alaska Air Transit
- Alaska Gear Company, LLC
- Alaskan Aircraft Engines, Inc.
- Alpha Aviation, LLC
- Alpine Air Alaska & Alyeska Helicopters
- Angel Aviation, Inc.
- Backcountry Aero
- Birch Creek Aviation
- Caleb Newville  
(Independent Instructor)
- Chugach Hangers
- Civil Air Patrol – Polaris Squadron
- D&D Airpark
- FAA ATCT
- KT Aircraft Services
- Lake and Peninsula Airlines, Inc.
- Lake Clark Air, Inc.
- Land and Sea Aviation Alaska, LLC
- NLDA
- Northern Lights Avionics, Inc.
- P.A. Productions
- Pathfinder Aviation, LLC
- Plane Hangar
- Pratt Aviation Service, Inc.
- Spernak Airways
- Stoddard Aircraft Parts
- Swoop
- TechAir Rebuild & Repair
- True North Air
- University of Alaska Anchorage –  
Aviation Technology Division
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Wrangell Mountain Air

## EXHIBIT D

Requested by: Chair, Municipal  
Airports Aviation  
Advisory Commission

Prepared by: Merrill Field Airport

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE  
THE MERRILL FIELD AIRPORT 2026 PROPOSED OPERATING AND CAPITAL IM-  
PROVEMENT BUDGETS AND THE 2024-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission has reviewed the Merrill Field Airport 2026 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets and the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program; and

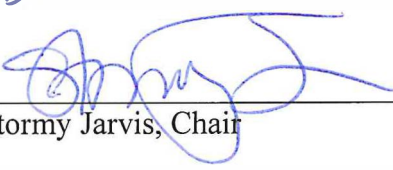
WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission supports the mission and goals of Merrill Field Airport; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission recognizes that airport services are at reasonable levels; 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,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission recommends approval of the Merrill Field Airport 2026 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets and the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Program.

Passed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025.

  
Stormy Jarvis, Chair

Yeas 7  
Nays 0  
Abstain 0  
Absent 0