



Montana Department of Transportation

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Jim Lynch, Director  
Brian Schweitzer, Governor

May 7, 2009

Ted Mathis  
Gallatin Field  
850 Gallatin Field Road #6  
Belgrade MT 59714

Subject: Montana Airports Economic Impact Study 2009 Montana State Aviation System Plan

Dear Ted,

I am pleased to announce that the Economic Impact Study of Montana Airports has been completed.

This study was a two-year collaborative effort between the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aeronautics Division, the Federal Aviation Administration, Wilbur Smith and Associates and Morrison Maierle Inc. The enclosed study is an effort to break down aviation's significant contributions in Montana and show how these impacts affect economies on a statewide and local level. Depending on your location, you may also find enclosed several copies of an individual economic summary specific to your airport.

Results of the study clearly show that Montana's 120 public use airports are a major catalyst to our economy. Montana enplanes over 1.5 million passengers per year at our 15 commercial service airports, half of whom are visiting tourists. The economic value of aviation is over \$1.56 billion and contributes nearly 4.5 percent to our total gross state product. There are 18,759 aviation dependent positions in Montana, accounting for four percent of the total workforce and \$600 million in wages.

In addition to the economic benefits, the study also highlights how Montana residents increasingly depend on aviation to support their health, welfare, and safety. Montana airports support critical services for medical care, agriculture, recreation, emergency access, law enforcement, and fire fighting. The airports provide residents and businesses a direct and efficient link to the national and global economy.

The complete technical report and executive summary and 72 individual airport reports will be available in the near future at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation>. Please contact MDT Aeronautics Division at (406) 444-2506, if additional information is required.

Sincerely,



Jim Lynch  
Director

attachments