



Montana Department of Transportation

Michael T. Tooley, Director

Aeronautics Division  
2630 Airport Road  
PO Box 200507  
Helena MT 59620-0507

Steve Bullock, Governor

10/27/15

October 27, 2015

Dear Montana Airport Representative:

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), Aeronautics Division is excited to announce an update to the Montana Airports Economic Impact Study. Similar to our last study completed in 2009, this 2015 update will quantify the economic contributions of aviation to our state and summarize the benefits that our airports provide throughout Montana. Similar to the previous study, there will be individual economic impact results for many of the airports in the state, as well as a statewide impact assessment.

Through MDT Research Programs, we are initiating the analysis that will focus on the economic impacts for calendar year 2015. We have contracted with Kimley-Horn and Associates who is working with other firms including Economic Development Research Group, KLJ, and the University of Montana to conduct the research and analyze the results, which includes reaching out to all public-use airports in the state to obtain information.

We are requesting your assistance with our consulting team as they distribute surveys, contact you directly, and conduct visits to many airports to seek data from you, your tenants, and possibly passengers at your airport. The data collection efforts including the airport management surveys will start in late October. Your assistance in responding to the consultants is necessary and critical to provide a complete and accurate depiction of aviation's impact in Montana. The results of the study will be used to demonstrate how Montanans benefit from the airports to numerous audiences including the general public, government officials, and other stakeholders.

Please make sure you respond to the survey and other requests that are made to allow us to accurately describe and analyze the benefits of our airports. If you have any questions during the study, please reach out to me at (406)444-2506 or dalke@mt.gov, to Kris Christensen of MDT Research Programs at (406) 444-6125 or krchristensen@mt.gov, or to Pam Keidel-Adams of Kimley-Horn at (602)678-3422 or pam.keidel-adams@kimley-horn.com.

Sincerely,

Debbie Alke, Administrator  
MDT – Aeronautics Division