

From: [Kim](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] airport traffic
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 6:35:35 PM



Dear council members,

The airport expansion is beautiful and I applaud the inclusion of regional art in the visitor experience. Can you tell me if the flight patterns have been altered. We seem to be experiencing a large increase in traffic over our home, both airplane and helicopter. Can you help me find the reason why?

Regards

Kim Olsen, AIA, APA
Principal



2112 Fairview Place
Billings Montana 59102

kimo@o2architects.net
(Cell) 406.591.1590
(Office) 406.259.7123

From: [Keehner, Toni](#)
To: [.MayorAndCouncil](#)
Subject: 1/12/2026 Draft Minutes
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 2:03:14 PM

Good afternoon,

I have included a link for the January 12, 2026 draft minutes for your review and approval.

[January 12, 2026 Draft Minutes](#)

Thank you,



Toni Keehner
Deputy City Clerk
keehnert@billingsmt.gov

billingsmt.gov

316 North 26th Street
P.O. Box 1178 • Billings, MT 59103
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From: [Nelson, Mike](#)
To: [Kim](#); [Council](#)
Cc: [Kukulski, Chris](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] airport traffic
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 10:23:24 PM

Kim:

Thanks for this! I know that the airport has heard of other issues on this, and that they've been sent to the airport for comment. I'll forward this to the City Administrator, and ask him to look in to it for us.

Mike

From: Kim <kimo@o2architects.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 3:33 PM
To: Council <council@billingsmt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] airport traffic



Dear council members,

The airport expansion is beautiful and I applaud the inclusion of regional art in the visitor experience. Can you tell me if the flight patterns have been altered. We seem to be experiencing a large increase in traffic over our home, both airplane and helicopter. Can you help me find the reason why?

Regards

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From: [Nelson, Mike](#)
To: [Cara Chamberlain](#); [Council](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Energy and Conservation Commission
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 9:46:34 PM

Thank you, Ms. Chamberlain. I appreciate your comments.

Mike Nelson
Mayor

From: Cara Chamberlain <caraleechamberlain@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2026 10:48 AM
To: Council <council@billingsmt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Energy and Conservation Commission



Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Having attended the work session last night and listened to the ECC's presentation, I would like to urge you to retain this volunteer group of experts in some capacity, whether by renewing their assignment or establishing them as a permanent city board. They seem intent on doing good work, saving the city money, and helping Billings become a better community through energy efficiency. And all for free? I can't imagine why anyone would pass up this opportunity.

Finally, I do consider myself fairly well-versed in city news, but I had no idea that Billings had earned gold LEED status. I agree with the speakers last night that this should definitely be a big deal and should be publicized accordingly.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the citizens of Billings.

Sincerely,
Cara Chamberlain
933 Yale Avenue
Billings, MT 59102

From: [Nelson, Mike](#)
To: [Dahl, Gina](#); [Council](#)
Subject: RE: initiative process
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 9:40:45 PM

Thanks, Gina.

From: Dahl, Gina <dahlg@billingsmt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:01 PM
To: Council <council@billingsmt.gov>
Subject: FW: initiative process

Mayor and Council,

With the start of a new year and a majority of new council members, I am sending some information I sent last year about the initiative process.

Please see below and the attached Attorney General opinion and let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Gina

From: Dahl, Gina
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 9:40 AM
To: .MayorAndCouncil <Mayor&Council@billingsmt.gov>
Subject: RE: initiative process

Mayor and Council,

As a follow up to last night's meeting and the concerns expressed about voting on a Council Initiative, I'm providing the following authority to alleviate those concerns. Montana Attorney General Mike McGrath weighed in on this issue in 2005 (51 Mont. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 12, attached). Previous City Attorney Brent Brooks specifically inquired about Council Initiatives and AG McGrath held that such direction to staff is "procedural and do not constitute a 'final decision' on the substance of an issue... Moreover, Mont. Code Ann. § 7-1-4143 requires that the citizens shall be afforded a 'reasonable opportunity to participate prior to the final decision.' Assuming that the public will be given such an opportunity at a later date, then the initiative suggestions need not be listed on the agenda." See highlighted section in attached document.

BMCC 2-214 (14) provides:

Council initiatives. This section of the agenda is reserved for individual councilmember requests for future legislative or staff action. These shall be limited to giving direction to staff to assist in formulating policies, work plans, etc. for future consideration of the city council. An initiative moves forward by majority vote of the city

council.

Because the City of Billings has procedures in place to ensure public participation on any matter prior to the final decision of Council, there is no reason to delay a vote on a Council Initiative if Council wishes to direct staff during a regular business meeting.

I hope this information has been helpful. I did not provide any of the current statutes cited in this opinion, but I would be happy to do so if any of you would like that information.

	<i>Gina Dahl</i> City Attorney dahlg@billingsmt.gov
billingsmt.gov	P.O. Box 1178 Billings, MT 59103 P 406.657.8202

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