



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### Airport Advisory Board

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Wednesday, May 24, 2023  
1:00 PM

Regular

City Hall  
701 E. Broadway  
Conference Room  
1A/1B  
Columbia, MO 65201

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

**Present:** 7 - B.J. Hunter, Matthew Jenne, Gary Thompson, Thomas Richards, Randa Rawlins, Jon Poses and Raman Puri

**Excused:** 2 - Todd Culley and Britt Smith

**Non-Voting:** 2 - Mike Parks and Shane Creech

#### II. INTRODUCTIONS

Board members, staff (Stacey Button, Lauren Weber, Shane Creech), and guest introductions.

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BJ Hunter made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted with a second by Randa Rawlins. Motion passed unanimously.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

AAB Meeting Minutes April 2023

**Attachments:** [AAB Meeting Minutes April 2023](#)

The April 26, 2023 meeting minutes were approved as submitted with a motion by Randa Rawlins and a second by BJ Hunter. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mead and Hunt Presentation

Mike introduced Jeff Hartz and Ron McNeill from Mead & Hunt, COU's air consultant service, to discuss the passenger demand analysis. Ron explained that Mead & Hunt has worked with COU since 2006. Jeff explained that they buy data from Airline Reporting Corporation (ARC), such as the customer's billing address, where they flew from, and what

airline they flew through, and then combine this information with airline reported data from the US Department of Transportation (DOT). Jeff noted that the true market data is calculated for the year ended Sept 30, 2022, and that the data focuses on passengers who come from the primary catchment area, or the total number of travelers who theoretically should use COU based on drive time, a population of about 500,000. Jeff stated that this data shows that 159,000 total annual passengers (both enplanements and deplanements), domestically and internationally, originate from the catchment area. He said that the Columbia community generated 49% of total catchment area passengers, while Jefferson City generated 13%, and that Columbia, Jeff City, and Ashland had the highest COU retention. Ron explained that in 2017, passengers flying out of COU were typically very business-oriented, and that now most passengers are focused more on leisure. The representatives from Mead & Hunt went on to discuss data showing catchment areas for people flying in both domestically and internationally. Jeff explained that 48% of those passengers using alternate airports used Southwest Airlines, while American Airlines captured 23%, and Delta Air and United Airlines combined captured 20% (other airlines captured 9%). He displayed a graph which shows average domestic one-way fares for COU, MCI, and STL. The COU fare gap for the year ending in September of 2022 was \$67 for STL and \$54 for MCI, and he stated that the fare gap is at or near the highest levels during the past 10 years. Matt Jenne asked if the fare gap graph compared lower cost airlines, or if it's only comparing American Airlines to American Airlines and Jeff explained that it compares all airlines. Regarding industry trends, Ron explained that the pilot shortage continues, and although it is getting better but is still an issue, particularly impacting regional and small airlines and markets. Ron stated that airline costs have increased overall, primarily due to increased operational costs such as payroll, maintenance, and fuel. Ron said that fuel prices peaked in April 2022, although they are still higher than two years prior. Ron explained that travel demand has changed when it comes to travel for business versus for leisure, domestic travel versus international travel, and that working from home has impacted travel dynamics, as meetings can often be held virtually and no longer require airline travel.

## VII. REPORTS

Report from Mike Parks

Mike Parks presented his report to the Board. He stated:

- Enplanements continue to be strong at over 8,000 for April.
- Larger aircraft are being used more frequently at COU.
- Tower operations, which is any aircraft that the traffic control center talks to, were approximately 23,000 in 2021, and that in 2023 they are on track to reach 30-35,000 operations.
- Cook Concrete is working on the sidewalk from the gravel parking lot across the road to the front of the new terminal. They will also completed two overnight repair projects on the primary runway.
- Currently negotiations are underway for the concessions contract. Mike will bring recommendations to the AAB within the next 30 days.
- Mike reminded everyone that the next meeting's time and location will change. All meetings going forward will be held at the Airport conference room at 3:00 PM.

**VIII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF**

None.

**IX. NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 28, 2023

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 PM with a motion by Matt Jenne and a second by Randa Rawlins. Motion passed unanimously.

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