Thank You!

ACE would like to extend a special “Thank You” to our sponsor who makes it possible to offer two-hour parking spaces to our Airport patrons and to provide our quarterly newsletter. We sincerely appreciate them.

Precision Approach

Engineering

The Humor Corner!

The place for all the best “dad” jokes...ever!

What kind of bagel can fly?

A plain bagel.

Back to Back Record Years— 2018 saw the first time in history that 1 Million Passengers traveled through MFR. 2019 is not even over yet and we have already passed that mark. By maintaining an increase in passengers every month, averaging 7.4% growth we passed 1 Million passengers again in the first 4 days of December, nearly 1 month sooner than last year. Growth and expansion have been big topics of conversation this year at MFR. With the new Master Plan under development, MFR is looking toward the future with hope, excitement and clarity... one could say we have 2020 vision.

Sky Feet have Landed— The Sky Feet Collection by MFR is officially here! 2020 marks the first annual release of the collection. Now that the socks are on sale a new adventure begins! Those who have a pair of Sky Feet by MFR 2020 socks can snap a picture of their feet in the socks while on a trip, in an airport, at work, at home or anywhere. Each month the Airport will select a winning photo and that person will be entered to win the grand prize at the end of the year. The Grand prize winner will receive Two Round Trip Tickets on United Airlines!

The Contest begins on January 1st. Facebook and Instagram users who want to enter the contest just need to post a picture of themselves wearing the socks, or just their feet in the socks, using the hashtags #SkyFeet #FlyMFR. Be creative, we want to see where you are going and where you have been! Happy traveling, good luck, and may the best photo win!
Airport Manager of the Year!

MFR Director Honored- Jerry Brienza, Airport Director for the Rogue Valley International Medford Airport returned from the Oregon Aviation Management Association (OAMA) conference with the prestigious Airport Manager of the Year Award. The award is given to honor an airport manager who has been innovative and progressive in their approach towards growing and improving their regions airport. Crater Lake – Klamath Regional Airport Director, and OAMA President, John Barsalou, A.A.E, presented director Brienza the award saying, “Airport Director Jerry Brienza is an advocate for airports. Taking over after longstanding leadership could have been difficult, but Jerry embraced the position as director with refreshing energy. He has not been afraid to roll up his sleeves and get involved in whatever task lies ahead of him. His engaging personality, relentless humor and drive to improve is unmistakable in the goals he has accomplished in a short amount of time. When asked about the award, Brienza said, “It is truly an honor to maintain the distinct and admirable reputation that both our airport and its community have. My team is steadfast in its commitment to improve upon the service at MFR, and for that reason the significance of this award is collectively distributed to my staff.”

A New Regional Strategy

In 2019, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI) engaged TIP Strategies to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Jackson and Josephine Counties to guide economic development efforts over the next 5 years. The CEDS is divided into five key initiatives: business development, innovation and entrepreneurship, talent, tourism, and placemaking. The strategies under business development focus on achieving the region’s goals for ensuring thoughtful, sustainable, and equitable economic growth. Especially in the Rogue Valley, where commercial land is a premium and industry is so varied, the region cannot afford to operate without a targeted strategy. The region is also committed to recognizing and working toward the goals of the urban centers of the region and also those of rural and traditionally underserved communities. The second initiative, innovation and entrepreneurship, focuses strategies on strengthening the entire innovation ecosystem. In addition to developing and formalizing resources for business and entrepreneurs, this initiative also lays a path to explore the development of a regional center of excellence for wildland firefighting. The third initiative is talent, as without a skilled workforce, business and communities cannot prosper. This initiative prioritizes strategies that attract, equip, and retain workers in the region to meet the needs of current and future employers. The fourth initiative, tourism, highlights the region’s diverse amenities, from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to rafting the Rogue River. The region is committed to further developing the industry by expanding offerings to shoulder and traditional off-seasons and attracting visitors from new markets. The fifth initiative, placemaking, ensures that the region preserves its outstanding quality of life for all residents. Strategies under this initiative relate to issues ranging from workforce housing and commercial development to creating inclusive communities.
New Welcome Center- If you’re traveling through the Airport, you might have noticed a new addition to its lobby. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on Thursday November 21st as Travel Medford and the Airport opened the new Rogue Valley Welcome Center. The desk will have a digital touch screen and other information for visitors. It’s located between the baggage carousel and revolving doors. “We have rack cards for all kinds of hotels and attractions for the region,” said Eli Matthews, Senior Vice President with Travel Medford. “We also have a digital explore board, first of its kind down in southern Oregon that’s going to have all kinds of web sites and content for people to explore what there is to do in southern Oregon.”

Ranked #7 in Milken Institute's 201 Best-Performing Small Cities

Congratulations to Medford and the Rogue Valley!- It's a great place to call home!!! Medford moved up 21 spots to #7, making the Top 10 in Milken Institute's 201 Best-Performing Small Cities! Grants Pass was also listed among the top cities coming in at #23! Southern Oregon is on the rise! Medford jumped into the Top 10 for the first time. Short-term job growth increased 80 places from last year’s report. Medford has a long history of commodities being an integral part of the local economy. The metro’s economy has evolved from timber products to wine and tourism. The city is a major health-care provider for the region and the health-care industry accounts for 17.1 percent of employment in the area. Medford has a lower cost of living than the national average. MFR it’s self has an economic impact of $289,505,000 on our region. With over 4,500 jobs directly and indirectly connected to the Airport and it’s activity. Southern Oregon is a region and economy on the rise, and MFR is excited and proud to be a part of it!
TSA Third Lane and Other Projects— You may have noticed some carpet pulled up, yellow caution tape, and some fresh concrete poured near the Security Check Point. Work began the week of December 16th to expand the Security Check Point. Adding the additional lane will help decongest the screening area during peak rush hours at the Airport. With the increases in passenger traffic in recent years the Airport has been experiencing higher than normal wait times in the Security Check Point. This addition will cut down the wait times especially during peak hours, and make for a more pleasant travel experience for our passengers. Be on the lookout for additional updates on construction projects in our next newsletter, including our new Jet bridge!

Taxi lane Rehab Phase II project- This project will begin in Mid to late Summer. MFR has green lit the second phase of the taxi lane rehab after a successful fist phase was completed in August of this year. The project will involve excavation and installation of underground valley gutters, grading, strengthening and repaving. This will also improve the grade challenges with some of the hangars, and eliminate the drainage of water from the hangar roofs onto the asphalt by diverting the water directly underground. This project will go a long way to insure a good, functional, and high quality taxiway for our Hangar Tenants. Phase 2 will be hangar rows D, E, and F. We will send out updates to our tenants (and post at gates) when there are significant changes to the schedule or there is something new to share. If you are a tenant in one of the North hangars please make sure we have your email, as email is the most efficient and timely means of doing this.

We are very excited for the finished product, and the value this project will bring to our North Hangar tenants! If you have any questions, please contact Airport Operations at 541-776-7228.
Holiday Air Travel Tips!

Keep Your Trip Safe, Merry and Bright- MFR had record breaking growth in 2018, seeing over one million passengers, and it looks like this pattern will continue through the end of 2019. With this growth in mind, here are a few tips to keep your holiday travel merry and bright.

Tip #1 Check in for your flight early – With the ease of internet, and even more so mobile apps, it is recommended passengers check in twenty-four hours in advance for domestic flights. This not only lets the air carrier know you will be present for that flight, it saves time when arriving at the airport.

Tip #2 Go through your bag – Before you even begin to pack your bag, go through it first to see if anything has been left in it from a previous trip, especially if it has been used for a recent hunting or fishing trip. Everyday across the United States, guns, knives and other prohibited items are found in carry-on bags at checkpoints. This is not a discovery you want to make while going through the TSA Checkpoint. (For a detailed list of prohibited items, visit the TSA website)

Tip #3 Refrain from wrapping – You won’t miss a beat if you wrap those gifts when you get to your destination. Regardless if the gift is in your carry-on or checked bag – if that special something requires additional screening, it will end up getting unwrapped, and not by the potential gift recipient. And, if you plan on taking jams, jellies and/or sauces, it is best to put these items in your checked bag, as they will not be permitted through the TSA Checkpoint, unless under 3.4 ounces.

Tip #4 Get to the airport early – It is estimated one million passengers will travel through the Rogue Valley International – Medford Airport this year! With the increase in travelers, wait times at the ticket counters and the security checkpoint have increased as well. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to get to the airport and through the security process. Nothing generates anxiety like being late for a flight then running into a wall of people who are standing in line at the ticket counter or at the screening checkpoint. Having a little buffer of time can reduce the stress and keep your holiday cheer intact. We recommend arriving two hours prior to boarding time.

Tip #5 Have boarding pass and ID ready – To get the security screening process off to a smooth start, when approaching the TSA Ticket Document Checker have your boarding pass in hand and your valid ID ready to go. Once these items have been checked, put them away for safe keeping.

Tip #6 Use the bins at the Security Checkpoint to keep things organized – TSA has enhanced security measures, which may add a few minutes to the screening process. To make the security process flow a bit more smoothly:

* All liquids going through the checkpoint must not be larger than 3.4 ounces, and must fit in a quart sized bag. Remove these items from carry-on and place in a bin. Shoes must be in a bin by themselves, or placed directly on the conveyor belt (Nothing on top of, or below shoes.) If wearing a hat, belt, coat, sweatshirt and/or scarf remove it and place in bin. All electronics must be removed from carry-on and placed in bin(s) *Cell phones *Laptops *Tablets *Kindles *Video game consoles

While this is not all inclusive list, these six tips will help keep the humbug out of holiday travel. Safe travels everyone!
Wishing You and Yours Well- The staff at MFR would like to wish everyone out there a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! Every year we decorate the Terminal to help spread some holiday cheer. This time of year is a favorite for many of the people we work with and we enjoy the smiling faces and glittering lights. We hope you all had a great 2019 and we wish you an even better 2020. Cheers to the new decade and the adventure that awaits.