



Economic Impact Study
Shelby Airport
2026



MONTANA
Department of Transportation



Shelby Airport Impact

Shelby Airport is a public-use general aviation airport located in Shelby, in Toole County in north-central Montana along Interstate 15 near the Canadian border. The airfield features a primary runway of 5,000 feet and a secondary 3,700 foot runway. The airport supports general aviation activity for the Shelby community and surrounding agricultural region, providing access for emergency services, recreational flying, and business travel. The facility serves as a transportation link for this Hi-Line community at the junction of Interstate 15 and U.S. Highway 2.



Total Economic Impact on Montana



Jobs
9



Economic Impact
\$1.2 Million



Payroll
\$396 Thousand

Qualitative Impacts

In addition to generating substantial economic impacts, this airport supports a variety of harder to quantify “Qualitative Impacts” that support critical statewide safety and enterprise. The 2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Airports Study documents the following non-inclusive list of qualitative impacts associated with the airport:



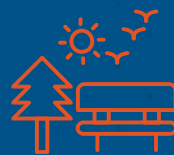
Aerial Firefighting
Supports Wildland Firefighting Operations.



Flight Training & Education
Provides Pilot Training and Aviation Education



Emergency Medical Aviation
Supports Air Ambulance Operations



Recreational Flying
Supports recreational flying and access.



Agriculture Support
Supports Agriculture through Aerial Application and/or Other

Montana Airports Support Our State



Jobs
39,400



Economic Impact
\$6.4 Billion



Payroll
\$2.4 Billion

Montana's airport system functions as a critical component of the state's transportation and economic infrastructure, enabling connectivity across a large and geographically dispersed landscape. Through scheduled commercial service and general aviation activity, airports provide access between Montana communities and regional, national, and international markets, supporting passenger travel, freight movement, and time-sensitive operations that cannot be efficiently served by surface transportation alone.

Beyond mobility, Montana's airports support a broad range of economic activity that contributes to employment, income generation, and business operations throughout the state. Aviation-related enterprises, on-airport and nearby businesses, visitor spending associated with air travel, and ongoing investment in airport facilities collectively generate economic activity at the local, regional, and statewide levels. These effects extend across multiple sectors, including tourism, healthcare, construction, professional services, and natural resource industries.

To document both the economic contributions and broader community functions of the state's aviation system, the Montana Department of Transportation undertook a comprehensive, statewide evaluation of Montana's airports. The **2026 Montana Statewide Economic Impact of Aviation** study examines the full scope of airport-related activity, including aviation and non-aviation businesses, visitor spending, capital investment, and secondary economic effects, while also identifying the specific roles individual airports play in supporting residents, businesses, and critical services across Montana.

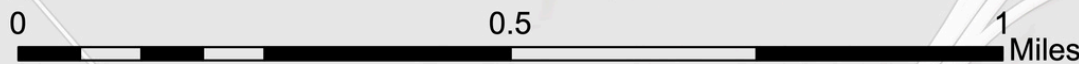
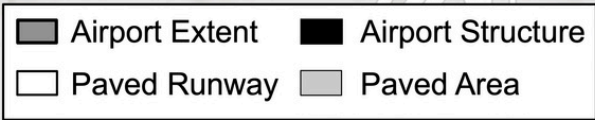
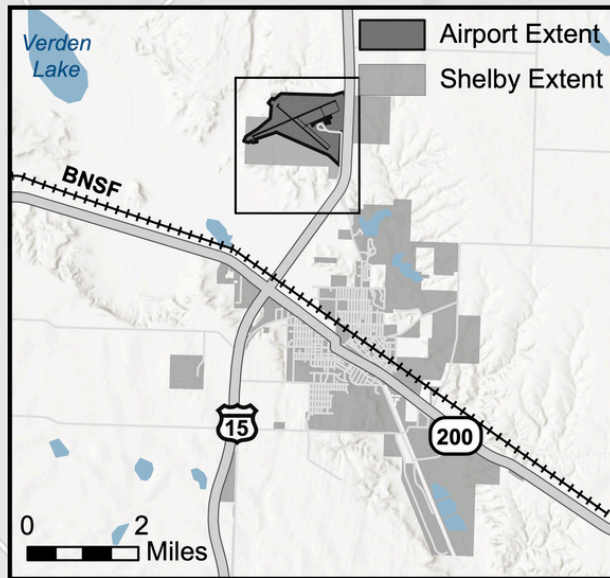
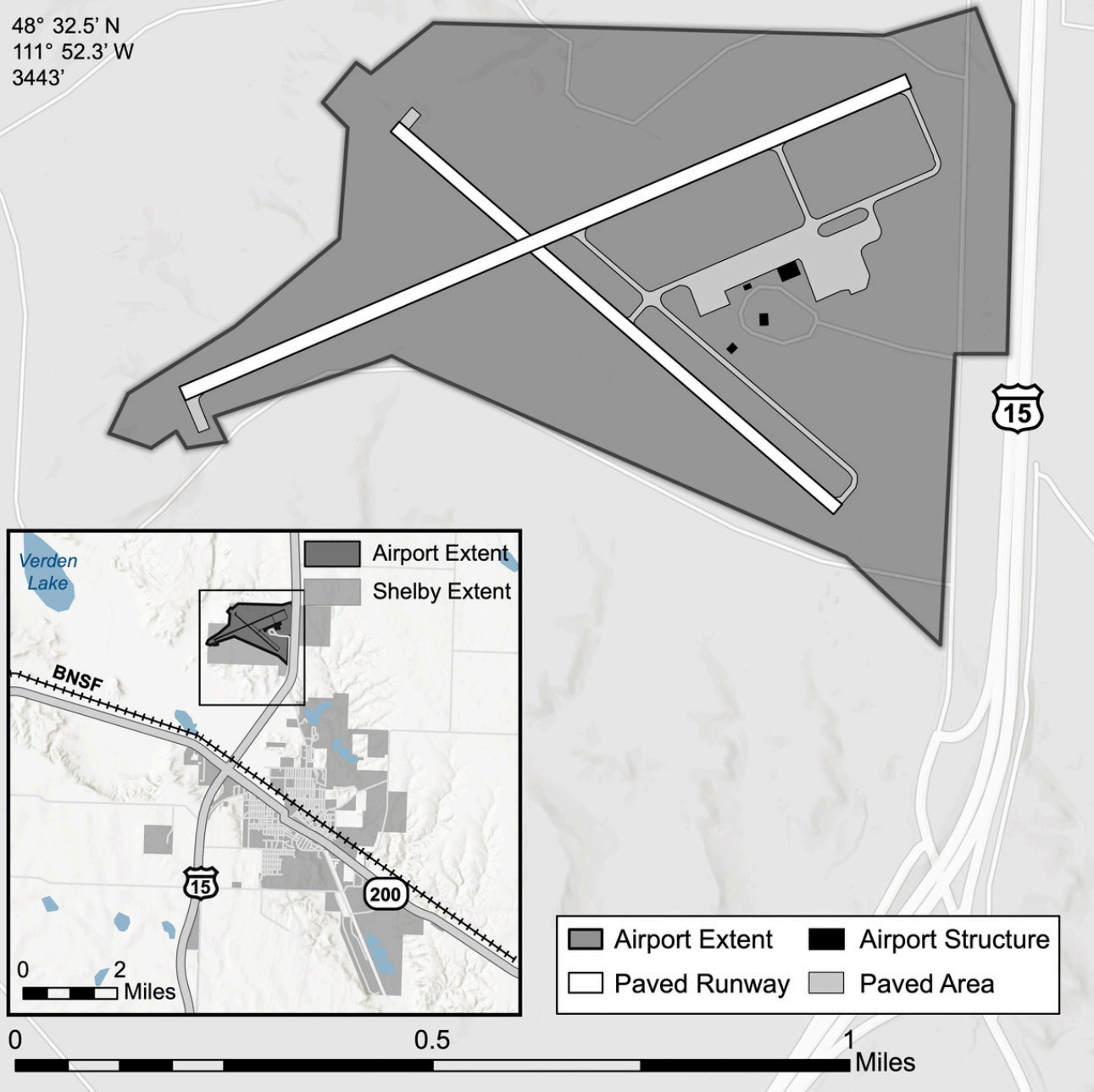


Shelby Airport (SBX)

Shelby, MT



48° 32.5' N
111° 52.3' W
3443'



AERONAUTICS DIVISION
2630 Airport Road
PO Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507



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