MSP Noise Monitoring Device Upgrade Underway

Aircraft noise generated by flights to and from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) is measured through use of 39 Remote Monitoring Towers (RMT) (microphones) installed and operated by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC).

These RMTs are located in areas underlying the aircraft arrival and departure paths for MSP and serve as the backbone to the MAC’s noise and operations monitoring system (MACNOMS), one of the most sophisticated and comprehensive data collection and analysis systems of its kind in the United States.

The portion of MACNOMS that collects flight track data (data necessary to show the paths aircraft take across the sky) was updated in 2010. Now the portion and equipment responsible for collecting and communicating noise data (decibel levels) is ready for an upgrade. When complete the system will allow staff to put less time into maintaining an aging system and more time into responding to resident inquiries.

The data collected are important because they are used to assess aircraft noise impacts, facilitate community reporting, aid in responding to data requests, enhance the development of environmental planning documentation (e.g. environmental assessments), and to help identify possible trends or irregularities that need to be addressed.

The collection of equipment also provides the ability to maintain information that residents, representatives and government officials have come to rely upon.

In addition, the legal settlement between the City of Minneapolis, et al., and the MAC calls for the MAC to maintain a flight tracking and noise monitoring system, to develop annual noise contours and reports based on actual flight track data received from that system, and to compare modeled noise contours to measured noise levels in the communities around MSP.

The upgraded equipment will provide a stable platform for ongoing noise analyses. The upgrade is scheduled for completion by October 31, 2012. For more information please visit: [www.macnoise.com](http://www.macnoise.com) or call 612.725.6455.
The MSP Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) met on May 16 and July 11 and discussed the following topics:

**Noise Abatement Departure Profiles**
MAC staff completed an analysis of the effects of Noise Abatement Departure Profiles (NADP) at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). The information provided to NOC members summarized NADPs, their related history at MSP and the results of the NADP analysis. Following a discussion, the Committee decided to take no action to modify the NADPs currently in use at MSP.

**Minneapolis Runway 30R Northbound Departure Turn Update**
NOC members received an update on implementation of the Runway 30R departure heading dispersion developed by the Federal Aviation Administration. Use of these headings was initiated on July 23, 2012.

**Mobile Noise Monitoring**
Following a discussion at the May NOC meeting, MAC staff developed criteria to be used to evaluate community requests for Mobile Noise Monitoring. At the July meeting NOC members took action to approve the criteria. (Learn more about Mobile Noise Monitoring below in Ask the Expert.)

**Runway 17 Westbound RNAV River Departure Procedure Implementation Update**
NOC members received a briefing about the status of the implementation of a new Runway 17 RNAV Departure procedure that was developed to send aircraft down the Minnesota River more precisely. While the new procedure was expected to become effective on August 15, 2012, implementation has been delayed. An update will be provided to the NOC at its September meeting.

**Next NOC Meeting**
The next MSP NOC meeting is scheduled for 19 September 2012 at 1:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Airports Commission General Offices, 6040 28th Ave. South, Minneapolis. For more information call 612-726-8100.

**NOC News**
Q. What is Mobile Noise Monitoring?
A. Mobile Noise Monitoring (MNM) is the process of obtaining aircraft noise measurements through use of portable noise monitoring equipment. MNM equipment includes a sound level meter, microphone, preamplifier, positioning stand and environmental enclosure.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) Noise Program Office uses 39 permanently-installed Remote Monitoring Towers (RMT) that contain noise monitoring equipment that continuously collects and systematically transmits aircraft noise data to a central computer.

Occasionally, the MAC receives requests from community members for noise monitoring to be conducted on their property to supplement measurements already recorded by the expansive and permanent RMT system.

To request MNM, community members must submit a request to their NOC representative who will then bring it to the NOC for consideration. Requests must meet specific criteria prior to approval. For more information and to contact your NOC representative, please visit [www.macnoise.com/mobilenm](http://www.macnoise.com/mobilenm) or call 612-726-9411.
Public Input Sought Regarding MSP Airport Environmental Assessment

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA)/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) that evaluates proposed improvements at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP).

The improvements apply to terminal, landside and roadway facilities and are specifically intended to meet the forecasted needs of the metropolitan area through the year 2020. The environmental impact analyses were conducted in accordance with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Environmental Policy Act requirements, the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act requirements, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Completion of the draft EA/EAW does not result in the commencement of improvement-related construction. The developments outlined in the draft EA/EAW, once approved with regard to environmental impacts, will be constructed as future demand dictates.

Beginning August 30, 2012, the draft EA/EAW will be available for public review at http://www.mspairport.com/about-msp/msp-2020-ea.aspx and at the following locations:

**MAC - General Office Building**

**Nokomis Library - Minneapolis**

**Augsburg Park Library - Richfield**

**Oxboro Library - Bloomington**

**Highland Park Library - St. Paul**

Public open houses will be held September 17 and 18, and October 1. At these events, residents will have an opportunity to learn more and ask questions about the proposed improvements. Immediately following the October 1 open house, a public hearing will be held to accept verbal and written comments about the Draft EA/EAW.

Written comments may be submitted via United States Postal Service mail, or by e-mail, to the following addresses. Comments will be accepted until 5 pm, October 11, 2012.

MSP 2020 Improvements Draft EA/EAW File

C/O Environment Department

Metropolitan Airports Commission

6040 – 28th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55450-2799

Phone: 612-726-8100

Email: msp2020draftEAW@mspmac.org

### Schedule

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<tr>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>Open House &amp; Public Hearing*</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm – 8:30 pm</td>
<td>5:30 pm – 8:30 pm</td>
<td>5:00 pm – 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>Eagan Community Center</td>
<td>Lake Nokomis Community Ctr</td>
<td>MAC - General Office Building</td>
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<td>1510 Central Parkway</td>
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<td>6040 28th Avenue South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eagan, MN 55121</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN 55417</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN 55450</td>
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*Public Hearing begins at 7 p.m.*
Sign up today for MSP Noise News updates!

In January 2013, the Metropolitan Airports Commission will begin providing updates about noise issues at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport exclusively online at www.macnoise.com. Hard copies of the Noise News newsletter will not be mailed after January 2013.

Readers who wish to continue to receive news updates should register on the website at https://www.macnoise.com/user/register and subscribe to All News Content.

Readers who do not wish to register can still get the most recent news at www.macnoise.com or by subscribing to the RSS feed.

To start receiving electronic news notifications right away, please sign up online at https://www.macnoise.com/user/register.

If you have questions about the transition, please call 612-726-9411.

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