AIRCRAFT NOISE

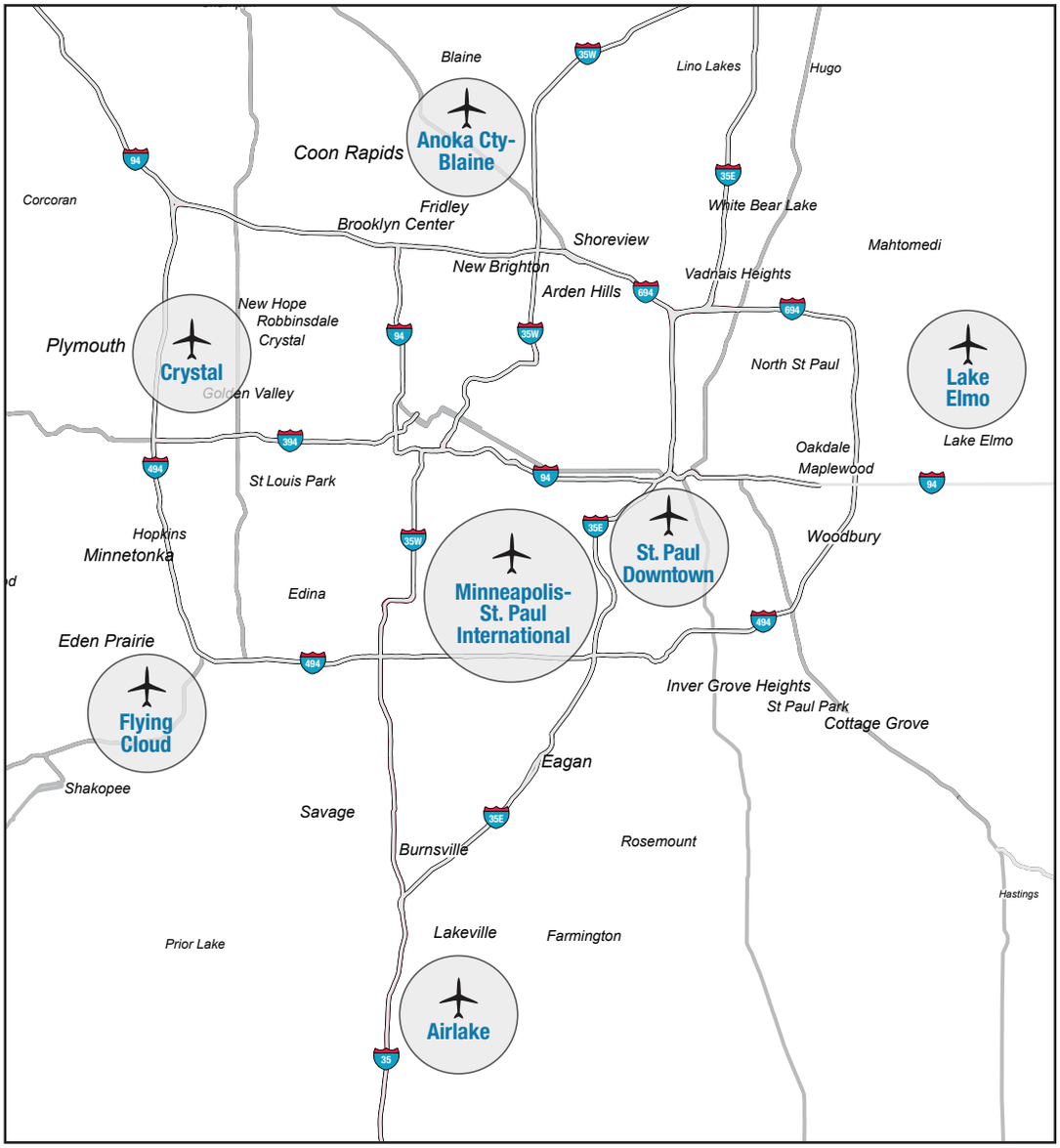
Metropolitan Airports Commission

Thank you for reaching out. We understand you may be interested in receiving information from the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) regarding aircraft activity at one or more of the MAC's airports.

The MAC is a valuable resource for anyone who has questions about specific aircraft activity, seeks data about aircraft operations and/or noise, or desires to file a complaint about a particular flight.

What is the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC)?

The MAC is a public corporation governed by a board of commissioners that reports to the Governor of Minnesota and its state Legislature. The MAC is charged with managing a system of seven airports within the twin cities metropolitan area. *(See map for their locations.)*



Who regulates aircraft activity?

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulates all aircraft activity. The FAA's Air Traffic Control (ATC) is solely responsible for directing aircraft on the ground and in the air. ATC's highest priority is the safe and efficient movement of aircraft. Air traffic control procedures help them maintain a systematic flow and keep planes at safe distances from one another. The MAC has no jurisdiction over aircraft activity.

The FAA also regulates the maximum noise levels aircraft are legally allowed to generate. These levels are categorized as "stages." Currently, aircraft flying into and out of any MAC airport must meet Stages 3, 4, and 5; Stage 5 is the quietest.

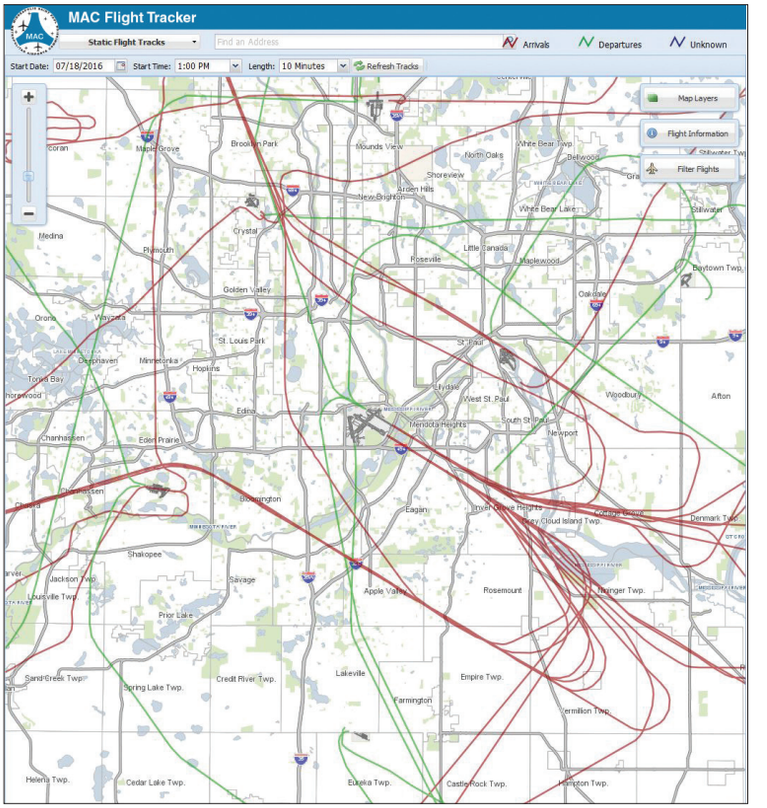
LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MAC'S NOISE ABATEMENT PROGRAMS.
Visit **macnoise.com** or call **612-726-9411.**

Flight Tracking

The MAC tracks flight activity at each of its airports and publishes it for public-use.

To learn more about specific aircraft operations, we invite you to use our **FlightTracker tool available at macnoise.com/tools-reports/flighttracker.**

The data found here are the same details we use to assess aircraft operations in the MAC's Noise Program Office.



Pilots and Noise Abatement

Pilots are responsible for the safe operation of any aircraft they fly. While their primary focus is always safety, there are ways pilots can help reduce their impact over noise-sensitive areas.

Each MAC-owned airport is open for public-use 24-hours a day. The MAC cannot restrict aircraft operations (such as a mandatory nighttime curfew), however, noise abatement plans and procedures are available to help pilots fly as quietly as possible. These plans and procedures were developed by the MAC through collaboration with pilots, the FAA, and communities surrounding each airport. In addition MAC staff works with pilots, airport tenants and the FAA regularly to underscore the importance of noise abatement for the surrounding communities.

Noise abatement plans and procedures, though voluntary, have proven to be effective measures for keeping noise levels as low as possible. Noise abatement plans for MAC-owned airports can be found at **macnoise.com/pilots.**

Aircraft Noise Complaints

Residents can file aircraft noise complaints with the MAC at any time via the internet or by phone. It's important to know that aircraft noise complaints alone cannot change how the airport operates. Where aircraft fly, as well as their associated noise levels, depends on factors such as wind and weather, the number of arrivals and departures, the time of day, construction activity and other conditions, all which play a part in how an airport operates at any given time.

Aircraft noise and activity complaints are used in conjunction with flight data to corroborate specific events or identify possible trends. Some city governments also use complaints to gauge the level of concern about aircraft noise in their communities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which altitude are aircraft supposed to be flying?

Why can't planes stop flying over my home?

Why do we need an airport in the first place?

Answers to these questions and many others can be found at **macnoise.com/faq.**