

June 1, 2016, Monthly Update – FAA Flightpath Changes

The following information provides an update on items of community interest, and the Airport's activities and progress related to managing and resolving noise impacts resulting from the FAA's September 2014 flight path changes.

Flight Path Compliance

Staff has been collecting data and reviewing flight tracks for compliance with published RNAV routes. While the FAA asserts that commercial air traffic complies with RNAV routes 95 percent of the time, analysis shows that in Phoenix, the routes are only flown 50 percent of the time, and more than half of the air traffic appears to be vectoring off the published route and crossing over more noise sensitive areas.

Last month staff presented the route non-compliance issues at the national airport executives conference and the Aviation Services Director will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in the coming weeks to present this information to additional national audiences and legislators.

Legislative

Staff continues to monitor and track the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization bill as it makes its way through the Congressional approval process. On April 19, the full United States Senate [approved the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016](#), which includes language authored by Arizona Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake addressing concerns raised by Phoenix residents about the flight path changes at Sky Harbor International Airport. The bill requires review of new airspace procedures and creates an Airspace Management Advisory Committee to review and report to Congress on the FAA's process for developing proposed airspace changes. Action on the bill is now pending in the House of Representatives.

Legal

The City continues to pursue litigation against the FAA. The city and neighborhood petitioners filed their initial briefs with the Court on May 13.

Metroplex Tracking

Staff continues to monitor other regions that have also been negatively affected by RNAV implementation. Unlike in Phoenix, the FAA has initiated public meetings in communities such as Boston, Charlotte, Washington, DC and South Central Florida, to consider interim airspace changes based on community concerns.

Staff is closely tracking the FAA's Metroplex actions in Northern California where wide community opposition to proposed RNAV routes appears to have caused the FAA's re-

evaluation of routes and community impacts. On May 16, the FAA released its feasibility study in response to the community proposed solutions made as part of the FAA's Initiative to Address Noise Concerns of Santa Cruz/Santa Clara/San Mateo/San Francisco Counties. As part of its "Initiative to Address Noise Concerns", on May 16 the FAA released its study on the feasibility of implementing airspace changes proposed by the public to mitigate the noise impact caused by implementation of the Northern California Metroplex Plan. The feasibility study will now be considered by the public and the Select Committee on South Bay Arrivals as well as the SFO Roundtable.

Outreach

Staff continues to respond to community requests on an individual basis for flight data/track information and provides information regarding RNAV, NextGen and other relevant issues.

Staff attended the quarterly meeting of the Phoenix Airspace Users Working Group (PAUWG) held on May 19, 2016. Staff provided construction updates at DVT and GYR; shared information about the upcoming Runway 8/26 closure in October; and announced the formation of the Runway Incursion Mitigation panel.

Staff will be providing a flight path update presentation to the Tempe Aviation Commission (TAVCO) at its monthly meeting in June.

Staff updated the City Council Downtown, Aviation and Redevelopment Subcommittee on June 1; two members of the community provided public comments at the meeting.

Air Traffic Changes Due to Weather and Other Events

There were several days during the month of May where there were strong gusting winds and thunderstorms that contributed to changes in flight patterns.

Temporary Runway 8/26 Closure

The north runway, Runway 8/26, at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport will be temporarily closed from October 1 – 31. The purpose of the temporary runway closure is to allow for runway pavement repairs as well as signage and lighting improvements. All flight activities will be performed on the southern runways, Runway 7R/25L and Runway 7L/25R, during this time. Please contact staff if you have any questions or concerns regarding the planned runway closure later this year.