

September 15, 2015 Weekly Update – FAA Flight Path Changes

This week will mark the one year anniversary of the implementation of the new flight path procedures in and out of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Here is a brief overview of what the City and residents have done over the past year.

On September 18, 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) implemented the new satellite navigation, known as RNAV, which greatly affected many Phoenix area residents. The Sky Harbor Noise Team had received approximately 300 comments concerning noise from September 2013 – August 2014. Since RNAV was implemented, the team has received approximately 18,185 comments concerning noise.

In response to the FAA having not held any public process about the changes, the City of Phoenix first asked FAA to consider several viable alternatives to the flight path changes; all of these proposed alternatives addressed the FAA's intended implementation benefits (airline fuel savings and increased airspace capacity) while also reducing the noise impacts to Phoenix area residents. The FAA summarily rejected all of these options without any validation or justification. The FAA did provide the City with its own set of new alternatives, none of which would reduce the community noise impacts. After it was made clear that the FAA would not take seriously community quality of life issues, the City of Phoenix was forced to file a lawsuit against the FAA, with the intent of simply having the FAA follow its own requirements for allowing public input into major federal actions. While the lawsuit is pending, the noise issues persist and each day community residents grow more and more frustrated with constant jet noise. Residents have also decided to file a lawsuit against the FAA. The City of Phoenix has developed a strategic framework for moving forward.

The noise team is expanding with three new positions to work solely on airspace and noise matters. This includes holding numerous public meetings in coffee shops, libraries, residential homes and public facilities. These meetings have been beneficial for the City and residents to join forces and work together, as well as share ideas and information.

Lobby Airlines, Agencies, and Congress to require FAA to do the right thing

On September 8, 2015, the City of Phoenix Government Relations Director Thomas Remes sent a memo to Phoenix Deputy City Manager, Paul Blue. This [memo](#) provided an update on the US Senate activity regarding flight path changes.

Workshops/Open Houses

Last month, the Aviation Department began a series of workshops, which are an open house format with no formal presentation. There are multiple stations set up at the workshops with experts from a variety of areas to address any concerns. This is an opportunity for residents to ask any questions pertaining to the FAA's flight paths, and have access to technical airspace planning experts. Community members are welcome to drop into the workshops any time. Here is information on the next workshop:

September 17, 2015

Desert Broom Library (5:30 – 7:00 PM)
29710 N. Cave Creek Rd, Cave Creek, AZ 85331

Downtown, Aviation and Redevelopment Subcommittee (DAR)

DAR has been rescheduled from October 7th to Tuesday, October 20th at 1:00PM.