

Aviation Policy Committee

(formerly the Committee on Noise Abatement and Aviation at National and Dulles Airports)

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

February 13, 2008

Attendants List

Hon. Rob Krupicka, Chair, City of Alexandria

Hon. Mary Hynes, Arlington County Board

Ebonee C. Avery, Office of Councilmember Marilyn Bland, Prince George's County

Paivi Spoon, Prince George's County

Mat Thorp, District of Columbia Representative

Susan Hinton, NPS

Don Mac Glashan, CAAN

Tom Powell, Suburban Maryland Citizen Representative

Ashish Solaki, MAA

Col Steward Remaly, JFDQ NCR MDW Air Operations

CPT Rich Block, JFHQ NCR MDW Air Operations Group

Kenneth Price, JFHQ NCR/MDM Aviation Plans

Emily Gehrman, NOISE

Brian Werner, NOISE

Jim Slate, FAA

George Sempeles, FAA

Neal Phillips, MWAA

Don Scimoneill, South Capital St. Heliport

Lalit Sharma, City of Alexandria

Ed Hiltz, Fairlington Citizens Association

George L. Nichols, COG, DEP

Leah Boggs, COG, DEP

Tim Canan, COG, DTP

Bob Griffiths, COG/TPB

Don MacGlashan, CAAN

**Chris Grootaert, McLean Citizens Association*

**Steve Baur, Arlington*

**Suzanne Gould, FAA*

**Participated by conference call.*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Krupicka called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the November 14, 2007 meeting minutes, nor to the

agenda.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS

Chair Krupicka noted that the APC Bylaws provides that the membership elect two vice chairs to the committee, each representing the District of Columbia and Suburban Maryland.

Action

Councilmember Marilyn Bland of the Prince George's County Council was appointed Vice Chair. The District of Columbia Vice Chair was proposed until the next meeting. Chair Krupicka ask the District of Columbia Citizen Representative to assist in identifying the appointment District of Columbia elected official for this position.

4. FEATURED PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Ashish Solanki, Director of the Office of Regional Aviation Assistance at the Maryland Aviation Administration provided an overview of general aviation (GA) local government best management. Highlights include:

- What is GA?
 - All types of flying except airlines and military
 - Corporate
 - Flight training
 - Business
 - Recreation
 - Medical evacuations
 - Police operations
- Importance of GA
 - Increase efficiency and accessibility to NAS
 - Lifeline to small towns and communities
 - Access to medical care, business opportunities, emergency evacuation
- GA facts in Maryland
 - 6,763 jobs (does not include BWI)
 - \$302.7 million in personal income
 - \$50.5 million in taxes to local regions
 - 36 public-use
 - 109 private-use
 - +/-9,000 based pilots
 - 3,200 based aircraft
- GA Issues
 - Land use Compatibility
 - Obstructions to air navigation
 - Security concerns
 - Expense vs. Revenues
 - Environmental matters
 - Public perception vs. True Value
 - Public convenience vs. Private enterprise
 - Operational Liability
- Good Local Strategies

- Develop minimum standards for commercial and non-commercial operators on the airports
- Develop rules and regulations for operational conduct
- Develop outreach/education program w/ community
- Participate in compatible land-use/zoning rules consistent w/ airport safety areas
- Local community should have buy in on the airport as a local asset
- Market the airport as an element of the multi-mode transportation network
- Current Operations
 - +/- 450 commercial service airports
 - +/- 9,000 public-use landing facilities

5. METROPOITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY REPORT

Neal Phillips from MWAA provided an update on the Part 150 and the Noise Monitoring System.

- A. The FAA has completed its review of the Reagan Washington National Part 150 Plan.
 - MWAA received a letter from the FAA on January 10, 2008 stating the following:
 - o approval of 6 mitigation measures
 - o approval of 4 noise abatement measures
 - o phase out of hush kitted stage 3 aircraft
 - o MWAA developing a new noise complaint system
 - o disapproval of new noise monitoring system being installed by FAA
 - o disapproval of training of aircraft controllers
 - o Action
Prepare a letter to the Part 150 Advisory Committee informing them of the FAA action. Work with MWAA to draft the letter.
- B. The MWAA has selected a firm to update the noise monitoring system at both National and Dulles Airports. The new system will consists of 40 noise monitoring locations.
 - MWAA financed the new noise monitoring system by putting \$2 million in last year's budget.
 - 29 of the 40 has been installed, primarily in existing locations
 - Fairfax County has 4 new sites plus 4 additional sites
 - Loudoun County sites are still being worked out
 - After all monitors in place, MWAA will study the public component/internet interface

6. NOISE MONITORING IN OTHER IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

- A. Commercial Aircraft Noise Monitoring
 - Recently there have been several requests for noise monitoring stations in communities impacted by aircraft over flights.
 - Congressman Tom Davis (VA) sent a letter to COG regarding recent noise complaints received from his constituents in the Davis Ford/Yates Ford area of Prince William County; Bill Womack noted that the Congressman was seeking options to mitigate disturbances of residents from aircraft believed to approaching Dulles airport.

- Neal Phillips responds:
 - o The FAA will not facilitate any issues past 19 miles south and is unable to address due to the budget and protocol; it is outside the 65 Ldn contour; mobile monitoring equipment is not an option since the MWAA does not own such equipment. The MWAA has a hand-held noise monitor which requires a staff person to physically be present. The area in question is where a lot of "stacking" occurs, aircraft destined for Dulles, Andrew Air Force Base, Quince, Davidson Field, and possible Massass Park.
- Jim Slate from the FAA responds:
 - o the FAA is willing to meet
 - o first step is to determine the type and origin of the aircraft
 - o Obtain as much information about what is going on in the area from traffic control data, radar track, etc.

Action: COG staff, FAA, and Bill Womack will convene a meeting to gather additional data on the specifics of the noise complaints. Meanwhile, FAA will review radar and other data to determine what is actually happening in the Ford/Yates Ford. Options will be identified once additional information is obtained.

B. Helicopter Noise Monitoring System

- COL Remaly, Capitan Richard Block and Ken Price were present representing the military
- As of June 2007, 80 helicopter noise complaints have been received
- Ed Hilz from Fairlington Civic Association has been working with Col. Remaly; Meeting was held in December 2007 in Fairlington Hills; Col Remaly and George Nichols attended
- According to Col Remaly, helicopter routes are set to move efficiently across the NCR; he is open to working with the community

Recommendation: It is recommended that a helicopter complaint/response mobile system that can be in place for about 5 days and is capable of taking pictures be considered. Col. Remaly noted that visual capability is more important than decibel levels for actual identification of aircraft. Mr. Nichols noted that this recommendation could be included as an APC CASP project.

Recommendation: It is recommended that a second Helicopter Roundtable be sponsored by COG and FAA. The tentative date is May 2008. Staff will work with FAA and report back to the Committee at its April meeting.

7. COG CASP PROGRAM

- Robert Griffith from COG Transportation Planning was in attendance to report on the CASP Program
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) supports initiatives by States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) to participate in the Continuous Airport Planning Process (CASP). The goal of the CASP program is to provide a process that supports the planning, development, and operation of airport facilities and other transportation facilities that serve the airports in a systematic framework for the region. In support of the CASP program, a five-year Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) is developed, that schedules airport-related studies for which Federal funding will be sought. COG Aviation

- Technical Committee is currently updating the ACIP.
- COG sponsored a helicopter system plan study for the metropolitan Washington region; the Regional Helicopter System Plan Final Report was completed in June 2005
 - George Nichols has developed a proposed project called *Feasibility of Establishing Helicopter Noise Complaint Response System*
 - The system would be designed with the following principles:
 1. Use one phone number and email address for the public to report noise and off-route complaints;
 2. Provide a reply to the complainant after the complaint has been investigated;
 3. Record the location of the helicopter relative to the ground, its altitude, flight direction, and the time;
 4. Record the helicopter owner such as military, federal agency, civilian, police, EMS etc.; and
 5. Set up a compliance system to investigate the complaints to determine their validity and one that would ensure that appropriate measures are taken to prevent a recurrence of the noise or route violation.
 - **Action -**
APC recommended that staff *work with DTP staff and submit the "development of a helicopter noise complaint response system" through submitting as the APC CASP project. The project should be submitted during the current updating process. The proposed project should include an analysis of the current 80 plus recorded noise complaint received to date.*

8. OTHER AIRPORT/AVIATION RELATED ACTIVITIES

- No state updates
- FAA
 - o The new runway at Dulles will be finish be November 2008; located on west side of property, closer to Loudoun County
 - o No updates at National
- NOISE Summer conference held in DC this year July 16-18; in the process of securing speakers;
- **Proposed Action**
July APC meeting to be held at the NOISE conference; APC staff will work with Dave Carbone, NOISE Conference Planner.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- There were no public comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.