



Federal Aviation
Administration

Process to Address Community Noise Impacts of Aircraft Operations

A Collaborative Approach

Federal Aviation Administration

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FAA's Approach to Aviation Noise Abatement: Key Evaluation Criteria

- There are noise benefits based on best available scientific data, methodologies, and experience
- There are no adverse effects on NAS safety and efficiency
- No undue burden on commerce or unjust discrimination
- Data-based, transparent decision-making



Process for Local Community Aircraft Noise Issues Outside the Airport Environs

- FAA engages relevant stakeholders, e.g., broad array of community representatives, aircraft operators, relevant airport operators, state/local authorities with responsibilities.
- The noise problem is evaluated with as much technical information as possible to clearly understand it.
- Alternative solutions are explored and are evaluated for:
 - Safety and effects on the National Airspace System (NAS)
 - Operational feasibility and reasonableness
 - Noise benefits and other environmental factors
 - Implications, if any, for noise-sensitive land uses
 - Costs
- Solutions that have good evaluation results and appropriate local consensus may be implemented by responsible parties.



Importance of Stakeholder Engagement

- A local forum such as a Roundtable facilitates collaboration among stakeholders, FAA technical input to process, and local consensus on solutions. Local forums:
 - Increase shared review and understanding of the noise problem
 - Provide regular communication channel with FAA
 - Improve consideration of solutions and their pros/cons
 - Reduce prospects of simply shifting noise impact from one neighborhood to another with no overall noise improvement
 - Include parties that can implement various measures (Not all solutions reside with FAA.)
 - Improve prospects of shared consensus on solutions
 - Increase the likelihood of successful implementation of reasonable and broadly-accepted beneficial measures



Conclusion

- **Successful aviation noise abatement measures are:**
 - Evaluated and derived through a systematic process
 - Collectively addressed by engaged and informed stakeholders
 - Tailored to fit local circumstances, consistent with FAA's key evaluation criteria, rather than imposed at the Federal level
 - Supported by local consensus
 - Implemented by responsible parties (not always the FAA) on a voluntary basis with flexibility to adjust to changing circumstances
- **The FAA supports a robust local process to address community noise impacts of helicopter operations.**

