

Memo

To: Louisville City Council Liaisons - Jeff Lipton, City Councilmember & Kyle Brown, City Councilmember,
Superior Town Board Liaisons - Sandie Hammerly, Trustee & Neal Shah, Trustee

From: Louisville Staff - Emily Hogan, Assistant City Manager for Communications & Special Projects, Megan Davis, Deputy City Manager, Heather Balsler, City Manager
Superior Staff - Kevin Colón, Community Relations Manager, Matt Magley, Town Manager

cc: ABCx2 Consultants – Jason Schwartz and James Allerdice

Date: May 4, 2020

Re: Airport Prioritization Workshop

SUMMARY:

In 2019, the City of Louisville and Town of Superior partnered to address noise from Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (RMMA). Following a number of complaints from residents about noise from RMMA, the City and Town hired aviation consultant ABCx2, which has specialized experience in working with communities and airports to address noise issues.

Goals for the project include:

- Reduce overflights near residential areas
- Reduce noise exposure to residential areas
- Increase flight altitudes when unable to avoid residential overflights
- Discourage nighttime operations
- Increase industry awareness of noise program

- Increase community engagement (share information regarding airport activities and address concerns regarding impacts)
- Increase collaboration around land use planning and development for regional partners and the airport

The following work was completed by City and Town staff and the consultants during Phase I of the project:

- Completed baseline assessment to understand current conditions and identify opportunities for improvement. ABCx2 looked at airport facilities, airfield layout, airspace and flight procedures, annual operations, traffic levels and fleet mix, existing noise abatement program, land uses and zoning and complaint data.
- Conducted community engagement, including an online survey on the impact of airport noise and potential solutions and an open house to share draft strategies and solicit feedback from residents.
- Held multiple meetings with the airport and FAA traffic control tower personnel and conducted a flight training forum to engage industry stakeholders and encourage participation in the process.
- Assisted in the formation of the Airport Noise Task Force to vet potential solutions and keep efforts moving forward with airport staff and tenants.
- Developed updated noise abatement procedures with the Airport Noise Task Force to lessen the impact of aircraft activity on adjacent neighborhoods.
- Developed recommended strategies intended to reduce noise impacts on the communities.

Phase II of the project kicked off in early 2020. City and Town staff and the consultants will work on the following during this phase:

- Prioritize noise abatement strategies and advocate for implementation.
- Continue to participate on RMMA Noise Task Force advocating for City/Town priorities.
- Expand and strengthen relationships with RMMA industry/tenants in an effort to promote compliance with noise mitigation measures.
- Encourage industry awareness/training with a focus on aircraft noise impacts and implementation of policies, practices and procedures in alignment with City/Town priorities.
- Encourage community awareness of airport impacts and provide information on policies, practices and procedures to the public.
- Advocate for City/Town priorities through Community Roundtable and help facilitate submittal of recommended practices/procedures to FAA for approval.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP:

The first step in Phase II is conducting the airport prioritization workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to identify priorities for Louisville and Superior and strategies to pursue in 2020 while staying within budget.

Staff and the consultants have provided a matrix of the recommended strategies that were provided in Phase I. Additional information (work completed, next steps, level of impact, likelihood of implementation, cost, timeline, approval process) has been provided for each strategy.

In regard to the various working groups mentioned in the strategies, here is more information about each of those to avoid any confusion:

- Airport Noise Task Force – Initially formed in 2019 by ABCx2 in response to community concerns. This is an internal RMMA group which includes airport staff, tenants and City/Town consultants. The airport has maintained the task force and is working with the group to review and implement noise program elements.
- Community Roundtable – Proposed to address community concerns regarding aircraft operations as recommended by the ABCx2 and endorsed by the FAA. A roundtable is intended to bring together the airport, community and industry representatives to collaboratively identify and discuss issues of concern and possible resolutions. A roundtable can make recommendations, including possible changes in operations, which address noise. Recommendations are typically first coordinated with the airport and surrounding communities and then forwarded to the FAA for approval. Proposed members include RMMA, Jefferson County, Boulder County, Broomfield, Westminster, Arvada, Louisville and Superior.
- Airport Advisory Board – Advises Jefferson County Board of Commissioners regarding airport matters, serves as a feedback mechanism regarding the airport, building awareness of the airport and its importance in the economic health of the region, developing airport advocacy and ensuring good neighbor practices by the airport. Members include two neighboring business owners, two Jefferson County citizens, one neighboring residential property owner, one neighboring jurisdiction and one airport tenant.

QUESTIONS FOR WORKSHOP:

Staff proposes the following questions to help guide the discussion:

- Staff will go through each strategy and provide an update. Would the group like to provide input on each strategy as we go, or all input at the end?
- Do Councilmembers/Trustees have any questions about the strategies or additional details provided?
- What is a reasonable expectation in regard to staff/consultant capacity for 2020?
- Do Councilmembers/Trustees agree with the framework provided for top priorities (high impact/high feasibility and/or low effort/high feasibility)?
- Do Councilmembers/Trustees agree with the strategies listed as our top priorities based on this framework?
- Are there any other strategies that should be considered as a top priority?
- What are the medium/low priorities for 2020?
- How will we measure success?
- What are the next steps?

ATTACHMENTS:

- Strategy Priority Matrix