



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Great Lakes Regional Office
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018-4696

September 15, 2022

Rick King
Chairman, Metropolitan Airports Commission
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450

**SUBJECT: Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP)
Follow-up on feasibility of proposed departure adjustments**

Dear Mr. King:

This is to follow up on the FAA's September 2020 letter about the feasibility and safety of directing aircraft to depart from Runway 12L (instead of Runway 17) under certain conditions.

As noted in the FAA's September 2020 letter, due to the reduced traffic levels as a result of COVID-19, the FAA had not been able to conduct an in-depth analysis of whether this proposal was feasible or safe. However, as traffic levels at MSP have begun to rise, the FAA was recently able to assess this proposal and consider its feasibility at MSP.

The FAA has verified that this proposal would be feasible during limited periods of time. This will typically be during lower-activity periods between arrival and departure banks, if the FAA's Air Traffic Controllers determine that appropriate operational and meteorological conditions (including visibility and wind conditions) permit. At these times, the proposed operating pattern would already fall within existing best practice and Runway Use System priority of directing departures from parallel runways 12L and 12R.

We thank the MAC and NOC members for their collaboration and patience through the process of assessing this proposal. We would also like to acknowledge the importance of addressing the interests of community members while also ensuring safe and efficient flight operations at MSP.

We hope you find this information addresses your questions and concerns. If you or a member of your staff require further assistance, please feel free to contact my office at (847) 294-7294.

Sincerely,

Elliott Black
Acting Regional Administrator
Great Lakes Region