



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

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

January 5, 2024

Cheryl Jacobson  
MSP NOC Community Member  
City of Mendota Heights

Paul Buckley  
MSP NOC Airport User Member  
Delta Air Lines

Dear Ms. Jacobson and Mr. Buckley,

Thank you for your November 29, 2023 letter sent on behalf of the Minneapolis – St. Paul Airport (MSP) Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) containing initial community outreach and procedure recommendations for the area navigation (RNAV) departure procedures being developed at MSP. The FAA is committed to community engagement and maintaining a dialogue as this project progresses. We also appreciate the NOC's willingness to work together to represent their member communities and the Twin Cities area in general, and to provide preliminary feedback on our draft procedures. These draft procedures were previously shared with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) on October 10 and 26, 2023 and the NOC Subcommittee on October 30, 2023.

The FAA developed the draft procedures for MSP based on three official design meetings and multiple discussions with the MAC, airlines, local and regional air traffic control, and other aviation stakeholders. In addition to the three procedure recommendations provided by the NOC in their November 29, 2023, letter we welcome any additional feedback they would like to provide on the draft procedures by the agreed to February 1, 2024, deadline. The FAA's Air Traffic team plans to review the three recommendations already submitted by the NOC in conjunction with other subsequent feedback submitted by February 1, 2024, in totality, during a February 6, 2024, workgroup meeting. During this meeting, project stakeholders will assess the NOC's recommendations for feasibility, safety, and efficiency in consideration for potential modification of draft procedure designs. Any suggestions that are feasible and do not negatively impact safety or efficiency, will be assessed for consideration in the final procedures. Suggestions received from the NOC, whether they are feasible or not, will be summarized and posted on our [MSP community involvement website](#) which will also feature updates, resources and other related documents throughout the full life cycle of the project. However, it should be noted that the final proposed procedures will not be reviewed for noise impacts and other environmental factors until we begin our review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which will commence later in 2024.

The FAA remains committed to multi-faceted engagement throughout the procedure development process including evaluating recommendations provided by the NOC. While we have started our engagement with the MAC and the NOC on the initial draft procedures,

we also plan to conduct public outreach sessions in 2024 as well as any formal engagement required as part of the environmental review under NEPA. The dates for these sessions have not yet been determined, but the FAA will consult with both the MAC and the NOC before scheduling is finalized.

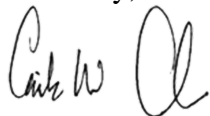
These sessions will include materials showing the new procedures, feature a question-and-answer session with air traffic controllers, and provide explanations of the changes being proposed. These sessions will be held live and will be hosted on a virtual platform. They will also be recorded which will provide a greater reach for engagement to community members not available to participate during the live session. Those viewing the recording(s) will be able to submit comments. We will plan to have live closed captioning during the event and will assess if additional language tracks for the recordings are needed to support limited English proficiency communities in the vicinity of MSP.

Since the FAA subject matter experts who will support these sessions are located throughout the country, holding virtual sessions is both more cost-effective, ensuring prudent use of taxpayer funds while providing expanded access to subject-matter experts. Virtual sessions will also provide for greater reach to members of communities and more transparency on project considerations. The FAA will ensure the dialogue with the general public is two-way and that suggestions received during these sessions are evaluated for feasibility and safety implications. Comments will be accepted via US Postal Service or to our online comments mailbox during and after the workshops, and all comments will be addressed in the final NEPA documentation for the project.

To meet the necessary air traffic charting deadlines, the FAA is working towards a goal of publishing the new procedures by August 2025. However, as part of our dialogue with the MAC who has expressed the goals of the NOC, we have discussed a common goal of ensuring existing dispersed pathways above MSP's surrounding communities remain consistent with what they are today - provided they meet FAA safety criteria and operational requirements.

We look forward to continuing our dialogue with the MAC and NOC and reviewing initial feedback for the draft procedures received by February 1, 2024. Beyond February, the MAC and the NOC will play a vital role with the FAA to develop and discuss timing of next steps as well as public engagement sessions.

Sincerely,



Erik Amend, PMP  
Regional Administrator  
Great Lakes Region

Cc:

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