

St. Paul Downtown Airport Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.  
644 Bayfield Street, St. Paul, MN 55107  
St. Paul Downtown Airport (STP) Terminal Building

## **Call to Order**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the St. Paul Downtown Airport Advisory Council (DAAC) was held Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at the STP Terminal Building. In attendance were:

**Representatives:** J. Fure, District 17 Planning Council - Capitol River; R. Horkey, District 5 - Payne Phalen Alternate (via Teams); P. Martineau, At-Large Airport User; R. Matchey, Minnesota National Guard; D. Napier, Mayor - West St. Paul; D. Schaab, District 5 - Payne Phalen;

**MAC Staff:** R. Anderson, Manager - Community Relations; S. Lakku, Intern - Community Relations; B. Peterson, Airport Manager; M. Ross, Director - Stakeholder Engagement;

**Other:** J. Vossen, Bolton & Menk (via Teams); R. Ziegler, Recording Secretary (via Teams)

## **1. Introductions & Roll Call**

**Chair Fure** called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. The roll was taken. There was a total of 12 participants.

## **2. Consent Items**

**a. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 15, 2025 & May 20, 2025**

**b. STP Aircraft Noise Complaints and Operations Summary**

**Chair Fure** opened a discussion of the consent items. He asked that members review the materials and send any requested changes to MAC staff so the minutes can be approved at a later meeting where a quorum is established.

## **3. Business Items**

**Chair Fure** noted there were no business items on the agenda.

## **4. Information Items**

**a. Airport Manager Update**

**Mr. Peterson**, Airport Manager, provided updates on runway reconstruction, which he noted was complete as far as paving goes. He gave information about upcoming nightly runway closures for grooving operations, which will run for six nights from Sunday at 10

p.m. through Saturday morning at 6 a.m. Once the operation reaches the intersection of Runways 14/32 and 9/27, both runways will be closed for two consecutive weeks. NOTAMs have been sent out on the closures. Once grooving concludes, the runway projects will be complete. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the runway construction, and there were none at this time.

He then invited everyone to attend a tenant appreciation barbecue to be held on September 17th and gave additional information regarding the event.

He discussed the upcoming MPR happy hour on September 23rd and discussed preparations for the event.

He also talked about construction between the terminal building and 3M, which will be a new Customs and Border Protection facility. Fencing has started and construction materials are being delivered, with foundation construction to begin soon. Construction is planned to continue until July of 2026.

**Chair Fure** called for questions or comments for **Mr. Peterson**. There were none at this time.

**b. Annual STP Sound Study (2025)**

**Mr. Anderson** reviewed a brief history and overview of the annual sound study for St. Paul Downtown Airport. He noted that, earlier this year, it was decided the study would be done in May to avoid the year's construction. The study was conducted from May 12th through May 18th. He discussed the models and methods used in the study.

He then briefly reviewed the study's results, including operation numbers and runway usage data both for arrivals and departures as well as during daytime and nighttime. He gave information about two metrics used for the noise study: events and time above 65 decibels. The study results were compared to previous studies and a grid analysis of noise monitoring studies to identify trends. He gave highlights of the results and their correlation to flight patterns and noted complaints received during the study period.

**Representative Martineau** asked how granular the data is that was compiled in the study, particularly regarding altitude.

**Mr. Anderson** explained how the tracks that actually occurred during the week were used to build a model and create representative tracks to which the math was applied for altitude and direction. He said the study did capture the majority of flight operations that occurred.

**Representative Martineau** asked if there was any comment on altitude's effects in the study.

**Mr. Anderson** stated that higher aircraft have, typically, less noise impact on the surface and that departures, while they can be louder than arrivals, are usually near the ground for a shorter period of time so that arrivals can have a larger noise impact.

**Chair Fure** asked if there were any further questions, and there were none at this time. He thanked **Mr. Anderson** and MAC staff for their work on the study.

#### **5. Public Comment Period**

**Chair Fure** opened the public comment period.

**Representative Napier** stated that a resident contacted him who was very frustrated with airport noise from the Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (MSP) coming over their home. He asked if any flight patterns had changed. The resident had provided him historical information on flight patterns and current data. He inquired whether any changes may be related to construction.

**Mr. Anderson** stated that there was significant construction at MSP which did result in flight-pattern changes. He indicated he would be happy to discuss further with **Representative Napier** after the meeting as well.

**Representative Napier** thanked **Mr. Anderson** for that information.

**Chair Fure** stated it is good to bring up those comments and questions even if they do not relate directly to St. Paul Downtown Airport. He inquired if there were any further public comments, and there were none at this time.

#### **6. Member Announcements**

**Chair Fure** asked if any members present in person or online had member announcements, and there were none at this time.

**7. Set Next Meeting Dates: March - May 2026**

**Chair Fure** asked if there were any conflicts or suggestions for the 2026 meeting schedule, starting with the window from March through May.

**Mr. Anderson** pointed to suggested dates in the packet and stated that, typically, the Council has met once in the spring and once in the fall on the third Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m.

**Chair Fure** asked if there were any preferences or conflicts for any of the suggested dates.

**Representative Napier** expressed preference for the March 17th date.

**Mr. Anderson** indicated that is St. Patrick's Day but otherwise still an option.

**Representative Napier** indicated maybe the April 21, 2026 date would be better.

**Representative Schaab** inquired as to when spring planting usually occurs.

**Chair Fure** stated it could be around that April date.

**Representative Schaab** noted that there had been discussions about user green space around the airport property and that, if the meeting could be held before spring planting, then any such projects could be discussed.

**Ms. Ross** noted that spring planting can occur up to around Memorial Day.

**Chair Fure** said that spring planting could occur around the time of any of the meetings.

**Representative Schaab** stated that we have shifted into a different climate pattern and a different planting zone.

**Chair Fure** stated that he did not recall specific topics about planting in the past and inquired further about **Representative Schaab's** comments.

**Representative Schaab** gave further information about his thoughts on biodiversity planting and environmentally friendly ground cover that would be more accommodating to tenants and residents as well as possibly allow for green tax credits.

**Chair Fure** indicated that there could be discussions on those topics before the spring meeting, and the April date was selected for the spring 2026 meeting. He then inquired regarding preferences for the fall 2026 meeting. No Council members had preferences or objections, so he then inquired if there was any input from a staff perspective.

**Mr. Anderson** noted the dates in September, October, and November would all work and suggested October 20th as a happy medium.

**Chair Fure** asked for any objections to the October date selection, and there were none.

**Representative Schaab** noted that selection would allow November to be available in case the meeting needs to be rescheduled.

**Chair Fure** indicated that October 20, 2026 was selected for the fall meeting and asked staff to create the schedule for 2026. He then inquired whether anyone had any further issues for discussion.

**Representative Martineau** expressed appreciation for the detailed noise information on the reliever airports. He noted MSP data was not included and asked if it was available.

**Mr. Anderson** stated that information is available and is produced in a stand-alone report on a monthly basis. He noted that, historically, it has not been included in the reliever airport report package but that it is available online and that he would be happy to send the link to the report to any interested Council members.

**Representative Martineau** said MSP noise data would be helpful, especially for long-range planning, and that they hear discussions about overall expenditures and capital expenses that include MSP, so it would be helpful to have the MSP numbers.

**Chair Fure** thanked **Representative Martineau** for his comments and asked if there were any further comments or questions, and there were none at this time. He thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

## **8. Adjourn**

**Chair Fure** adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.