



**MSP NOISE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 10:15 AM
MAC General Offices
6040 28th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55450



Call to Order

A special meeting of the Minneapolis, Saint Paul International Airport (MSP) Noise Oversight Committee, (NOC) was held Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) General Offices, Coleman conference room, a videoconference option was also provided. **Chair Jacobson** called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The following participated in the meeting:

Representatives: S. Alig, J. Bergman, P. Buckley, G. Fitzer, C. Jacobson, R. Jaeger, D. Lowman, A. Moos, C. Potter, C. Swanson

Staff: R. King, R. Fuhrmann, B. Juffer, E. Wilson, M. Kilian, J. Lewis, K. Martin, D. Nelson, N. Pesky, M. Ross, J. Sonju, M. Takamiya, M. Dockter

Others: K. Gallatin – St. Paul, J. Hart – Delta, J. Hays – FAA, E. Johnson – FAA, S. Neal – City of Edina, N. Rao – FAA, K. Regotti – FAA, L. Corey – FAA, M. Jenny – FAA, J. Risser – City of Edina, Lynne Moore – Bloomington, Bill Raker – Eagan ARC, D. Venters, WCCO-TV, J. Widing – Met Council, Y. Xu – HNTB, K. Hughes – HNTB, G. Albjerg – HNTB, B. Smith, R. Bassarab, B. Rineer, A. Kiorpes, C. Vasseghi, F. Herman, B. Kane, S. Thompson, R. Agnew, J. Grove, A. Petersen, and others

A quorum of at least four Community and four Industry Representatives was established.

Community Representatives: Alig, Bergman, Jacobson, Lowman, Swanson

Industry Representatives: Fitzer, Buckley, Moos, Potter, Jaeger

1. Business

1.1. Approve Special Meeting and Agenda

Michele Ross, Technical Advisor, shared that the FAA has provided the NOC an opportunity to offer input on the proposed MSP Area Navigation (RNAV) procedures currently under development. The deadline for preliminary recommendations is on or before February 1, 2024. There will be additional opportunities for both public engagement and NOC comments after the February first date, but this is a great opportunity to have our comments considered and potentially incorporated into the new RNAV procedures. Given the timeline, and the importance of providing feedback to the FAA regarding their procedure development process, and engagement efforts, the NOC determined it necessary to hold this Special NOC Meeting.

The November 29, 10:15 a.m. meeting time was the option that worked for most NOC members, subcommittee members, and MAC Staff. Due to the short timeline, notice for this meeting was unable to be provided pursuant to the NOC Bylaws, Article 7. However, the Bylaws allow the NOC to meet if it elects to consider the matter. Therefore, the following action is requested, to allow for the convening of the NOC today with the agenda as proposed.

Action Requested:

APPROVE SUSPENDING THE NOTICE REQUIREMENT IN ARTICLE V11(3) OF THE NOC BYLAWS; AND APPROVE TODAY'S AGENDA THAT WAS NOT PROVIDED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE V11(3).

Member Bergman moved to approve the motion. The motion was seconded by **Member Potter**. The motion passed unanimously via a voice vote.

2. Consent**2.1. Approval of September 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Member Bergman moved to approve the motion. The motion was seconded by **Member Alig**. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously via a voice vote.

3. Public Comment Period

Co-Chair Jacobson asked members of the public, in person and online, if they had any questions - there were none.

4. Business**4.1. RNAV Procedure Review Sub-Committee Recommendations**

Michele Ross, Technical Advisor, shared that the FAA informed the NOC, at its January 2020 meeting, that due to the decommissioning of the VOR ground-based navigation system, the FAA would need to develop new RNAV satellite-based departure procedures for MSP. The original decommissioning had been set for September 2022, but due to the global pandemic, it was pushed back to August 7, 2025. The FAA has since provided several updates at NOC meetings regarding departure procedure development.

The RNAV Procedure Review Sub-Committee was established at the September 20, 2023, meeting of the NOC. It was tasked with reviewing the proposed RNAV procedures and any impacts for MSP and the MSP communities, as well as reviewing the FAA's engagement plan. The sub-committee will remain effective until the MSP VOR is decommissioned and new departure procedures have been charted, or until December 31, 2025, whichever is later. The sub-committee, per NOC by-laws, is comprised of an equal balance of airport users and community representatives. The airport user members are represented by the Airport User Co-Chair, the Chief Pilot Representative, and the Scheduled Airline Representative. The community members are represented by the Community Co-Chair, and representatives from the cities of Minneapolis and Eagan.

The sub-committee met October 30, and received a draft overview from the FAA regarding their proposed departure procedures and public engagement plan. At that meeting, the FAA shared that they are offering an opportunity for the NOC to provide preliminary comments regarding any changes to the departure procedures as well as the FAA's plan to engage the public. The deadline for comments is on or before February 1, 2024. This timeframe allows the FAA to consider incorporating potential recommendations prior to beginning its larger public engagement process that is slated to start in the summer of 2024.

The sub-committee met again on November 20, 2023, to discuss and draft potential recommendations for consideration by the NOC. The sub-committee's recommendations have been provided as an addendum to the agenda packet for this meeting, they are also available at

metroairports.org/NOC. The sub-committee determined that it was timely to provide recommendations to the FAA related to their engagement efforts in order to increase transparency, increase communication, and increase opportunities for the public to engage with the procedures and learn more about any potential impacts at and around MSP.

The committee is requesting that the full NOC approve the RNAV Procedure Review Sub-Committee's recommendations and forward those to the FAA. Staff recommends that the action be amended to include a cover letter signed by Members Jacobson and Buckley as representatives of both the Airport Users and the Communities sides of the NOC.

Questions / Comments:

Member Bergman prefaced by saying that as an At-Large committee member, representing other cities, he has had the opportunity to attend the RNAV Procedure Review Sub-Committee as a guest, to listen to the information presented and offer comments. **Member Bergman** said he firmly believes that the NOC should make a recommendation to the FAA regarding their proposed departure procedures and community engagement.

Member Bergman went on to say that he, and the City of Apple Valley, met with Ms. Ross and Ms. Dana Nelson, Director MAC Stakeholder Engagement, to talk about what could be improved in the airspace over Apple Valley and other communities. He referred to a 63-page handout from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) which is a document comprised of easy-to-understand public information, pertinent to the RNAV procedures and engagement topic. He asked that the document be entered into the meeting record and recommended that the committee look at the information: www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-103933#summary_recommend **Member Bergman** credited the local FAA and the FAA as a whole for their work with the RNAV Sub-Committee and the NOC.

Ms. Ross said that the report will be sent to NOC members and reiterated that the NOC would have additional opportunities and potentially more NOC meetings to look through additional information coming from the FAA as they work through their procedures. She also stated that staff would strive to provide greater notice for the next meetings on the topic.

Member Lowman mentioned that he has trust in the sub-committee and the NOC, having known and worked with many of the members over many years. **Member Lowman** said that some Bloomington residents are concerned about how ready the FAA will be to work with recommendations that are brought forward, acknowledging that some statutory items are non-negotiable. He closed his comments by thanking Staff for putting the Special NOC meeting together, noting that it's difficult to work with so many calendars on short notice.

Member Risser said that her biggest concern is for an opportunity for public engagement prior to February meeting. She wondered if outreach could be done at public libraries, perhaps through a group Teams meeting in one of the conference rooms so that community members could attend in person. **Member Risser** noted that the Teams application can be hard to work with.

Member Swanson appreciated the information that was presented and thought the letter was clear in expressing the committee's hopes for the process. He wondered if information that was well-packaged and easy to understand could be sent to residents prior to February 1, 2024.

Co-Chair Jacobson asked staff to reiterate timing and the schedule for the NOC's recommendations going to the FAA.

Ms. Ross said that the preliminary recommendations from the NOC are due to the FAA by February 1, 2024. Any recommendations that are available prior to that date have been requested to be forwarded to the FAA. The FAA will consider recommendations provided by the NOC and adapt their plans, if possible, then conduct an environmental review. The FAA has stated they will hold two public virtual open houses so that FAA can provide packaged materials of easy to digest information for the public to learn about the procedures and any potential impacts expected for MSP and surrounding communities. FAA has stated there will be a 30-day period for public comments after which the FAA will review comments, finalize the procedures, and do the final testing and review of the procedures. Upon FAA approval, the new RNAV procedures are expected to go into effect August 7, 2025.

Co-Chair Jacobson asked if there will be more procedure details available once the environmental review is started and do we have a timeline for when the information will be made public.

Ms. Ross said that specific details about what level of information will be shared has not been provided by the FAA, which is why the draft recommendations recommend transparency and additional opportunities to engage both NOC members and members of the public.

Ms. Nelson said that she thought the comments from Members Lowman, Swanson, and Risser were well captured in the RNAV Procedure Review Sub-Committee's letter to the FAA. **Ms. Nelson** mentioned that the letter recommends that the FAA broaden their public engagement efforts and also requests that the FAA come to an open meeting of the NOC, or some other body, on or before January 3, 2024 to afford the FAA an opportunity to share details about the new procedures. **Ms. Nelson** went on to say that if the FAA is not able to attend a meeting prior to January 3, there will be opportunities for public engagement this summer prior to finalizing the environmental review.

Action Requested:

APPROVE THE RNAV PROCEDURE REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FORWARD THEM TO THE FAA, WITH A COVER LETTER SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES JACOBSON AND BUCKLEY.

Member Lowman moved to approve the motion as stated. The motion was seconded by **Member Bergman**. The motion passed unanimously via a voice vote.

5. Information

There were no information items on the agenda.

6. Announcements

January NOC Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 @ 1:30 p.m.

Location: MAC General Offices, Legends conference room + Teams

NOC Winter Listening Session

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Location: MAC General Offices + Teams

Member Lowman thanked the NOC and MAC Staff for putting this special NOC meeting together, he acknowledged that it can be difficult to get a large group together on such short notice.

7. **Adjourn**

Chair Jacobson thanked the members of the committee, NOC staff, and residents in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.