

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Noise Oversight Committee (NOC)

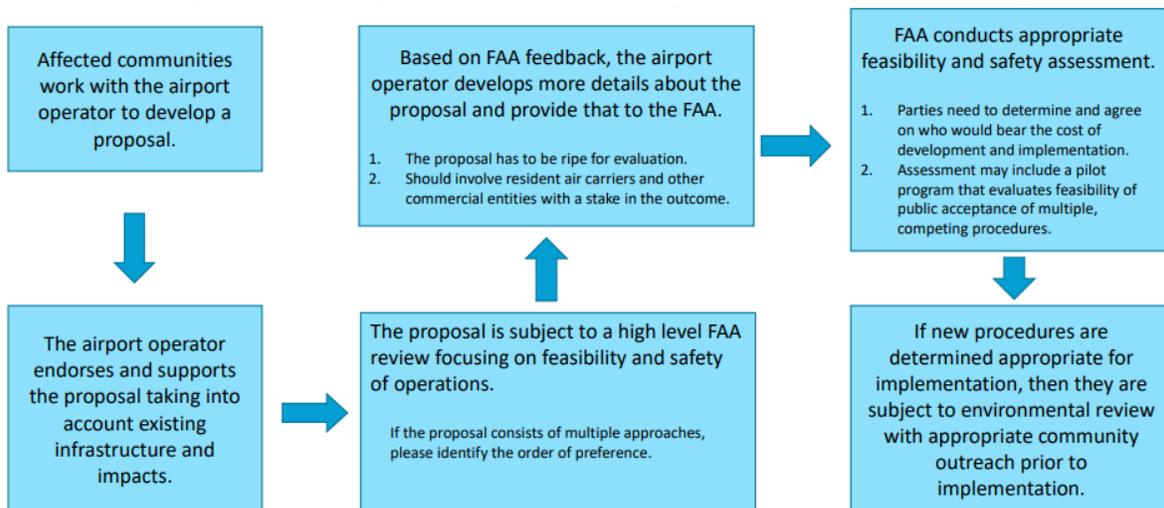


Flight Procedure Change Requests

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) owns seven airports in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, however the authority over aircraft flight procedures rests solely with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Flight procedures are used to maintain an orderly flow of air traffic to and from airports. Systematic procedures are used to guide aircraft in predictable ways and are necessary to reduce conflicts to ensure the surrounding airspace is operating in the safest manner possible.

The process for creating or modifying flight procedures can take several years and involves input and examination by various aspects of the FAA before draft procedures are tested and implemented. This careful vetting and scrutiny are vital because each flight procedure being developed must be able to be flown in concert with other flight procedures to avoid airspace conflicts.

The FAA encourages communities to work together with the MAC for proposals to develop new flight procedures or modify existing procedures when those procedures affect flight operations at MSP. The process identified by the FAA is illustrated below for reference:



In an effort to begin this process, residents requesting a new flight procedure, or changes to an existing procedure, should work with MAC staff to coordinate the request prior to submitting it to the MSP Noise Oversight Committee (NOC).

Flight Procedure Request Details

Requests for new or modified flight procedures will need to consider numerous details. MAC staff will work with residents and resident groups to answer the following information prior to submitting requests to the NOC:

1. Date
2. Name of community sponsor
3. Describe the reason for seeking this flight procedure request
4. Indicate length of time the existing conditions have taken place
5. Describe the proposed flight procedure being requested with as much detail as possible. This detail may include airport runway names, aircraft types, day of week, time of day, unique operating situations or weather conditions.
6. Describe the benefit of the flight procedure being requested.
7. Is this a new flight procedure or a modification to an existing flight procedure?
8. A graphic illustration that shows the existing condition that clearly indicates the affected runways, an illustration of the existing flight procedure, and land uses being overflown by existing flight procedure.
9. A graphic illustration that shows the proposed condition that clearly indicates the affected runways, an illustration of the proposed flight procedure, and land uses being overflown by proposed flight procedure.

NOC Considerations

Requests that are submitted will be shared with NOC members during a regularly scheduled committee meeting. For the request to be endorsed by the NOC, the following areas should be considered. These criteria may be evaluated by the NOC and some may be evaluated by the FAA.

- The request should consider previously established noise abatement procedures.
- The request shall not duplicate a request that was previously evaluated unless circumstances have changed that would materially affect the original decision.
- The request should consider the potential effect on airspace, airport and runway capacity and should not increase either inbound or outbound delay
- The request should consider the noise exposure to residential parcels by comparing existing operations and proposed operations with a goal to decrease the number of residential parcels exposed to higher noise levels.
- The procedure request must be usable by aircraft pilots.
- The FAA must determine that the request is operationally feasible and follow existing FAA regulations regarding air traffic.
- The FAA must determine that the request will maintain the safety of aircraft operations.
- The FAA must determine that the request cannot unduly increase air traffic controller workload.