



St. Paul Downtown Airport Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 3:00 PM

644 Bayfield Street, St. Paul, MN 55107

Saint 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, October 17, 2023, at the STP terminal building. **Chair Weibel** called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM. In attendance were:

Representatives: T. Rehkamp, Hubbard Broadcasting; D. Wagner, Minnesota National Guard; G. Weibel, At-Large Representative; L. Hinsperger, Carlson Companies; J. Fure, District 17 Planning Council – Capitol River; A. Jerve, - City Planner City of St. Paul; A. Wall, Manager - South St. Paul Airport; D. Schaab, District 5 – Payne Phalen; K. Schmaltz, Signature; N. Nix, City of St. Paul; A. Jerve, City of St. Paul

Staff: R. Brown, MAC Administrative Assistant; N. Her, MAC Landside Operations Specialist; A. Kes, MAC Event Coordinator; C. Leque, MAC Vice President – Management and Operations; J. Lewis, MAC Community Relations Coordinator; D. Nelson, MAC Director, Stakeholder Engagement; B. Peterson, MAC Airport Manager – Flying Cloud Airport; M. Ross, Manager, MAC Community Relations; K. Verdeja, MAC Administrative Specialist; M. Wilson, MAC Assistant Director – Field Maintenance

Other: J. Widing, Aviation Planner, Metropolitan Council

1. Introduction and Roll Call

Chair Weibel called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. There was a total of 22 participants.

A quorum of three User Representatives, two Public Representatives and one Government Representative was established.

User Representatives: T. Rehkamp, G. Weibel, L. Hinsperger; D. Wagner; K. Schmaltz

Public Representatives: J. Fure, D. Schaab

Government Representatives: N. Nix, A. Wall

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 18, 2023

Chair Weibel opened the item for discussion, approving the minutes from the April 18, 2023 meeting.

Representative Rehkamp moved and Representative Fury seconded to:

Accept the April 18, 2023 meeting minutes as presented

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Approved 10-15-2024

3. Public Comment Period

Chair Weibel introduced the public comment period and reminded attendees of the ground rules for public comment. There were no public comments.

4. Information Items

a. Recognition

Jennifer Lewis, MAC Community Relations Coordinator, gave an overview of the Downtown Airport Advisory Council's (DAAC) accomplishments. They met four times in two years; April 19, 2022, October 18, 2022, April 18, 2023, and October 17, 2023. The DAAC accomplished review of the annual sound studies in 2022 and 2023 and received updates on aircraft noise complaints and aircraft operations data. The DAAC had a tour of the STP airport in 2022. There were highlights of tenants, and airport updates, including airfield developments and planning overviews. **Ms. Lewis** noted that there will be a presentation to the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to showcase the accomplishments of the Council at the full MAC Board meeting on December 18, 2023.

b. Airport Manager Update

Michele Ross, MAC Manager of Community Relations, explained that **Mike Wilson** has been promoted to Assistant Director – Field Maintenance, and she introduced **Blaine Peterson** as the new STP airport manager. **Ms. Ross** noted that there would be a detailed update at the next meeting in the spring.

Blaine Peterson, Airport Manager – Flying Cloud Airport, introduced himself and noted he would be taking over completely at the St. Paul Downtown Airport on or around November 1. He gave a brief history of his professional background.

Chair Weibel encouraged **Mr. Peterson** to meet with **Co-Chair Fury** in the near future.

c. Aircraft Operations and Noise Complaints Summary Q3 2023

Jennifer Lewis, Community Relations Coordinator, gave an overview of the MAC Reliever Interactive Reports, the MAC FlightTracker, and MACNOMS which stands for Metropolitan Airports Commission Noise and Operations Monitoring System. **Ms. Lewis** shared the link for more details about operations which is available at <https://customers.macnoms.com/reports/>

Ms. Lewis stated there were 9,941 operations and 696 nighttime operations recorded at St. Paul Airport during the quarter. For the same period, there were 87 noise complaints from 14 locations and 19 nighttime complaints from 8 nighttime locations in Q3 2023. **Ms. Lewis** explained the noise complaint location map.

d. Annual STP Sound Study

Michele Ross, Manager of Community Relations, gave an overview and a history of the Annual Sound Study. The purpose of the St. Paul Downtown Airport (STP) Annual Aircraft Sound Study is to evaluate STP aircraft operations and associated noise events occurring in neighborhoods surrounding the airport. The MAC conducts an annual study in accordance with the commitments of the Supplemental Conditions of Agreement for the airport floodwall.

Ms. Ross explained that each study assesses seven consecutive days of aircraft activity and these studies have been conducted each year since 2007. Studies in August include 2010, 2017, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. She also mentioned 2020, 2021, and 2022 studies were field measurement studies that were augmented with an Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) analysis.

Ms. Ross explained the study for STP was conducted August 13-19, 2023 was conducted only using the AEDT analysis as directed by DAAC members during the April 2023 meeting. She reviewed the MACNOMs data for STP Aircraft Activity per Runway during the Study period. Ms. Ross noted that the FAA tower counts for aircraft operations differed from the MACNOMs data and the difference was incorporated into the model.

The 2023 STP Sound Study AEDT analysis results were based on 15 nautical miles around the airport. The study noted sound events that exceeded 65 dBA per day. Ms. Ross compared the numbers from 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. She explained the modeled numbers and how they differed year to year. She also explained the aircraft noise complaints that were filed during the study period and documented in the 2023 STP Sound Study.

Ms. Ross responded to a clarifying question from Chair Weibel comparing the modeling software study results to the measured data. Representative Rehkamp commented that the modeling study information seems like a favorable process. He recommended a field measurement study be conducted in a few years to verify the modeled data. Chair Weibel suggested that modeling studies seem to be the best information. A recommendation was made that the modeling studies be continued for the next two years at STP.

5. Membership Renewal

Jennifer Lewis, **Community Relations Coordinator**, noted that the DAAC representatives' two-year terms expire on 12/31/2023. She asked that members take steps to renew their official appointments as soon as possible and send the renewed or newly appointed representatives' information as soon as they are known to Jennifer Lewis.

6. Member Feedback and Reflection

Vice-Chair Fure thanked MAC Staff and **Chair Weibel** for all of the preparation and hard work.

Representatives Rehkamp and **Hinsperger** also recognized the hard work of MAC staff and of Chair Weibel during his service to the Council.

Chair Weibel offered recommendations to the council members for future meetings. He thanked everyone for their participation and willingness to have open discussions.

7. Set next meeting dates for spring and fall 2024

Chair Weibel polled the group and recommended the next meetings would be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, and October 15, 2024, at 3:00 pm at the St. Paul Downtown Airport.

Chair Weibel adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.