

**Metropolitan Airports Commission – Lake Elmo Airport
Environmental Review Public Event #3
November 6, 2017 – 6:00-8:00 pm
Oak-Land Middle School**



Why does the MAC hold public meetings?

It is essential we receive constructive input, concerns and ideas to assist us in providing an airport that can best serve its purpose and users while reducing its effects on our neighbors. The MAC is committed to facilitating opportunities for public input and to addressing ideas and concerns, to the degree possible, throughout the environmental review process. Ultimately, our job is to provide an airport that meets the needs of our regulatory mandates and the aviation community, while reducing the burden to the local community.



As a reminder, tonight’s public meeting is the third of four offered as part of this project’s environmental review process. A summary of the May 11 and August 17 meetings are below.

May 11, 2017 Introduction to the Environmental Assessment Process

Presentation provided overview of: MAC regulatory responsibilities per FAA and state legislative mandates, Lake Elmo Airport improvements purpose and needs; introduction to analyzing alternatives; the environmental analysis categories; and the stakeholder engagement plan.

August 17, 2017 Purpose & Need and Alternatives

Presentation of: The justification (“Purpose and Need”) for the airport improvements; criteria used to evaluate the design alternatives; introduction to the various design alternatives; and conclusion on the preferred development alternative.

What has been done with input from the community?

- The Frequently Asked Questions were updated on the project website to answer public questions and concerns
- The project team developed design alternatives to address primary 30th Street North concerns (safety and travel time)
- A deeper evaluation was conducted into runway length needs
- Additional personnel and resources have been dedicated to continue improving on meeting facilitation, informational materials, and public input opportunities
- Meetings were held between the project team and local experts on emergency response, individual residents, and community leaders to better understand and address concerns
- A pilot briefing will be held with based pilots to talk about noise abatement strategies

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What role does the MAC play?

The MAC is mandated by the state legislature to oversee the operation and ongoing maintenance of seven metro airports including the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and six reliever airports: St. Paul Downtown, Anoka County-Blaine, Flying Cloud, Airlake, Crystal, and Lake Elmo.

The MAC's responsibilities, among many others, include overseeing the efficient, safe, and economical handling of air commerce throughout the metropolitan aviation system. Much of this work focuses on enhancing safety, complying with federal design standards, and improving operational capabilities for aircraft pilots, consistent with MAC's statutory mandate.

Like most large-scale, public-serving entities, MAC conducts long-term planning every few years. A Long Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) is an infrastructure planning tool that offers a look into the future and acts as a roadmap for future improvements, like runway repairs, structural needs, usage demands, and so on. Following a transparent and participatory planning process that determines which projects to undertake and when, the MAC takes on the role of seeing that environmental and permitting requirements are met and that surrounding communities are involved and heard throughout the project process.

If airport improvements are identified through the LTCP, a federal and/or state environmental review may be necessary to evaluate their environmental effects. Many state and federal rules govern the environmental process. On the federal side, the environmental review is conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and needs to be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. The state environmental review needs to conform to state statutes in accordance with the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act. Given its complexities and scope, environmental review processes often involve the public.

Completion of environmental reviews does not authorize construction. Before any construction can begin, the airport improvements must first be depicted on an FAA-approved Airport Layout Plan and compete for funding through federal and/or state grant programs.