

Boston West Fair Skies October Meeting

November 16th, 2015, 2015 7:00-8:45 p.m.

Somerville Public Library

Auditorium

79 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome. RNAV – NextGen. Identify members from each town. What has happened since the last meeting. Petition on reducing noise equipment for A320 airbus. Report on **No Fly Day** protest. Meeting with the FAA in Milton. Adriana Poole, Belmont (15 min)
2. Update on media and residents reach out effort in N. Cambridge & beyond–Lahra Tillman (10 min). Finding volunteers to print/distribute NFD Flyers in all towns.
3. Identifying your representatives. Organizing action groups in each town. Sarah James (Cambridge) & Liz Patton, Arlington (15 min)
4. Noise monitor update– Kent Johnson (10 min).
5. CAC and Working Group update and presentation of Flight Path Analysis preliminary results. Myron Kassaraba, Belmont CAC Representative (40 min)
6. Discussion (15 min)
7. Next month's meeting & steps. - Adriana. Adjourn – by 8:45 PM

Materials to distribute:

- Agenda
- Glossary of Terms – updated copy
- Officials contact information

FAA:

Michael Huerta - Administrator

Federal Aviation Administration
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Amy Lind Corbett, Regional Administrator

Federal Aviation Administration
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Tom Glynn, CEO

Massachusetts Port Authority

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Stephanie Pollack

Secretary & Chief Executive Officer

Massachusetts Department of Transportation

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Congress:

Congresswoman Katherine Clark

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Washington, DC 20515
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For those in North Cambridge:

Congressman Mike Capuano

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Senator Ed Markey

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Senator Elizabeth Warren

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State Legislators:

Senator Will Brownberger

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TAKING ACTION RE: AIRPLANE NOISE:

SUGGESTIONS FOR TALKING TO YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS

Purpose: To show state legislators that there is growing citizen concern and distress about the increased airplane noise from Logan's Runway 33L, and to urge them to collaborate as a group to pressure Massport to disperse current 33L flight patterns and increase flight elevations over the affected neighborhood.

1. *Identifying your state representative and state senator:*

If you don't already know who these are, go to:

www.openstates.org

At the main page, click on Legislators in the top menu. On the Legislators page, pick Massachusetts in the list of states. there is a box on the right to enter one's address -street and town. This will give both the names of the state rep and state senator for that address.

The contact info - phone, email, and office address for the legislator can then be found at

2. *Set up meetings with your representative and senator*

You can, of course, email each with your concern. But the message will be more powerfully delivered in a face-to-face meeting, and will be the beginning of a relationship with them that will make future contacts and requests carry more weight. If you can meet with the actual legislator, great. But meeting with their staff person is also okay too.

3. *Suggested talking points for the meeting:*

- a) Tell them about the Boston West Fair Skies organization, how it is growing, and that there are growing numbers of concerned citizens in the district who want their legislator to do something about the problem.
- b) Ask them to work with the other legislators from districts affected by 33L Runway noise to jointly demand that MassPort take action to reduce this noise – specifically by dispersing current 33L departures over a broader area of flight paths, and getting airplanes flying over the affected neighborhoods to pass over at a higher altitude. See if you can get a commitment from them to do this or take some kind of action.

If the legislator asks for technical or historical information you do not know, it is better to either get back to them later with the information or refer them to a knowledgeable person, rather than to try to wing it. The important thing is to let them know you are concerned and distressed, and that there are growing numbers of people in their district who are as well.

The legislator may say that this is an FAA issue. You can tell them that there is also a coalition of Congressional representatives called the Quiet Skies Coalition – Reps. Katherine Clarke and Michael Capuano are part of this – and they are working at the national level to bring similar pressure on FAA.

Let us know at BWFC how the meeting went! Thank you for taking action!

Glossary of Terms

ATC – Air Traffic Control: these are the FAA personnel in the tower and other facilities that control the safe movement of aircraft in our skies. ATC is solely responsible for flights once they leave the runway.

BLANS – Boston Logan Airport Noise Study, for more information go to the Massport website: <http://www.bostonoverflightnoisestudy.com/index.aspx>

CATEX – CATegorical EXclusions, refers to a category of actions that the FAA can use to establish or change procedures if they do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment. A CATEX is not an exemption or waiver of NEPA review; it is however a greatly reduced level of NEPA review. As part of the FAA's 2012 reauthorization – implementation of PBN and RNAV can be done under CATEX.

Fair Skies – various coalitions have been formed at state and national level using the “Fair Skies” name; Fair Skies is now associated with citizens grassroots organizations fighting for a more fair noise distribution.

FONSI – Findings Of No Significant Impact. A part of NEPA - a FONSI is issued when environmental analysis and interagency review during the EA process find a project to have no significant impacts on the quality of the environment.

Logan CAC – Logan Community Advisory Committee represents those communities which have authorized representatives and which are, or may be affected by Airport-related aircraft noise, http://www.bostonoverflight.com/study_participants.aspx#CAC. It was formed as part of the BLANS process, it is in Phase 3 and will be dissolved once this phase is completed (projected to be in 2016).

Massport – The Massachusetts Port Authority. The State Agency responsible for the operation of Logan Airport, Hanscom Field, Worcester Regional Airport as well as the Port of Boston.

Massport CAC - a new CAC established in 2013 by the State Legislature to supersede the Logan CAC and which will include also Hanscom, Worcester and the Port Authority. The Massport CAC has 40 communities that can appoint representatives.

NAS – national airspace system

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) was signed into Law in 1970. NEPA established a national environmental policy intentionally focused on Federal activities and the desire for a sustainable environment balanced with other essential needs of present and future generations of Americans.

NextGen - is an umbrella term for the ongoing, wide-ranging transformation of the United States' national airspace system (NAS). At its most basic level, **NextGen** represents an

evolution from a ground-based system of air traffic control to a satellite-based system of air traffic management. Nov 3, 2009 <https://www.faa.gov/nextgen/>

Our Skies National Coalition (OSNC) – a group that was formed in 2015 as an umbrella organization for the various local and regional resident/community advocacy groups throughout the US. OSNC has a representative for each individual local group and is working on providing a more powerful and cohesive voice for airplane noise and pollution issues with Congress and the FAA.

Quiet Skies Caucus – a coalition formed in 2014 by Congresspeople in Washington D.C. Massachusetts is represented by Congresswoman Katherine Clark and Congressman Michael Capuano (who also serves on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Aviation Subcommittee).

RNAV - or Area Navigation is a form of Performance Based Navigation (PBN) that makes use of satellite/GPS routing and waypoints and replaces conventional ground radar and ATC.

Runway 33L – One of six runways at Boston's Logan Airport (BOS). It is used in conjunction with runways 32 and 27 is the airport's North-West configuration (<http://bit.ly/LoganRunwayOperations>). In the winter months (Oct-March), when the winds frequently come from the NW, runway 33L can be used for as many as 3,000 departures per month. In the summer months, this goes down to 1000-1500 (detailed data available here: <http://bit.ly/LoganRunwayUse>). Over the course of 2014, 17% of the planes departing Logan used Runway 33L. Runway 33L was extended to meet safety standards which meant that it was closed for most of the summer in 2011 and 2012 resulting in a lower % of use in those years.

Since 33L RNAV was implemented in June of 2013, departing flights travel to a waypoint in Medford and then follow one of four narrow GPS-guided paths to their destinations. One path continues northwest over Somerville and then Winchester – the other three paths head southwest and traverse Somerville, Arlington, parts of Cambridge continuing over Belmont and then Watertown. Some have called these RNAV flight paths "Highways in the Sky". These are the communities united under the Boston West Fair Skies coalition fighting a more fair distribution of noise generated by the changes that have been implemented at part of 33L RNAV.

SOP – Standard Operating Procedure