

FAA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS CONDUCTING PUBLIC HEARINGS

PLEASE READ IN FULL

CONCENTRATED FLIGHT PATHS COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON YOUR HEALTH AND THE VALUE OF YOUR HOME OR THOSE IN YOUR COMMUNITIES.

The FAA has just announced that it will be conducting workshops to obtain public comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment related to the implementation of Denver Metroplex. Denver Metroplex pertains to the proposed NEW CONCENTRATED flight paths of commercial flights into DIA over established communities including those located to the west, northwest and southwest of DIA. In Southern California due to implementation of Metroplex, long established communities are now experiencing commercial flights overhead every two minutes.

The workshop dates will be over a period of three weeks commencing April 29th and ending on May 16th. The location of the workshops has been announced (see below regarding one anticipated location). Please go to the FAA website below for locations.

The FAA states on its website that the “anticipated” release of the Draft Environmental Assessment is April 22nd.

Denver Metroplex relates to NEW (not existing) concentrated flight paths over established residential communities rather than the current dispersed flight paths. The primary purpose is safety, efficiency and fuel savings. The safety portion of the plan can be implemented with or without concentrated flight paths.

The public will have one week or less to review and prepare comments before the first workshop. All public comments must be submitted by June 6, 2019 and it is unclear whether the FAA will accept written comments submitted after the last workshop. The public is directed to look at the Denver Metroplex project website for updates on the release of the Draft Environmental Assessment and the locations of the workshops. (See below for website address).

If this process follows all other jurisdictions where Metroplex has been instituted the “Draft Environmental Assessment” will not be an in depth analysis of the impact of Metroplex on communities around Denver. Instead it will be a finding of “No Significant Impact”. This finding is determined by plugging numbers into an algorithm (developed by the FAA together with representatives of the aviation industry) rather than an analysis of the specifics of the applicable region. A finding of “No Significant Impact” exempts the FAA from conducting an actual environmental impact assessment.

In other parts of the country the adverse impact of noise and air pollution from the implementation of Metroplex has resulted in significant litigation. In response, Congress recently passed bi-partisan legislation requiring the FAA, among other things, to evaluate the

health implications of the Metroplex program arising from both noise and air pollution. (This was BI-PARTISAN legislation that was signed by the President. It was not controversial).

To that end the FAA has created “PARTNER”, which stands for Partnership for Air Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction. One of the scientific papers listed as a source by PARTNER predicts that by 2050 there will be more than a 12 fold increase in mortality rates arising from ischemic heart disease, stroke, COPD and lung cancer attributable to the increased emissions of the aviation sector. That is an increase in the number of DEATHS, not an increase in the number of people diagnosed with these health issues.

Studies regarding the health impact of noise appear to have been commissioned by the FAA but have not been completed. Other non FAA initiated studies show that aviation noise causes and contributes to cardiac disease and depression and significantly lowers the test scores of children living in homes or going to schools impacted by aviation noise.

Why is the FAA proceeding to implement Metroplex in our region notwithstanding the Congressional action requiring the FAA to conduct studies into adverse health impacts associated with aviation noise and pollution? Perhaps the FAA will clarify their decision at the public workshops. Until the results of these studies are known it is common sense, in the interest of public safety, to continue flights into DIA along the existing flight paths. It makes no sense to concentrate both noise and pollution over established single and multi-family residences, parks, hospitals and schools that have never in the past experienced significant flight noise or pollution. DIA was placed far to the east of Denver so that the adverse impact of noise and pollution would not impact existing communities along the front range.

WHAT NOW?

Please attend one of the public workshops. For residents of Arapahoe County including Cherry Hills Village, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Centennial, Sheridan and Englewood we are requesting that folks attend the May 2nd public workshop (5:00 -7:00 pm). From information garnered at this meeting, the public will be better informed for purposes of the next three meetings in Arapahoe County. Concerned residents should try to attend at least one of the public workshops in order to register their questions and objections, as applicable.

As many of you know Centennial Airport is strongly opposed to Denver Metroplex. Based upon the data they have reviewed to date it will adversely impact the safety of general aviation aircraft and increase the noise of general aviation on our communities. We are in the process of setting up a website to update interested individuals.

Several folks who have been studying these issues will be working on a list of questions that citizens may want to ask the FAA in the upcoming workshops. Please alert friends and neighbors. Unlike other communities, the Denver region is not going to be caught off guard. Perhaps the FAA will make health and safety of our communities a priority over fuel savings.

Alternatively, as one commercial aviation lobbyist said, some communities will simply become “collateral damage”.

None of our long established communities in the Denver metropolitan area should become noise and pollution ghettos to satisfy the FAA and the commercial aviation industries’ desire to reduce fuel costs or flight delays.

FAA Website is set forth above.

www.faa.gov/nextgen_near_you/community_involvement/den/

[Arapahoe County Workshops:](#)

[May 2nd Public Workshop Aurora Municipal Center -Building Lobby
15151 East. Alameda Parkway Aurora](#)

[May 7th Public Workshop City of Centennial Community Room
7272 South Eagle St. Centennial](#)

[May 8th Public Workshop Cherry Creek High Scholl
9300 East Union Ave. Greenwood Village](#)

[May 9th Public Workshop Arapahoe Community College, Half Moon Room
5900 South Santa Fe Drive Littleton](#)

[Please join me and others in looking for common sense solutions that protect the health safety and welfare of our communities.](#)

[Laura Christman](#)

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter

Laura Christman