

NOISE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO INSURE A SOUND-CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT
The National Aviation Noise Lobby • An Affiliate of the National League of Cities

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MINNESOTA AIRPORTS COMMISSION TO SCALE BACK NOISE PROGRAM

The Metropolitan Airports Commission is set to consider a committee's recommendation to scale back a planned noise insulation program affecting about 5,000 Minneapolis homes. Officials at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport said financial priorities that shifted toward security after the Sept. 11 attacks make it necessary to cut back on planned spending on noise reduction. But Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak said the sound insulation is an overdue promise the commission made six years ago, when it planned an airport expansion that's now under construction. Rybak said Minneapolis may go to court if the airports commission decides to change the plan to insulate the homes. In addition to the Minneapolis homes, another 1,000 houses in Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, and Eagan will be affected by the commission's decision.

From The Associated Press, July 19, 2004

\$18 MILLION TO AID BUYOUT PROGRAM IN LOUISVILLE, KY

Representative Anne Northup (R-Kentucky), the 2004 NOISE Legislator of the Year, announced on March 15 that the Federal Aviation Administration will commit \$18 million this year, in addition to \$5 million in state funds, to buy 150 homes affected by noise from traffic at Louisville International Airport. This will nearly complete the Louisville buyout program, leaving about 148 houses remaining to be purchased.

Congresswoman Northup met with FAA officials and helped persuade them to commit significant dollars to speed the buyout. She said Louisville is in a unique situation because the airport is more of a cargo hub, with the United Parcel Service Worldport operation, than a passenger hub. "We make the emphatic points that Louisville is impacted by noise and does not have the passenger (money) to generate its own dollars to solve the problems," Northup said. Airport spokeswoman Rande Swann and Skip Miller, the airport general manager, said the \$18 million is a significant amount, and they credited Northup, who since being elected in 1996 has helped secure more than \$75 million to relocate airport neighbors. "It will greatly accelerate our ability to meet our commitment to the community," Miller said.

Parkway Village Councilmember Mary Rose Evans, president of the Airport Neighbors Alliance and a NOISE member, called the FAA commitment "wonderful news" because it will help move people affected by noise created by the airport expansion during the 1990s. "Moving these residents as soon as possible is the right thing to do," she said. "They have been suffering for years."

From The Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY

LOS ANGELES AIRPORT IMPROVES INTERNET TRACKING SYSTEM

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) recently enhanced the popular Internet flight-tracking system on the airport's website that provides residents of neighboring communities concerned about aircraft noise with information on planes landing and taking off at LAX. AirportMonitor, designed for LAX by Greenwich, Connecticut-based Megadata Corporation, was launched on the airport's website (www.lawa.org) during April 2002. With the recent upgrade, users can view air traffic and flight information in near-live and replay modes – up to a distance of 80 miles from the airport – from any Internet connection, and includes such advanced features as enhanced map zoom detail, pause and resume, fast forward, and color coding for flights to and from multiple nearby airports.

The tracking program is heavily used, being accessed approximately 40,500 times each month since it launched. Michael DiGirolamo, deputy executive director for airports operations and noise management at Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) said, "These new enhancements to our popular Internet flight-tracking program demonstrates our continuing commitment to provide residents in neighboring communities with the means to quickly identify and report to airport operations, the airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration aircraft operations that do not comply with established flight procedures." Information on AirportMonitor is available through Megadata Corporation at:

www.passur.com.

Los Angeles World Airports Press Release

NASA BUDGET INCLUDES FUNDS FOR NOISE REDUCTION DEVELOPMENT

The Fiscal Year 2005 budget proposal for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) includes an 11% funding increase for the Vehicle Systems Program. The VS program is focused on developing new technologies to enhance capabilities for future aircraft.

These technologies, when implemented, will reduce nitrous oxide emissions to reduce pollution near airports and in the lower atmosphere, reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and reduce aircraft noise. This research will help to reduce overall environmental impact as air traffic increases. Research on technologies to enable new vehicle concepts, such as High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Operated Aircraft (ROA) support the NASA science missions and increase quality of life for U.S. citizens.

Testimony of NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, 3/11/2004, and NASA 2005 Budget Summary

LUFTHANSA SAYS IT IS A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL CARE

By operating especially fuel-efficient, low-emission and quiet aircraft, Deutsche Lufthansa AG again achieved a further reduction in fuel consumption per passenger in 2003. On average, the Lufthansa Group's fleets needed only .02 gallons of fuel for every passenger per mile. With a consumption rate of .014 gallons per passenger mile, the new Airbus A340-600 is the world's longest and Lufthansa's most fuel-efficient aircraft.

Rising fuel prices are not the only parameter that today's airlines have to take into consideration, as many airports charge fees based on measured aircraft noise. For this reason, the new Airbus A330-300, which will be operated on Lufthansa scheduled services from March 16, 2004, features optimum noise-emission reduction equipment. The airline chose the Trent 772B engine, manufactured by Rolls-Royce, the quietest propulsion system for this type of aircraft currently available. Wolfgang Mayrhuber, Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO Deutsche Lufthansa AG, said: 'Environmental protection and sustainability, underpinned by investment in innovation, are an integral element of our corporate strategy.'

All Lufthansa aircraft fly more quietly than required by the current noise limits issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Today, 88 percent of Lufthansa aircraft meet the ICAO's more stringent noise standards, which will be introduced in 2006 for brand new aircraft. Furthermore, Lufthansa and the German Aerospace Center are co-operating in the 'Quiet Aircraft' interdisciplinary research program, which is investigating how to make today's aircraft even quieter. Lufthansa's regional airline, CityLine, was recognized for its significant contribution to reducing noise when Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport awarded it First Prize for Noise Abatement in 2003. In 2003, Lufthansa joined 'Global Compact,' the 'Good Corporate Citizenship' initiative of Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation. This move, underscores the airline's continued commitment to meeting its responsibilities with regard to environmental and social concerns, in addition to economic aspects, in order to secure its long-term growth.

Deutsche Lufthansa Corporate Communications, 3/12/2004

NOISE LEGISLATION TRACKER

Bill	Title	Sponsor	Cosponsor(s)	Status
H.R. 475	Quiet Communities Act (2/14/2003)	Rep. Lowey (NY)	20	Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials 2/14/03; referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Aviation 1/30/03.
	Would reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency.			
H.R. 586	Aeronautics Research and Revitalization Act (2/5/2003)	Rep. Larson (CT)	28	Referred to the House Committee on Science's Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics 2/20/03.
	Would institute an initiative to develop technologies that will enable future aircraft with significantly lower noise.			
S. 309	Aeronautics Research and Development Revitalization Act (2/5/2003)	Sen. Allen (VA)	Sen. Dodd (CT)	Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 2/5/03.
	Would institute an initiative to develop technologies that will enable future aircraft with significantly lower noise.			
H.R. 592	National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act (2/6/2003)	Rep. Lipinski (IL)	11	Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Aviation 2/6/03.
	Would expand aviation capacity at Chicago O'Hare.			
S. 83	National Aviation Capacity Expansion Act (1/7/2003)	Sen. Durbin (IL)	15	Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation 1/7/03.
	Would expand aviation capacity at Chicago O'Hare.			
S. 824 / H.R. 2115	Aviation Investment and Revitalization Vision Act (6/12/2003)	Rep. Young (AK) Sen. McCain (AZ)	3/3	Passes by House and Senate; sent to Conference
	Reauthorizes the FAA			
S.AMDT 913	Amendment to the Aviation Investment and Revitalization Vision Act (6/12/2003)	Sen. Craig (WY)	-	Passed by voice vote in the Senate (6/12/2003)
	Provides for public access to noise exposure maps, especially when purchasing homes near airports. Places tighter restrictions on the Jackson Hole airport to reduce noise issues in Grand Teton Nation Park			