



January 13, 2012

Oversight Committee
Airport Cooperative Research Program
Keck Center of the National Academies
Transportation Research Board
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: Focus Area for ACRP Fiscal Year 2013 Program

Dear Committee Members:

The Los Angeles International Airport/Community Noise Roundtable (Roundtable) is an organization that consists of several participating governmental entities, elected officials, community groups, the airlines, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Los Angeles World Airports. These parties work together to identify noise issues that affect communities surrounding LAX and to seek feasible solutions to reduce noise over those affected communities without shifting noise from one area to another.

The Roundtable acknowledges that the Oversight Committee of the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) is currently accepting suggestions for the focus area of the fiscal year 2013 program and that the focus area intends to draw specific attention to an airport-functional area that either has not been adequately addressed in ACRP research or is currently or will soon be facing significant challenges. We would like to take this opportunity to suggest Airspace Redesign as the focus area for the FY2013 program.

The highly congested airspace in Southern California currently causes flight delays at several airports and may not be able to accommodate future air traffic growth. The FAA is currently planning to redesign the Southern California airspace in an effort to improve efficiency and to relieve congestion. The Roundtable supports the FAA in this effort, but is also concerned about some of the implications that the airspace redesign project has on the communities based on the adverse community reactions from a similar redesign project occurring on the east coast. We are also concerned about the increasing traffic that may affect all of the communities. For instance, in order to improve airspace efficiency, the FAA may need to develop multiple departure headings to allow for greater throughput or create flight paths that would allow aircraft to fly on a more direct route. These changes may potentially cause aircraft to fly over residential areas that were not previously exposed to aircraft overflights and may shift noise from one community to another.

We suggest the Committee focus research on airspace redesign issues, as they may present challenges for many stakeholders, and encourage researchers to find ways that will allow airport operating agencies, communities, and the FAA to work together during the airspace redesign process to improve efficiency while reducing noise exposure without shifting noise from one community to another.

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Thank you for this opportunity to express our interest in ACRP's future research. If you wish to contact us for further information, please address your correspondence to the LAX/Community Noise Roundtable, c/o Los Angeles World Airports, 1 World Way, P.O. Box 92216, Los Angeles, CA 90009-2216, Attention: Kathryn Pantoja, or call Ms. Pantoja at 424-646-6501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denny Schneider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Denny Schneider, Chairman
LAX/Community Noise Roundtable