LAX/COMMUNITY NOISE ROUNDTABLE

Recap of the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2022

In conformity with Assembly Bill 361 Section 3(e)3 and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Roundtable meeting was conducted via video conference using the Web Ex platform.

Roundtable Members Present
Denny Schneider, Chair, Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion
Jeff Moskin, 1st Vice Chair, Raintree Condo & Townhouse Association
Richard Montgomery, 2nd Vice Chair, City of Manhattan Beach
Carl Jacobson, City of El Segundo
Mayra Guevara, City of Los Angeles – Council District 10
Henry Lo, City of Monterey Park
Robert Nemeth, City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Martin Ruben, North Westdale Neighborhood Association
Keith Eich, San Gabriel Valley COG
Jim Reed, 360 at Southbay HOA
Jeff Camp, United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council
Jacqueline Hamilton, U.S. House Representative – 37th District
Brad Vanderhoof, West Hills Neighborhood Council
Timi Romolini, Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council
Rene Spencer, Los Angeles World Airports

FAA Present
Carlette Young, Acting Senior Advisor
Regan Rasband, LA District General Manager
Michael Wilson, Community Engagement Officer
Joseph Bert, OSG Aviation Technical Supervisor
Kyle Thompson, Western Flight Procedures Team Manager

Airlines Present
United Airlines – Alison Kehrer
Spirit Airlines – Carl Stallone
AeroLogic Airlines – Maximilian Weilbach

Guest
Geoff Thompson

LAWA and Consultant Staff Present
David Chan, Secretary, LAWAla
Esteban Moledo, Virtual Meeting Host, LAWA
Gene Reindel, Facilitator, HMMH
Mariano Sarrate, Scribe, HMMH

A quorum of the members was present.
1. Welcome/Review of the Meeting Format

Welcoming of the Roundtable membership and the public occurred at 1:37 pm. The meeting was conducted similar to in-person meetings with the Chair running the meeting with assistance from the Facilitator. The public was provided with a phone number for public comment. General public comment was invited as scheduled on Agenda Item 3.

2. Call to order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Identification of Those Present

The meeting was officially called to order at 1:42 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum occurred during Agenda Item 6.

3. Comments from the Public

No requests for public comments were made during this agenda item.

4. Recognition of Geoff Thompson’s Efforts and Contributions to the Roundtable

The Chair informed the Roundtable of Geoff Thompson’s change in employment and promotion to Deputy Chief of Staff for LA Council District (CD) 4. This change resulted in his departure as a representative for CD 11 (Roundtable member). He participated as a guest for today’s meeting representing CD 4, which is not a current member of the Roundtable. Denny noted that Geoff will receive a certificate of appreciation that recognizes his valuable contributions and efforts.

Two members of the public provided comments. A Culver City resident and former Roundtable member advocated for Geoff remaining on the Roundtable and cited his efforts on the proposed north downwind arrival modification. The second public commenter accused LAWA of ousting Geoff Thompson and praised his valuable efforts on the Roundtable.

Roundtable member discussion ensued. The Roundtable members expressed deep gratitude for Geoff’s efforts and intense frustration on his departure from the Roundtable. Members also questioned the efficacy of the Roundtable without Geoff’s skillset.

The Chair requested that a solution to Geoff’s membership be discussed in agenda item 9. However, a few solutions were presented during Agenda Item 4. The Chair called for a By-Laws Ad Hoc Committee meeting for the following Monday to determine a means to reinstate Geoff as a voting member of the Roundtable. It was also suggested that the membership request CD 11 to temporarily assign Geoff as its representative until the by-laws amendment, if such means were to be used, could be approved to have Geoff reinstated; this temporary assignment by CD 11 would allow Geoff to return sooner than the timeline required to change the by-laws.

5. Briefing on UC Davis Noise Symposium

Robert Nemeth, Roundtable Member, briefed the Roundtable on the UC Davis Noise and Emissions Symposium held earlier in the month. Robert represented the Roundtable at the Symposium and attended many of the sessions virtually. Robert reported on sessions that featured future noise levels from electric powered aircraft, alternative noise metrics, and community outreach. The Chair commented that the Symposium is an excellent event and encouraged all members to attend in the future.

Michael Wilson, FAA Community Engagement Officer, introduced all of the FAA members present at the Roundtable. He then passed it over to Kyle Thompson, Western Flight Procedures Team Manager, to present the Instrument Flight Procedure (IFP) Gateway. All flight procedure changes require the use of the IFP process, which begins with the suggested changes being entered into the IFP Gateway.

The IFP process includes a feasibility study, a validation process, a design process, an environmental and community engagement process, a development and quality control process, a flight inspection stage, and a publication process.

The FAA requires the Roundtable’s recommendations for procedure changes like the LADYJ departure modification and the JUUSE waypoint relocation to use the IFP Gateway. The FAA does not require the Roundtable’s North Downwind Option B recommendation to be entered in the Gateway as Option B does not involve proposing a new or modified procedure, but rather uses other existing procedures.

The IFP gateway phases were discussed along with estimated timelines for each of the phases. The specific timeline ranges from 45 days to 4 months for each phase and an entire IFP process can take over 2.5 years. Preliminary reviews, as undertaken between the Roundtable and the FAA, may help identify a problem with an IFP request before a formal review stage is undertaken; and could reduce the time of the first phase, feasibility, of the IFP process.

A public speaker asked about the North Downwind Option B process.

Roundtable member discussion ensued covering the environmental review process, the airport’s role and responsibility relating to the IFP process, and other related items.

The FAA informed the Roundtable that they intend to provide an update to the Option B and the LADYJ requests at the next regular meeting of the Roundtable.

7. Result of FAA’s Preliminary Assessment of JUUSE Waypoint Relocation Request

Michael Wilson introduced Joseph Bert, FAA, to update the Roundtable on the status of the Roundtable recommendation to relocate the JUUSE waypoint. The JUUSE waypoint lies within the IRNMN arrival procedure. The proposal was to move the JUUSE waypoint south/southwest from its current location to provide noise relief for Santa Monica Canyon and Pacific Palisades residents. The FAA showed how moving the waypoint would result in the movement of the arrival flight path from the coastline to Santa Monica Airport. The FAA presented the demographics of the areas that lie under both the current and the proposed flight paths and noted that the proposed flight path will likely cause aircraft to fly over more residential areas. The proposed modification of the flight procedure is technically feasible.

Roundtable member discussion ensued noting that the Roundtable will have to review the FAA’s preliminary assessment, as presented, and determine how best to proceed.

8. Discussion on Returning to In-Person Meetings

David Chan, Roundtable Secretary, initiated the discussion on returning to in-person meetings. David noted that people are returning to work in office settings and attending City Council meetings in person. If the meetings return to an in-person format, the meetings would occur on the third Wednesday of every other month at the LAX Samuel Greenberg Board Room in the Clifton A. Moore Administration Building at 6:30 pm. Proof of vaccination, or a
negative Covid-19 test, and masks would be required at this time for attendees to enter the building.

Roundtable member discussion ensued. An analysis was requested to compare attendance rates of in-person meetings vs. virtual meetings. A hybrid meeting option was suggested as a means to allow flexibility. Mr. Chan noted that LAWA is working with limited resources and cannot accommodate hosting hybrid meetings.

The membership then suggested looking into the possibility of continuing with the virtual meetings and requested a legal review of the Brown Act to determine if continuing the virtual meetings is a possibility when the State of Emergency order is lifted and Assembly Bill 361 no longer applies. Mr. Chan suggested delaying the in-person meetings to at least September to revisit this discussion.

A public commenter stated that most of the members and public would be well served with continuing to host meetings virtually.

The Roundtable approved through acclamation to meet virtually for the July 2022 meeting, which requires two special meetings prior to the July meeting to vote to continue meeting virtually.

9. Roundtable Member Discussion

The Chair restated his suggestion from Agenda Item 4 to hold a by-laws ad hoc meeting to consider amending the by-laws to retain Geoff Thompson as a Roundtable member.

10. Review of Roundtable Action Items

The Facilitator reviewed the formal actions and member requests.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 pm. The special meetings required to continue meeting virtually are scheduled at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 and Wednesday, July 13, 2022 with the next regular meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 1:30 pm.