Reduce Airport Noise and the Environmental Impacts of the Airport

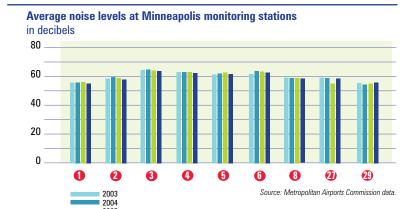
The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) plays an important role in our region's economy and livability. But the airport also changes the environment, producing noise and air pollution, affecting the quality of life for nearby residents.

Target

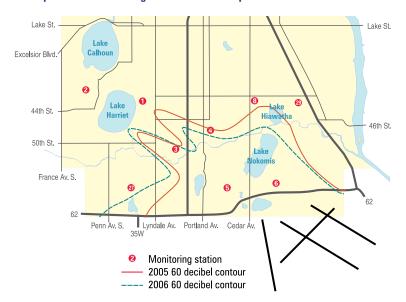
Reduce the average noise levels by at least three decibels, the minimum change that is perceptible to the average person's ear, from 2004 levels at all nine monitored locations in Minneapolis.

Trend Analysis

Despite a 10.6-percent reduction in airplane flights from 2005 to 2006 and a continued phasing out of older planes, noise levels in Minneapolis have not significantly declined. Use of the new north-south runway was lower than projected, resulting in heavier use of runways that direct traffic over southwest Minneapolis neighborhoods.



Airport noise monitoring stations in Minneapolis



Source: Metropolitan Airports Commission data.

Use of the new north-south runway was lower than projected in 2006, resulting in heavier use of runways that direct airplanes and airplane noise over neighborhoods in southwest Minneapolis

Recent City and Community Activities

- Continued litigation to compel the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) to provide sound insulation for homeowners who are impacted by noise levels of 60 to 64 decibels and were promised insulation packages.
- Measured local noise levels with noise consultants in order to separate airport noise from background levels during both the night and day.
- Partnered with other communities to develop and host two "Airport 101" sessions for local and state elected officials.
- Advocated for and gained agreement with the MAC to start monitoring and reporting minutes above certain noise thresholds at each of the MAC's noise monitoring stations.
 www.macnoise.com/opreports
- Advocated with the MAC for noise abatement measures to help manage day-to-day noise at the airport.
- Advocated for a statewide aviation strategy at the Minnesota Legislature and with the U.S. Congress.

Web Links & Resources

Metropolitan Airports Commission www.mspairport.com/mac

To file a noise complaint visit www.macnoise.com/complaint or call 612-726-9411.

Residents Opposed to Airport Racket (ROAR) and South Metro Airport Action Council (SMAAC) www.quiettheskies.org