

October 12, 2015

Honorable Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

In September 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) modified flight paths associated with Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport in its effort to streamline departures and arrivals using Next Generation Air Transportation (NextGen) satellite-based navigation. This decision, though well intentioned, has sharply increased the number of residents adversely affected by aircraft noise. As the FAA considers additional flight path revisions through the Metroplex Project for Sky Harbor and other Arizona airports, we strongly urge you to work closely with the affected communities and their leaders to mitigate the impact.

If the primary goal of the Phoenix Metroplex Project is to improve the efficiency of aircraft arrival and departure procedures to and from various airports, then engaging the affected jurisdictions in a meaningful way will greatly enhance the project outcome. Metroplex Project airports such as: Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX), Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (IWA), Scottsdale Airport (SDL), Deer Valley Airport (DVT), Falcon Field Airport (FFZ), Glendale Municipal Airport (GEU), Phoenix Goodyear Airport (GYR), and Tucson International Airport (TUS) all have dedicated locally elected officials and staff that serve as a valuable resource for not only providing data, but also ensuring the legitimate concerns of their residents are addressed.

Arizona's cities and towns have a reputation for problem-solving collaboration and are prepared to work with you to help you achieve successful implementation. They know their constituencies well and are better positioned to report on how flight path changes affect neighborhoods. Without municipal input, your administration may unintentionally miss some key data that would be adverse to the quality of life for many residents and potentially cause unnecessary grief for airports and air carriers. We encourage you to directly engage with them as you proceed with the project.

Sincerely,



Ken Strobeck
Executive Director