

FAA and AICA Noise Policy Review Webinar

A Community Engagement Example

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ANE Symposium 2024



Agenda



- ▶ Ideation
- ▶ The Webinar
- ▶ Perspectives
- ▶ Learnings
- ▶ Looking Forward

Ideation - Don



- ▶ When planning our engagement for the Noise Policy Review, a critical component was engaging with community stakeholders
- ▶ The views of communities are important to the FAA and Community groups deserve engagement from FAA on national policy that impacts them
- ▶ Scaling a meaningful dialogue for a national project such as NPR at the individual community level wasn't practical or manageable in a fair consistent manner
- ▶ We created the 4-part webinar series (which are also included on our website) to address this need, but as we completed the webinars, it was clear more dialogue was needed

Ideation - ANE



Aviation Noise & Emissions Symposium: May 2-4, 2023

- ▶ **Keynote – FAA Noise Policy Review**
 - Don Scata, Manager Noise Division (AEE-100)

- ▶ **Informal and Impromptu Lunch**

- ▶ **Is It Time to Retire a 30-Year-Old Aviation Single Noise Metrics?**
 - Dr. Cindy Christiansen, Aviation-Impacted Communities Alliance (AICA)

- ▶ **FAA Community Engagement Scorecard – Is the FAA’s Community Engagement Improving?**
 - Darlene Yaplee, Aviation-Impacted Communities Alliance (AICA)

Ideation - Darlene



Submit a meaningful Noise Policy Review comment – community perspective

Build on the 4-part FAA Noise Policy Review webinars

Informed by FAA Foundational Elements, FAA SEC. 173 & 188, and AICA Metrics Report

Probe areas of concern: e.g., ASNA, General Aviation, health, and non-retroactive policy, etc.

Use DRAFT FAA and AICA webinar document to refine questions & clarify for deeper responses

Ideation – Darlene Cont.



FAA Metrics Report 2020

Table 1. Noise Metrics

	Noise Level	Time of Day	Number of Events
L _{eq}	✓		✓
DNL	✓	✓	✓
L _{Aeq} (hr) (e.g. 16hr, 8hr)	✓	✓	✓
L _{den}	✓	✓	✓
CNEL	✓	✓	✓
SEL and CSEL	✓		
L _{max}	✓		
PSF ^a	✓		
NA ^b	✓		✓
TA ^c	✓		
Time Audible ^d	✓		

The Webinar - Purpose



Discuss the FAA Noise Policy Review framework and to facilitate the submission of meaningful comments by members of local communities who are substantially affected by aircraft noise and noise impacts.

The Webinar - Format



FAA Noise Policy Review - FAA and AICA Panel Discussion July 13, 2023 – hosted via Zoom, 6:30-8:30pm ET

▶ **Panelists for FAA:**

- Don Scata, *Manager Noise Division (AEE-100)*
- Krystyna Bednarczyk, *Environmental Policy Advisory, Environmental Policy Division (AEE-400)*

▶ **Panelists for AICA:**

- Darlene Yaplee – *Co-founder, President*
- Dr. Cindy Christiansen – *Co-founder, Chief Technology Officer*
- Amy McCoy – *Founding Member, Groton Ayer Buzz, GA Liaison*

▶ **Moderators for Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS)**

- Kayla Mack, *Commissioner*
- Moira Caruso, *Commissioner and Strategy Officer*

The Webinar - Attendees

- ▶ Over 111 individuals and 55 community groups
- ▶ FAA noise policy team members



FAA Group Attendee List	
FAA - National Engagement and Regional Administration (ARA) FAA - Noise Division, Office of Environment and Energy	
AICA Group Attendee List	
<p>National aiREFORM Aviation-Impacted Communities Alliance Citizens for Quiet Skies Quiet Communities, Inc. Sky Justice National Network</p> <p>State/Local Airport Impact Relief Incorporated (AIR Inc.), MA Airport Concerned Citizens (ACC) of Georgetown, TX Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion (ARSAC), CA ATL Neighbors Needing Quiet Skies (ANNQS), GA BOS Fair Skies, MA Bucks Residents for Responsible Airport Management (BRRAM), PA Citizens Against Runway Expansion (C.A.R.E.), CA Citizens for Airpark Safety, MD Charlotte Airport (CLT) Community Roundtable, NC Concerned Residents of Palo Alto, CA FAiR Chicago, IL FumeFighters United VNY, CA GrotonAyerBuzz of Ayer, MA Keep It Down Up There, CA Keystone Point Neighborhood Association, FL King County International Airport Community Coalition (KCIACC), WA Logan Aircraft Noise Working Group, MA Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC), CA Lower Makefield Township Trenton-Mercer Airport Review Panel, PA Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition, MD</p>	<p>State/Local (cont.) Oregon Aviation Watch, OR Plane Sense 4 Long Island, NY Quiet Florida, FL Quiet Skies, AL Quiet Skies Boulder County, CO Quiet Skies Coalition, WA Quiet Skies LA, CA Quiet Skies La Jolla/San Diego, CA Quiet Skies Lake Arrowhead, CA Quiet Skies Maui, HI Quiet Skies Over Arapahoe County, CO QuietskiesPacifica94044, CA Quiet Skies Puget Sound, WA Quiet Skies Santa Monica Mountains, CA Quiet Skies Woodland Hills, CA Save Our Skies East Bay (S.O.S.E.B.), CA Save Our Skies LA (SOSLA), CA Sierra Club, Hawai'i Island Group, HI Sky Justice Miami, FL Sky Posse Los Altos, CA Sound Defense Alliance (S.D.A.), WA Southern Maryland Fair Skies Coalition, MD Stop the Chop, NY/NJ Studio City for Quiet Skies, CA Sunnyvale/Cupertino – Save My Sunny Skies, CA 10,000 Hawks, CT Trenton Threatened Skies, NJ Twin Cities Metro Airport Neighbors for Change, MN UproarLA, CA Vashon Island Fair Skies, WA</p>

The Webinar - Planning Meetings



	FMCS	AICA	FAA
Kickoff - 6/9/23 •Goals, level of dialogue, roles, format	X	X	X
FMCS & AICA - 6/14/23 •Community perspective	X	X	
FAA x AICA x FMCS Dialogue - 6/30/23 •Initial questions, agreement on format, draft invitation	X	X	X
Prep Meeting #1 - 7/5/23 •Invitation, run of show, discussion protocol	X	X	X
Prep Meeting #2 - 7/12/23 •Tech run	X	X	X

The Webinar - Protocols



- ▶ FMCS served as impartial moderators and led the discussion
 - Questions to FAA and AICA
- ▶ No press was present
- ▶ Recordings of any kind were not allowed
- ▶ Prepared questions and live follow up questions
 - Five categories: metrics and thresholds, applicability/retroactivity, health effects, external engagement, and accessibility
- ▶ Both parties took notes. AICA's notes served as the document reviewed and edited for the purpose of reaching consensus on a single document*

*Due to the timing of the end of the comment period, AICA published their notes after considering feedback from FAA.

Statement of Goals - Don



- ▶ Continue the conversations FAA started as part of our webinar series. FAA saw a progression of the questions that were received at each webinar, and questions were getting deeper and more substantive as the webinars went on. The goal is to continue this discussion and continue to answer deeper and more substantive questions.
- ▶ Have a positive and useful dialogue that helps communities to prepare useful comments on the NPR.
- ▶ Conduct a transparent and inclusive process and this is part of that effort. What does that mean? FAA did our best to write the Federal Register Notice (FRN) in a way that was understandable to lay people, created a companion paper and video series to explain the technical issues in more accessible ways, translated materials into Spanish and soon Mandarin Chinese, but have struggled to find a way to have a dialog with community groups at scale. This event represents an opportunity to address meeting with community groups at scale including over 70 different groups from across the US.

Statement of Goals - Darlene



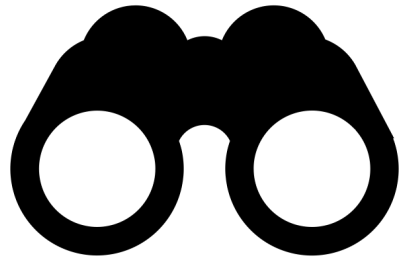
- ▶ To have a meaningful and constructive dialogue with FAA to gain more context to make relevant, consequential, and better FRN comments to get our concerns addressed in the new noise policy.
- ▶ Based on the example set today, AICA alliance groups are hopeful they will be included in future FAA engagement with key stakeholders for the NPR, advisory committees, and other pertinent forums.
- ▶ Communities and FAA learn from this to improve future FAA engagement with communities.

Perspectives - Don



- ▶ Lots of effort went into planning for the dialogue
- ▶ We understand the importance of stakeholders engaging with FAA in the Noise Policy Review
- ▶ We leaned into the dialogue with the intent of helping communities understand what we were thinking so they could provide comments
- ▶ Based on our review of the comments so far, the discussion was successful
- ▶ Working with Darlene, Cindy, and Amy was a positive experience

Perspectives - Darlene



Created by Lakshisha
from Noun Project

Dialogue constraints: specialized language
and technical knowledge

Impacted communities
are experts in their lived experience

Determining suitable representatives for the
impacted communities

Proposed solutions need validation before
taking action

Learnings - Don



- ▶ Putting effort into planning the engagement alongside AICA made a big difference in effectiveness
- ▶ Getting help facilitating the discussion from FMCS was worthwhile
- ▶ Having a direct dialogue with community groups was useful, even though we weren't able to answer all questions or solve all problems

Learnings - Darlene



Direct discussion with FAA topic experts is crucial and possible with advanced approvals

Key practices: facilitation, questions in advance, precise wording, and allow follow-up questions

Separate information sharing & problem solving forums; community as equal stakeholder

Information disclosure (mailing list) and process for asking legitimate questions needed

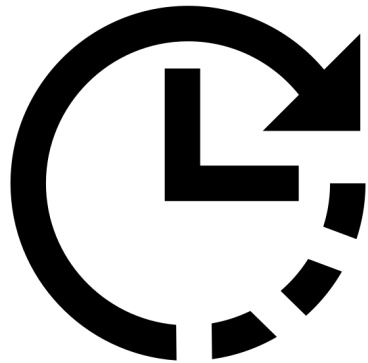
Meeting management details: facilitation, post bios, polling, and set a time response limit

Looking Forward - Don



- ▶ Remaining open to innovative opportunities to engage with stakeholders is important
- ▶ Having local individual conversations with community groups is important, but national level dialogues are possible, and equally important too
- ▶ We want to remain engaged with all stakeholders through this process

Looking Forward - Darlene



“Understanding & acceptance” vs “meaningful dialogue to address impacts b4 decisions”

Update FAA Community Involvement manual and its practices based on learnings

Suitable representatives for impacted communities – local and national?

Step in the right direction; this opportunity created more opportunities

Build trust with community through demonstrated results



Thank You

Reference



▶ **Webinar invitation**

- https://aviationimpactedcommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FAA-x-AICA-NPR-Dialogue_Invitation.pdf

▶ **Webinar notes issued by AICA**

- *https://aviationimpactedcommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/FAA-AICA-Meeting-Notes_2023_Final.pdf*