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FAA Noise Portal

AICA WANTS FAA TO CLARIFY PURPOSE OF ITS NOISE COMPLAINT SYSTEM

The Aviation Impacted Communities Alliance (AICA) has asked the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to request clarification from the FAA regarding the function and public benefit of its Aircraft Noise Complaint and Inquiry System (ANCIR).

FAA is in the process of seeking OMB approval to continue its collection of noise complaints through ANCIR, which is also known as FAA's Noise Portal.

In May 31 comments to OMB, AICA said there is a discrepancy between how the FAA describes the purpose of the Noise Portal very narrowly as a "centralized, standardized intake/routing/tracking/response system" and the broader goals it describes for its Noise Portal in various *Federal Register* notices seeking public comments on FAA's desire to continue collecting information through ANCIR.

These broader goals the FAA has expressed for the collection of noise complaints through ANCIR include detecting noise trends, improving community engagement, and understanding environmental impacts and community concerns; developing public FAQs, sharing insights with stakeholders, supporting safety analysis across agencies, and enhancing transparency and public trust.

FAA's *Federal Register* notices also describe ANCIR as "essential for the FAA to fulfill its public engagement responsibilities" and "essential for the FAA to provide timely, accurate, and location-specific responses," AICA told OMB.

"These statements shape public expectations regarding the purpose and utility of the information collection," AICA wrote.

"These are affirmative statements about functions the collection is intended to support. If ANCIR detects noise trends, it is reasonable to expect some visible indication of the trends identified through the collection. If it shares insights with stakeholders, it is reasonable to expect greater visibility regarding the nature of those insights. If it supports safety analysis across agencies, it is reasonable to expect clearer indication of the safety-related findings, concerns, or patterns informed by the collection," AICA argued.

But, at present, the community coalition told OMB, "such information is not readily apparent in publicly available ANCIR reporting, which appears focused primarily

on aggregate submission statistics such as complaint counts, repeat submissions, and geographical distribution.”