

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) South of Airport Aircraft Noise and Mitigation Study Project Open House Meeting



Alexandria, VA
June 28, 2024



AGENDA

01 Welcome

02 Project Overview

03 Baseline Assessment

04 Community Engagement / Public Input

05 Design Team

06 Next Steps

07 Community Input / Q & A

History/ Timeline



The Reagan National Community Noise Working Group (DCA CWG) was established in 2015 to enable broad-based community participation to address aircraft noise issues and to identify solutions and recommendations to the FAA.

The CWG has two subcommittees: North of Airport subcommittee and South of Airport subcommittee.

The FAA typically requires regional consensus when considering requests to modify flight procedures. Changes may reduce noise or overflights for some while increasing noise for others. Recommendations proposed by the Design Team will require review and acceptance by CWG and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) prior to submission to the FAA.

In 2020, Vianair was contracted by Arlington and Montgomery Counties to work with the NOA Subcommittee reduce aircraft noise in communities north of DCA. This resulted in a set of recommendations approved by the CWG and forwarded to MWAA for submission to the FAA. Following the success of that effort, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax and Prince George's Counties engaged Vianair to complete a similar effort with the SOA SC on behalf of communities south of DCA.

CWG Website: <https://www.flyreagan.com/about-airport/aircraft-noise-information/dca-reagan-national-community-working-group>

Project Overview – Components



Baseline Assessment



Noise Abatement



Community Outreach
& Engagement



Advocacy &
Implementation Support

Component 1 - Baseline Assessment

Analysis of DCA flight operations and noise exposure – historical and current.

- South of Airport study area defined as the areas impacted primarily by arrivals to Runways 1 and 33, and departures from Runways 15 and 19.
- City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince George's County.

Identification and characterization of changes that have resulted in increased overflights and aircraft noise exposure in communities south of DCA.

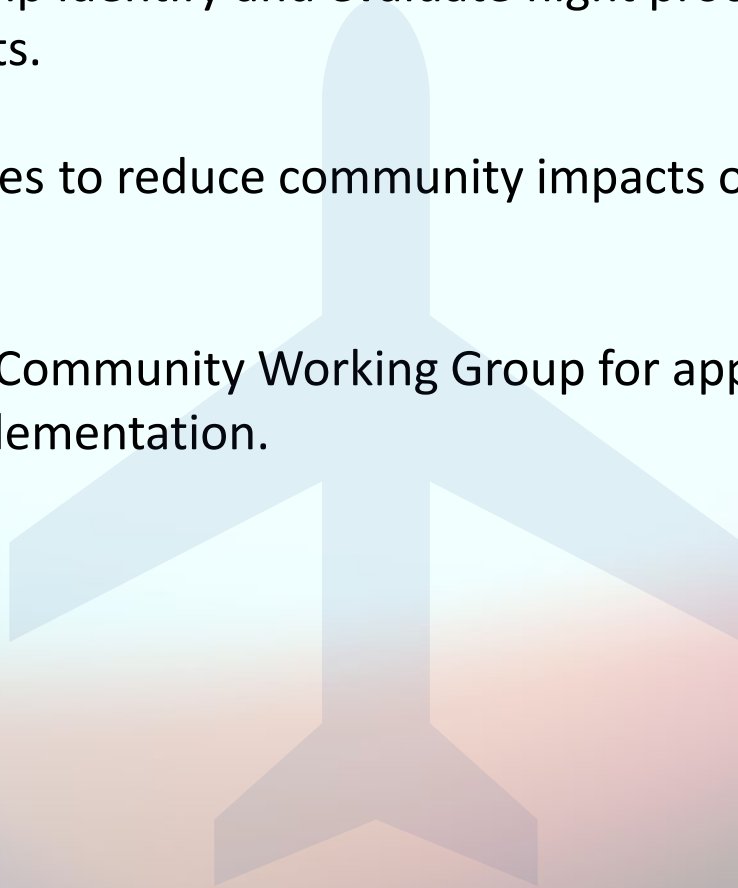
Analyses, to include a review of community input through a review of airport noise complaints, conventional and social media, etc.

Download the Baseline Report at: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>



Component 2 – Noise Abatement

- Established a Design Team to help identify and evaluate flight procedure and operational changes to reduce community noise impacts.
- Develop and evaluate alternatives to reduce community impacts of aircraft noise, consistent with the “Design Philosophy.”
- Make recommendations to the Community Working Group for approval and forwarding to MWAA and the FAA for review and implementation.



Component 3 – Community Engagement

- Support City of Alexandria/Prince George's County/Fairfax County community engagement efforts.
- Participate in public meetings to keep communities informed and to solicit community input.
- Maintain a dedicated project website: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>
- Launched a Community Engagement Survey to collect input from impacted residents. The survey can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/GAnrsCFurn>
- Make presentations and reports available to encourage the public's understanding and to ensure the opportunity for community feedback.

Component 4 – Advocacy and Implementation



- Engage key industry stakeholders (MWAA, FAA, airlines, etc.) to advocate for recommended operational changes to reduce noise.
- Assist the Steering Committee with engagement of the FAA, MWAA, and the DCA Community Working Group in support of project goals.
- Participate in the FAA's Performance Based Navigation Implementation Process as a subject matter expert and advocate for communities south of DCA.

Participants and Stakeholders



Steering Committee Membership



City of Alexandria

Melissa Atwood – Senior Environmental Specialist, Dept. Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES).

William Skrabak – Deputy Director, T&ES

Felipe Ip – Acting Environmental Manager, T&ES

Fairfax County

Corinne Bebek – Senior Environmental Planner, Dept. of Planning & Development (DPD)

Prince George's County

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon – Associate Director, Department of the Environment (DoE)

Deborah Patrick – Special Assistant to the Director, DoE

Project Design Team (CWG Representatives)



Travis Ludwig - City of Alexandria

CWG representative, Captain with United Airlines

Norman Leader - City of Alexandria

CWG representative, Retired Air Traffic Controller

Bob Meier - Fairfax County

CWG representative, Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee (AAC) member

Mike Rioux - Fairfax County

CWG representative, Fairfax County AAC member

Eric Woods - Prince George's County

CWG representative, Prince George's County – Ft. Washington

Bill Parker - Prince George's County

CWG representative, Prince George's County – Accokeek



Design Philosophy^{*}

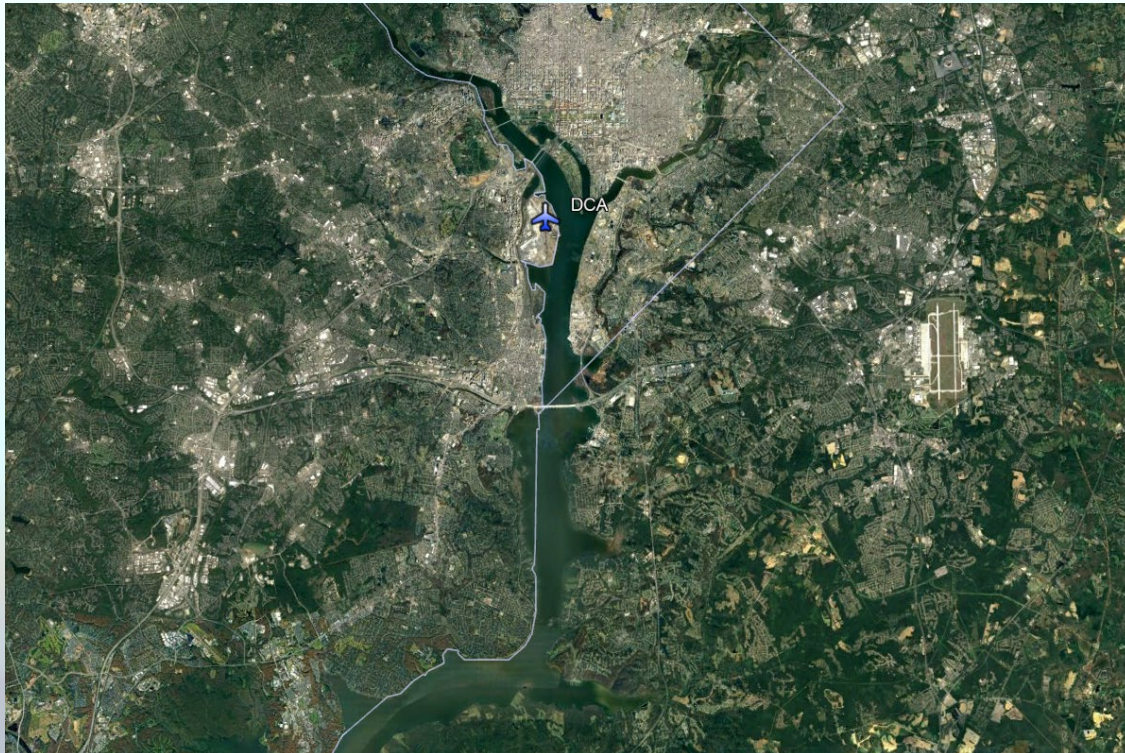


1. Maximize flight paths over the center of the Potomac River and “compatible” areas, including industrial areas, major highways, utility corridors, etc.
2. Maximize altitude – Use Optimized Profile Descent to reduce noise over noise-sensitive areas.
3. Increase track variability – Reduce concentration over noise-sensitive areas.
4. Avoid disproportionate impact to any single entity (county, city, town, neighborhood, etc.).
5. Minimize overhead flights of noise sensitive areas (schools, hospitals, churches, historic sites, etc.).

^{*}The Design Philosophy will be reviewed against results of the Community Engagement Survey and may be revised as appropriate.

Baseline Assessment – DCA Overview

General Study Area



Operational Flows



MWAA DCA Aircraft Noise Information: <https://www.flyreagan.com/about-airport/dca-reagan-national-aircraft-noise-information>

Baseline Assessment – Annual Noise Complaints



TOTAL ANNUAL NOISE COMPLAINTS
(2013-2023)



Baseline Assessment – Annual Operations



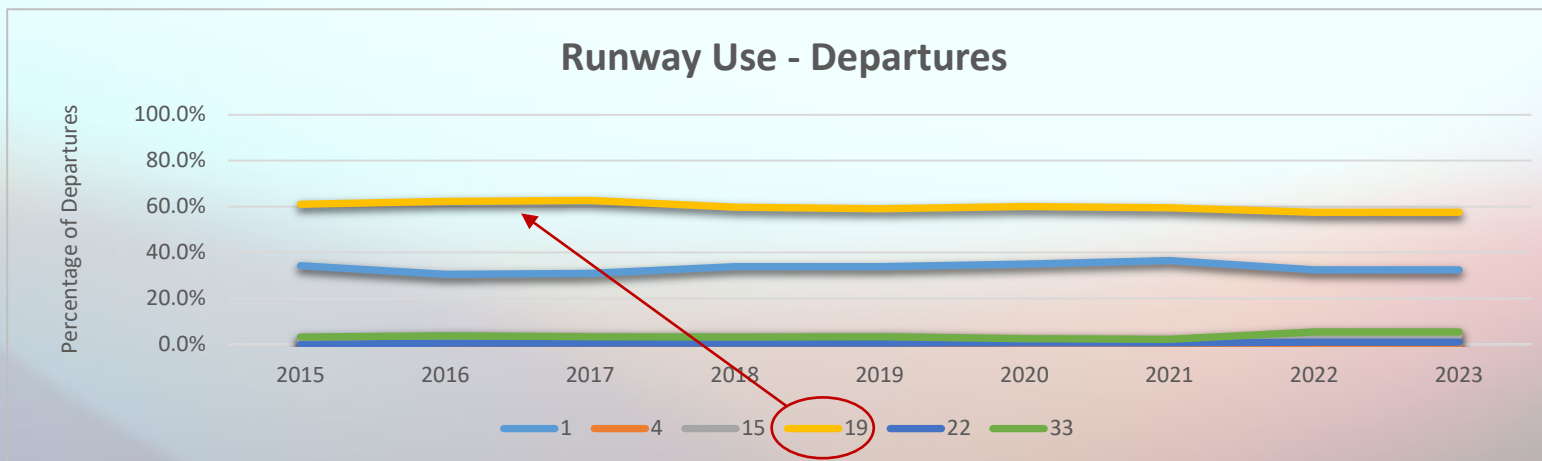
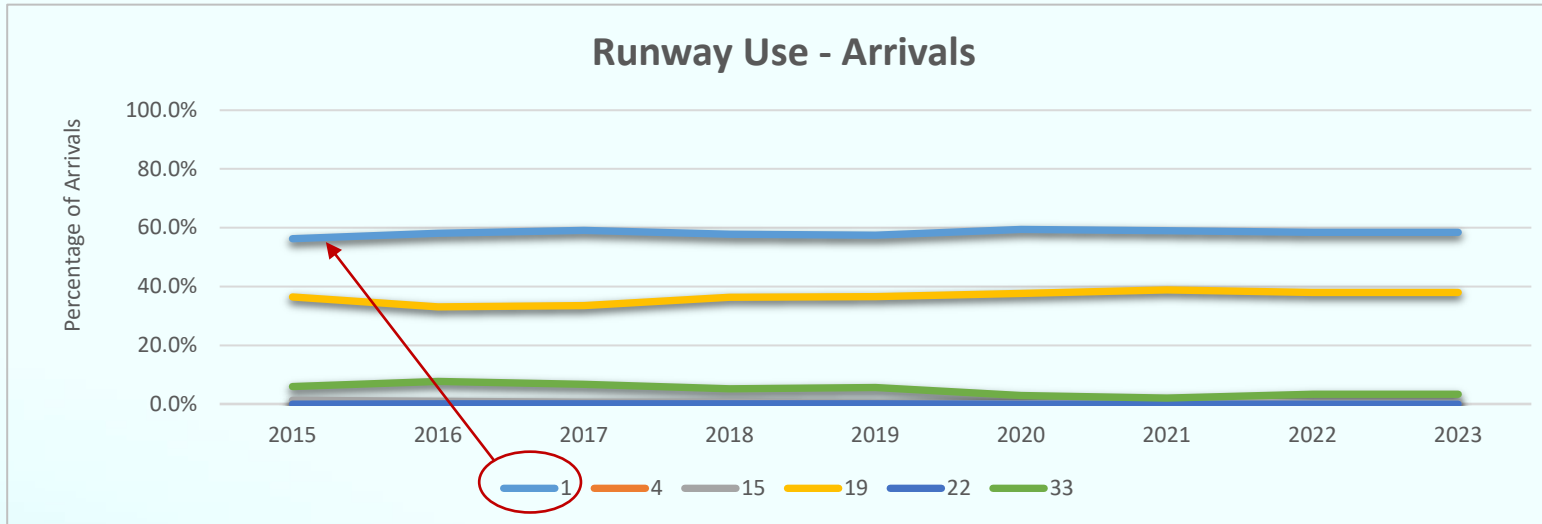
Total Annual Operations



Data source: MWAA (<https://www.mwaa.com/reagan-air-traffic-statistics>)

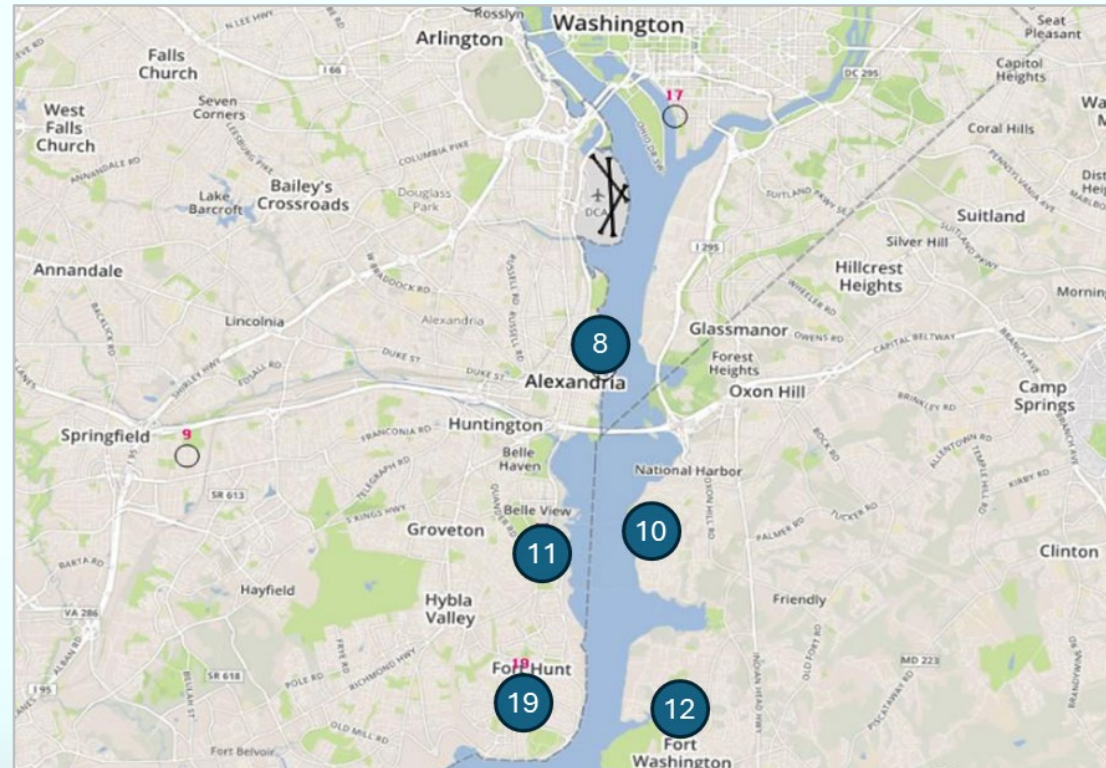
COVID Lockdown
(March 2020)

Baseline Assessment – Runway Use



Data source: MWA
 Note: Runway usage reporting began with the 2015 Annual Aircraft Noise Report

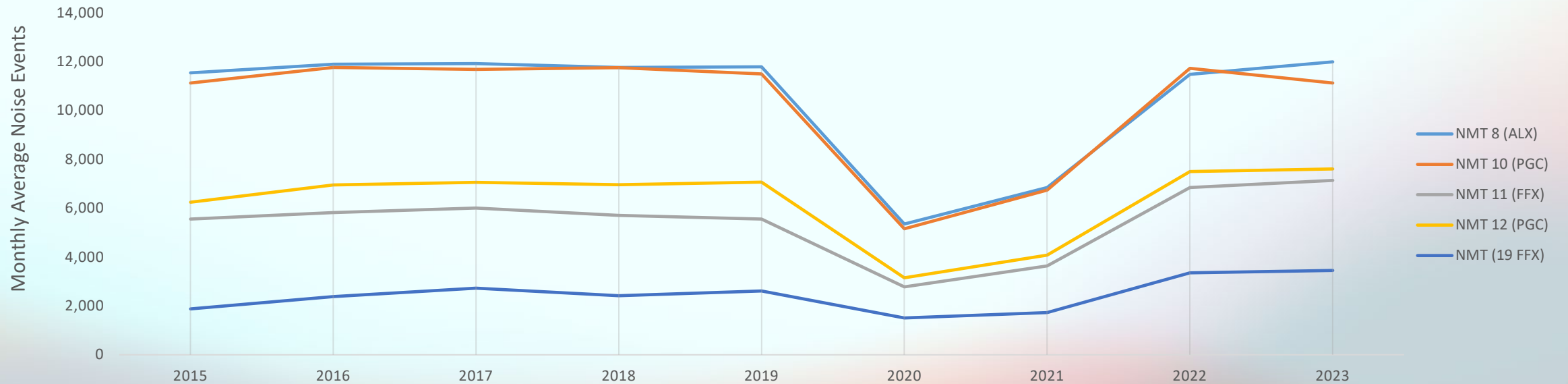
Baseline Assessment – Noise Monitors



<u>Noise Monitor</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>
8	Old Town	City of Alexandria
10	Fort Foote	Prince George's County
11	Marlan Forest	Fairfax County
12	Tantallon	Prince George's County
19	North Mount Vernon	Fairfax County

Baseline Assessment – Aircraft Noise Events

Monthly Average Noise Events
2015-2023



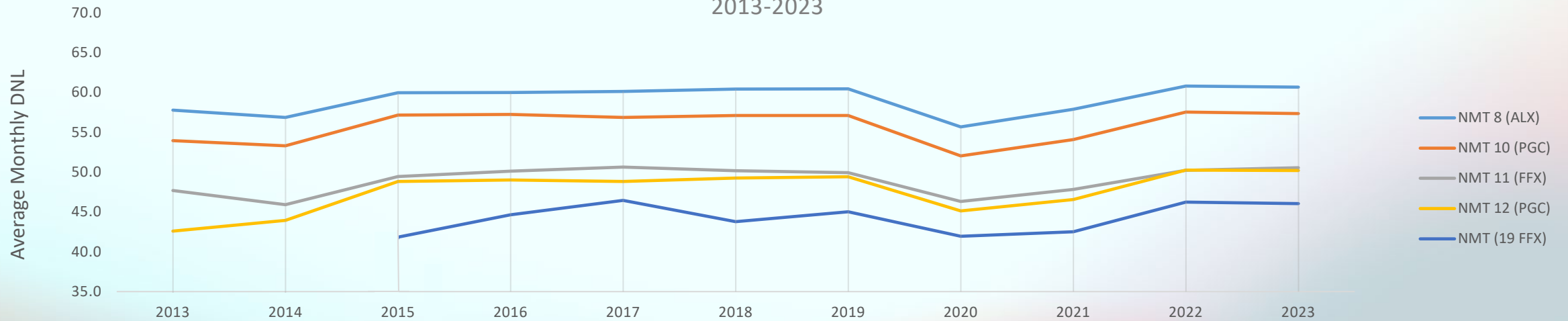
Data source: MWAA

COVID Lockdown
(March 2020)

Baseline Assessment – Noise Exposure Level



Average Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL)
2013-2023



Data source: MWAA

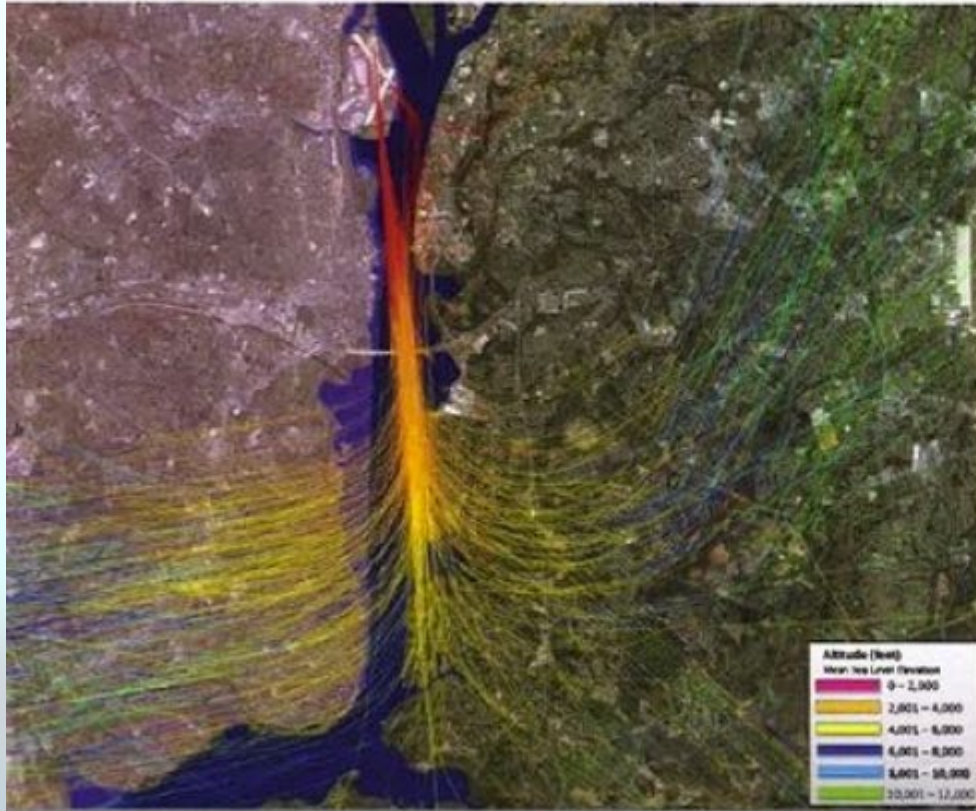
Note: Per MWAA, 2013 and 2014 NMT 19 data was excluded due to technical issues.

COVID Lockdown
(March 2020)

Baseline Assessment – Pre/Post Metroplex

Changes in south-flow departures

Pre Metroplex (2011)

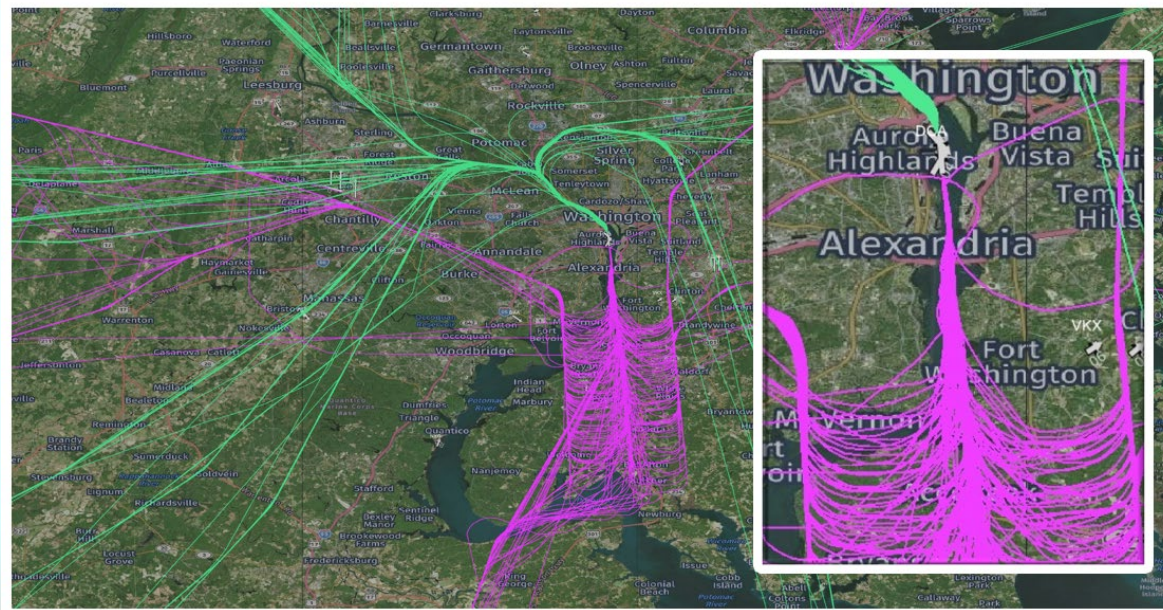


Post Metroplex (2016)

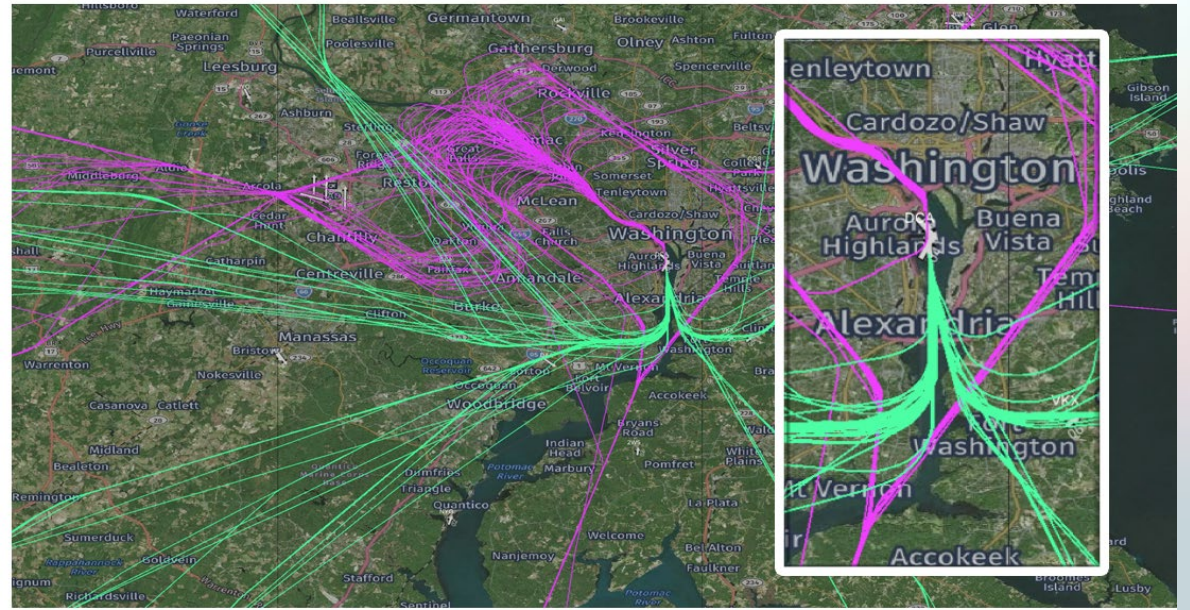


Source: <https://houseofreps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=04b6ea5feb1e4b61b8bb4be439bd882b>

Baseline Assessment – Flight Paths



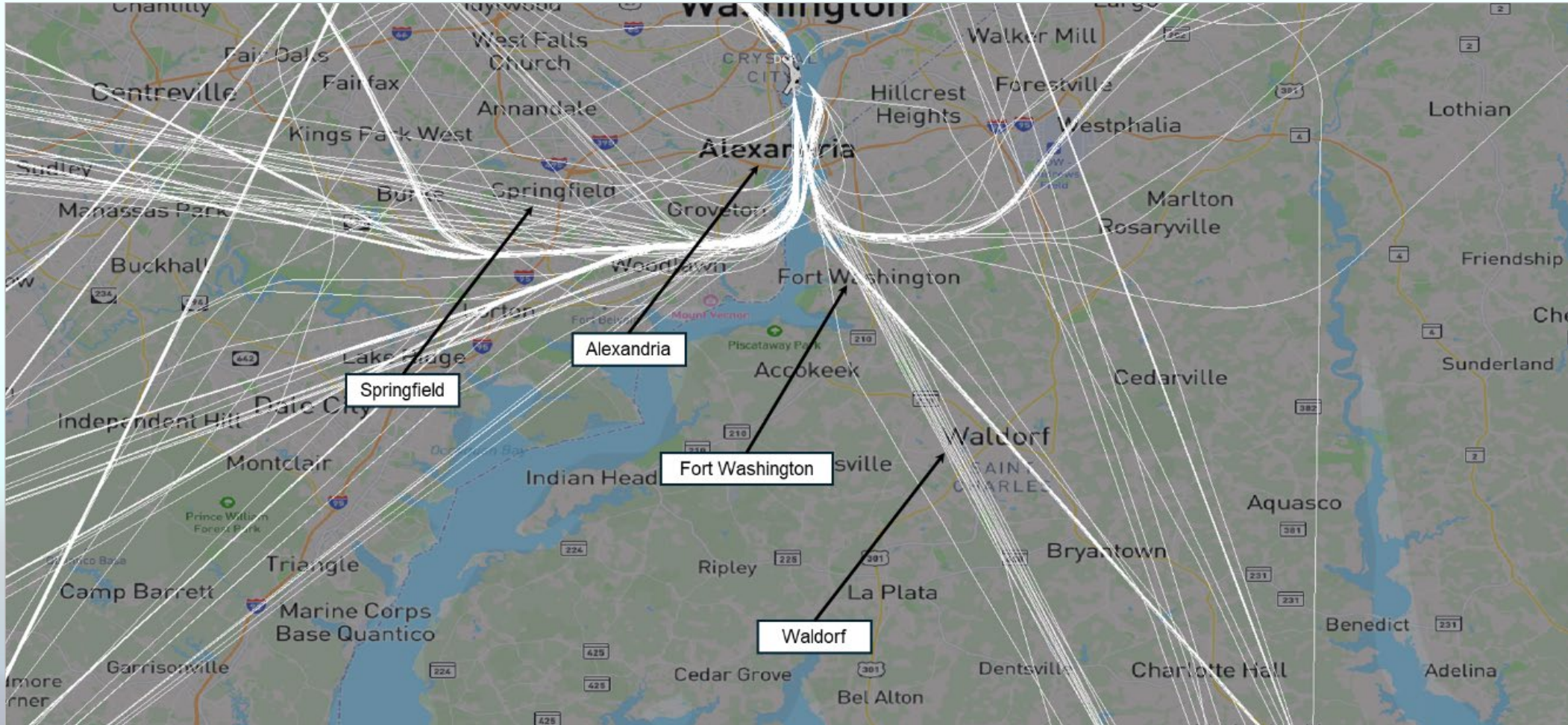
*Sample Day 2023, North-Flow Operations
Arriving aircraft fly south, overflying communities to the south.*



*Sample Day 2023, South-Flow Operations
Departing aircraft fly south, overflying communities to the south.*

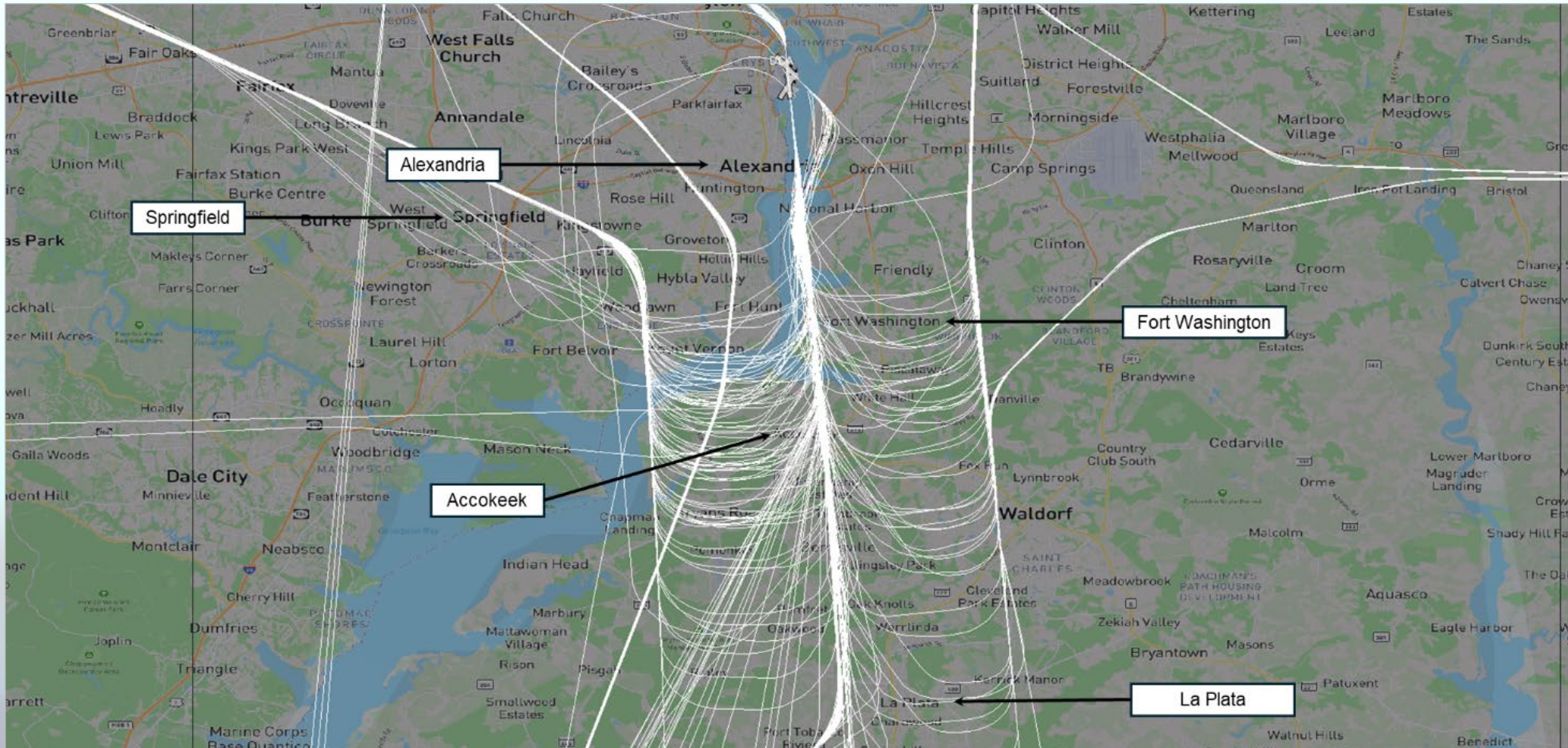
Map Legend
Arrivals
Departures

Baseline Assessment – Runways 15 & 19 Departures



SOUTH FLOW: Runways 15 & 19 Departures, Sample Day

Baseline Assessment – Runways 1 & 33 Arrivals



NORTH FLOW: Runway 1 & 33 Arrivals, Sample Day

Project Website

- Launched April 8, 2024

Project Email

- SOA@vianair.com

Community Engagement Survey

- Launched, April 1, 2024
- Closes: July 31, 2024

DCA South of Airport Community Engagement Survey ..

The City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince George's County are working together in an effort to reduce aircraft noise impacts in communities south of the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Community input is critical to this effort to ensure that residents' concerns and impacts are understood.

As part of the community engagement effort, we invite residents in neighborhoods south of DCA to participate in this survey. The information from this survey will be shared with the Project Team for consideration as airspace and flight procedure changes are evaluated. We appreciate your time and input.

Information about this project is available on the project website at: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>

You may also email the project team at: SOA@vianair.com

<https://forms.office.com/e/GAnrsCFurn>

Community Engagement – Public Meetings

Project Kick-Off

- Prince George's County: June 24, 2024
- City of Alexandria: June 27, 2024
- Fairfax County: July 2024 (Day to be determined)

Design Group Recommendations Review

- Dates to be determined

CWG Recommendations Review

- DCA Community Working Group (CWG)
- Meeting open to the public



Next Steps

Community input collected during the Project Kick-Off meetings will be summarized and compiled for review by the Steering Committee and Design Team. This input, combined with the results from the Community Engagement Survey will help inform the development and evaluation of airspace and flight procedure modifications intended to reduce community noise impacts.

The Design Team recommendations will be presented at a future public meeting for additional community input.

After finalizing, the recommendations will be presented to the DCA Community Working Group for approval, then submitted to MWAA for submission to the Federal Aviation Administration for review and implementation.

For More Information



Project Website: Website: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>

Questions and Project Feedback: Email: SOA@vianair.com

Community Engagement Survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/GAnrsCFurn>

Alexandria Point of Contact: **Melissa Atwood**

Email: melissa.atwood@alexandriava.gov

Phone: [703.746.4065](tel:703.746.4065)

Community Input / Q & A

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