

**BURLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
NOISE COMPATIBILITY PROGRAM  
SOUND MITIGATION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
August 29, 2018**

**BTV STAFF/CONSULTANTS:**

Nic Longo, BTV  
Gene Richards, BTV  
Larry Lackey, BTV  
Kelly Colling, BTV  
Erin Desautels, Vermont Small Business Accelerators, LLC  
Diane Carter, Jones Payne Group  
Andrew Walter, Jones Payne Group  
Brad Duncan, HMMH  
Brandon Robinette, HMMH

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:**

Chris Tomilowicz, Vermont Air National Guard  
Richard Lizzori, Vermont Air National Guard  
Tim McCole, Heritage  
George Maille, Jr., South Burlington  
Carmine Sargent, South Burlington  
Helen Riehle, South Burlington City Council  
Kevin Dorn, South Burlington City Manager  
Paul Connor, South Burlington Planner  
Steve Wisloski, South Burlington School Board  
Robert McEwing, Essex  
Jessie Baker, Winooski City Manager  
Patrick Gallivan, St. Michael's College  
Christine Ford, CCRPC

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**1.0 WELCOME and OVERVIEW**

Nic Longo, Aviation Deputy Director, opened the meeting at 5 PM. Introductions were done.

**2.0 PUBLIC FORUM AND COMMENTS**

Gene Richards, Burlington Aviation Director, said good progress is being made toward the goals, and thanked those in attendance for their help.

Nic Longo provided the following updates:

- Chamberlin School acoustical testing per FAA rules was done in August 2018 and the report is being written. Should the testing indicate it is eligible for sound insulation, the grant application will be submitted to the FAA for the design and construction of the acoustical treatments. The grant application deadline is May 2019.

- Parking garage maintenance is nearly complete. A new software system has been installed.
- Taxiway Golf (\$14 million project) is nearly complete and includes a storm water management system with a million gallon holding tank. The system will treat 22 million gallons of water.
- \$10 million in grant funding has been received for terminal improvements.
- Airport master plan update is underway. An advisory committee has been formed.
- The airport has seen a significant increase in passenger numbers this year, and continues to work with airline partners.

### **3.0 NOISE EXPOSURE MAP (NEM)**

Nic Longo announced the draft schedule for the NEM. There will be a full publishing of the NEM to the Sound Mitigation Committee on 12/4/18 and a public hearing on 12/5/18 followed by a 45 to 60 day public comment period. Staff will meet with committee members and local leaders in surrounding communities to review the NEM prior to the 12/4/18 meeting. Comments from the public comment period will be addressed and posted on the website.

#### *COMMENTS*

- Jessie Baker suggested the information be released so towns can show residents if their property is impacted and people are informed before the public hearing on the document. Ms. Baker asked about impact to the NCP application. Nic Longo explained once the draft NEM is published the conversation on the NCP, noise levels and mitigation will be rekindled. There will be a public hearing on the NCP in 2019 and the community will have information on both the NEM and NCP. At the TAC meeting in December the NCP process will be discussed. January 18, 2019 is the final TAC meeting then the submission to the FAA will be prepared including noise mitigation measures. The FAA has 180 days to review the submission. The FAA has been attentive to Burlington Airport so it is hoped the review period will be less than 180 days. Once the FAA approves the noise mitigation measures then grant funding can be accessed for the contour area. With the NEM there is a 30 day public comment period after the public hearing on 12/5/18. Questions and answers will be reviewed and the draft document will be edited as needed. The formal document will be submitted to the FAA for acceptance and then work can proceed on the NCP noise measures.
- Paul Connor asked if stakeholders will provide feedback and recommendations on the NEM and noise mitigation measures. Nic Longo said staff will review the NEM with stakeholders and go to the December meeting with recommendations and seek consensus. Diane Carter added where the impacts are and the options under consideration will be shown then the recommendations will be tied up for the NCP in January. Stakeholders will have time to review the information and discuss programs they want. Paul Connor asked when stakeholders can provide ideas on operational considerations such as flight approaches. Diane Carter said operational declarations can be discussed outside the study process to avoid slowing down the study. Any potential change to the flight patterns could affect the map.

- Helen Riehle asked if the noise mitigation for the school is a separate issue. Nic Longo said the school is eligible for mitigation under the current NCP. Churches, schools, municipal buildings will be identified in the NEM and would be eligible for mitigation under the new program.
- There was mention of noise pre-F35 and post-F35 which will be mitigated, but funding is finite so prioritization of applications will be done (i.e. residential, schools, places of worship, and such). The FAA wants to start at the highest noise contour and work to the lower contours. The Sound Mitigation Committee could be involved in the prioritization.

#### **4.0 EASEMENTS**

Diane Carter stated easements are required with sales assistance and purchase assurance measures, but not with sound insulation. The airport can require easements in their Part 150. Easements are involved in the acquisition of houses and land. The easement for noise will remove language on obstructions, omissions, and lights, and just focus on noise. If the noise level increases by 3 dB DNL then the easement is null and void.

#### *COMMENTS*

- Steve Wisloski said an easement on municipal property including schools has to go through a different process because decisions are rendered through the electorate. Gene Richards said staff will look for any precedents and get advice from the FAA on the matter.
- Paul Connor commented the easement language appears to be responsive to the feedback that was provided, but it is likely few property owners will want an easement on their property if one is not required. Diane Carter said an easement could be made a consistent requirement or to avoid perceived bias an easement could be required for all properties.
- George Maille commented an easement is an exercise of imminent domain.
- Helen Riehle asked if choosing an easement disallows using other options in the program. Diane Carter said one of the three options in the NCP will have to be chosen.
- Jessie Baker asked if the property owner will receive documents for the sound mitigation that is done. Diane Carter said a warranty book on the products installed and the maintenance contract will be provided. A letter could be written outlining what was done to the property so future owners or perspective buyers are made aware of the sound mitigation measures. Once a house is treated the house is done even if the decibels change. Properties in the 75 level are eligible for acquisition even if mitigation measures were done.

#### **5.0 WRAP UP & ADJOURNMENT**

Future meetings:

- Sound Mitigation Committee meeting: TBD
- Public Hearing on NEM: 12/5/18

With no further business and without objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.