

# South of Airport (SOA) Project SOA Design Team Meeting Summary

*Tuesday, October 17, 2023*

## Participants and Introductions

Participants introduced themselves providing their name, organization or community, and position or role. This includes staff representatives from Vianair, Prince George's County, Fairfax County, City of Alexandria, and the Design Team.

## Project Overview

A review of the project and scope was presented to the group. The project aims at reducing aircraft noise impacts on residents living south of the airport. The project involves four main components:

1. **Baseline Assessment:** Understanding the current situation, including noise levels and community concerns.
2. **Design Team:** Developing new flight procedures to minimize noise impact.
3. **Community Outreach:** Informing and gathering feedback from the community.
4. **Advocacy and Implementation:** Gaining support from relevant stakeholders and implementing the new procedures.

## Design Team Workplan

The role of the design team was discussed, including the expected work plan.

The role of the Design Team includes identifying and evaluating recommendations to reduce noise aircraft noise impacts for communities south of DCA. They must also ensure final recommendations benefit the communities while minimizing impacts to aviation safety and the airport's operational needs.

### Steps in the process include:

1. Review pertinent existing (CWG) recommendations
2. Define scope - What is included, what is outside scope
3. Establish a "Design Philosophy"
4. Review existing approach and departure procedures (Flight paths and noise exposure)
5. Develop initial design concepts

6. Obtain initial FAA Feedback (Informal)
7. Design Modifications if necessary
8. Develop initial draft recommendation(s)
9. Review and Comment by Staff
10. SoA Review/Edit/Approval for presentation to public
11. Public Meeting
12. Design Modifications if necessary
13. Final FAA Feedback (Informal)
14. Final Recommendations Package (DRAFT)
15. Review and Comment by Staff
16. Final Review/Edits/Approval by SoA
17. Formal Presentation of Recommendations to the CWG

## Design Philosophy

Development of a project “Design Philosophy” was discussed. The intent of the design philosophy is to establish a set of priorities and guidelines for how to design and/or revise flight procedures to reduce aircraft noise impacts in the fairest way possible.

The group explored potential adjustments to flight paths and altitudes in an effort to reduce noise impacts. They discussed the need to work with the FAA and other stakeholders to ensure practical and implementable solutions. Concerns were raised about FAA regulations and their impact on implementing changes.

## Community and Stakeholder Engagement

The importance of community engagement was stressed by Vianair. Input from impacted communities is intended to drive the project including both the process and outcomes. This differentiates the Vianair approach to addressing aircraft noise issues versus the more traditional approach. Understanding the historical and existing conditions (aircraft flight patterns and noise exposure) were part of the baseline assessment. Additionally, conventional media, social media, noise reports, and other information sources were reviewed to better understand the communities’ concerns.

Ongoing community engagement will help inform the project. Project information will be shared through dedicated project website, public meetings, etc. Input from the public will also be important. Public meetings, a dedicated project email address, and community survey will enable input from the community.

## Next Steps and Homework:

- Participants were tasked with prioritizing design philosophy elements and identifying key sites for noise analyses.
- Vianair will draft a VNM grid and continue working on refining the recommendations based on community feedback and technical feasibility.