October 28, 2020 Recap

The SEA Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART) meeting took place on October 28, 2020, through video conference, with a focus on discussing the SEA Aircraft Noise Monitoring System, an overview of the Noise Comment Monthly Reports, and updates on the work of and topics discussed at the StART Federal Policy Working Group’s and the Aviation Noise Working Group’s October meetings. This voluntary, advisory roundtable, convened by the Airport Managing Director, Lance Lyttle, is a venue for the Port of Seattle to engage with the communities of SeaTac, Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, Tukwila and Federal Way. Representatives from Delta Air Lines and Alaska Airlines are also members. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) participates as a non-member.

The cities of Des Moines, Burien and Federal Way have reinstated their membership on StART. The Airport Managing Director, Lance Lyttle, welcomed back the cities and emphasized his interest in working together on shared priorities.

Eric Schinfeld, Federal Government Relations Manager, provided a briefing on the October meeting of the StART Federal Policy Working Group (FP Working Group). Schinfeld provided background on the shared agenda and the impacts of COVID-19 on the advocacy work. The FP Working Group came to agreement on two items:

1. An updated federal policy advocacy plan that now includes four new policy priorities.
2. Organizing virtual meetings with Congressional representatives and FAA leadership to replace the trip to Washington DC that had been planned for last March.

Schinfeld asked each city to identify participants for the virtual meetings. He will follow up with coordination and the development of talking points. A StART member suggested that leadership at the US Department of Transportation be included in the meetings.

Marco Milanese, Community Engagement Manager, provided a recap of the October Aviation Noise Working Group (AN Working Group). The AN Working Group discussed the following items:

- The winners of the 2020 Fly Quiet Award
- Reviewed the latest data on the Late-Night Noise Limitation Program 2020 3rd Quarter Results showing that the highest percentage of late night exceedances are related to cargo carriers.
- Reviewed the latest data on the Runway Use Agreement noting that in September there were only five landings on the 3rd runway during late night hours the whole month.
- A presentation on SEA air cargo to better understand and determine how best to work with freight operators to reduce aviation noise.

Tom Fagerstrom, Airport Noise Programs Coordinator, provided an overview of the Noise Comment Monthly Report for September. The report shows monthly totals and trends for noise comments and complaints by household, zip code, and city.
Vince Mestre, Consultant; Stan Shepherd, Manager Airport Noise Programs; and Tom Fagerstrom, Airport Noise Programs Coordinator, provided a detailed overview of the SEA Noise Monitoring System. Mestre discussed the history of noise monitoring systems, best practices, and how the data can and cannot be used. Mestre identified technical considerations for site selection, samples of technical reports, and compared noise monitoring versus noise modeling. Shepherd presented information on the SEA permanent monitoring system including the number of monitors, their location, and how the permanent noise monitors connect to the flight tracking system. He shared examples of what data the noise monitoring system collects and how that data is utilized. Fagerstrom presented information on the Port’s new Temporary Noise Monitoring Program. He stated that SEA recently acquired two portable monitors. Fagerstrom reviewed the Program’s procedures including site selection criteria, deployment status, and data utilization.

Public comment was heard. The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2020 at 5:00pm by video conference. The public is invited to attend.

All October 28, 2020 StART meeting documents can be found on the Port of Seattle website.