# The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission

## Highlights and Accomplishments

"The adverse impacts of aircraft noise and emissions will place constraints on air transportation, which will threaten the mobility, economic vitality, and the security of the nation. Continued efforts to reduce aircraft noise are essential to the growth of air transportation in the 21st century."

*Carl Burleson, Director of Environment and Energy, Federal Aviation Administration*

# What is ONCC?

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) is a policymaking organization whose mission is to develop meaningful methods of reducing the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding neighborhoods through home and school sound insulation, and to reduce, wherever possible, aircraft noise at its source.

ONCC, a nationally recognized commission of aviation environmental advocates, has made significant progress reducing aircraft noise in communities around O'Hare International Airport since its inception in 1997. It operates through three standing committees — Technical, Residential Sound Insulation and School Sound Insulation.

The Residential Sound Insulation Committee and the School Sound Insulation Committee oversee the extensive programs that significantly reduce aircraft noise inside homes and schools. The Technical Committee identifies and promotes technological advancements designed to reduce aircraft noise.

Today, there are 43 member communities and school districts working together to reach the goal of aircraft noise mitigation in the O'Hare region, with more than 110 participating members working on various committees and projects.

# Progress at a Glance

## 1982

School Sound Insulation Program begins.

## 1995

Chicago Department of Aviation (DOA) selects 10 homes for sound insulation pilot project.

## 1996

O'Hare Residential Sound Insulation Program officially begins.

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley invites suburban mayors to begin constructive dialogue to reduce aircraft noise. The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) becomes the only organization that is dedicated to reducing aircraft noise around O'Hare International Airport.

## 1997

ONCC officially commences with Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder as Chairperson, and Union Ridge School District 86 Superintendent Dr. Raymond J. Kuper as Vice-Chairperson.

Seventeen municipalities and nine school districts form ONCC. Members include: Arlington Heights, Chicago, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Hoffman Estates, Melrose Park, Mount Prospect, Norridge, Northlake, Oak Park, Palatine, River Forest, River Grove, Rolling Meadows, Rosemont, Schaumburg, and unincorporated Cook County; and School Districts 59, 80, 81, 84, 86, 87, 214, 234, and 299.

## 1998

ONCC requests and receives new O'Hare Noise Contour map depicting the noise impact of actual flight activity for 1997. The contour map is used to identify residential and school sound insulation projects.

Mark Fowler appointed as ONCC's first executive director.

## 1999

Aircraft noise monitor system increases from 30 to 32 stations.

ONCC secures commitments from Chicago and the signatory air carriers at O'Hare to continue funding the residential and school programs beyond 1999.

ONCC publishes its first-ever newsletter, the *O'Hare Monitor*.

## 2000

Village of Niles joins ONCC.

ONCC lobbies Congress for continued NASA research funding in federal budget to work on quieter aircraft engines to reduce noise.

Community Outreach Vehicle hits the road to highlight the work of ONCC and the DOA regarding school and home sound insulation, aircraft noise monitoring, Fly Quiet Program and the Chicago Airport System.

ONCC website goes live: www.oharenoise.org.

Brian Gilligan appointed ONCC's second executive director.

## 2001

Villages of Stone Park and Bellwood, and School Districts 84.5, 89, 401 and 63 join ONCC.

O'Hare Noise Contour numbers show 44 percent noise reduction in homes located in DNL (Day/Night Average Sound Level) and 34 percent reduction in land area.

Ciiy of Chicago triples spending for sound insulation program to lead the nation in sound insulation funding.

ONCC recognized as leader in aircraft noise mitigation at International Aviation Noise Symposium.

ONCC lobbies airlines to phase out hush-kit equipped aircraft at O'Hare.

## 2002

City of Des Plaines joins ONCC.

United Airlines retires all hush-kit equipped aircraft from its fleet.

American Eagle Airlines and America West are the first recipients of ONCC's nighttime Fly Quiet Recognition Award for contributing to the outstanding success of O'Hare Fly Quiet Program.

Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL) of the 10th Congressional District pledges support for ONCC in federal committees regarding air transportation and aircraft noise.

## 2003

Village of Bartlett joins ONCC.

American Airlines receives Fly Quiet Award.

ONCC goes on record at International Aviation Noise Symposium seeking better communication between airport operators and municipalities to achieve greater compatibility in land use surrounding airports.

ONCC launches informational video.

## 2004

City of Park Ridge and School District 85.5 join ONCC.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) of the 9th Congressional District pledges partnership with ONCC to work in Washington, D.C. on aircraft noise reduction efforts.

ONCC joins Congressionally-mandated aircraft noise study. ONCC is one of only three community-based aircraft noise groups in the Partnership for Air Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction (PARTNER). The consortium includes universities, aircraft and aircraft engine manufacturers and government agencies working together to identify solutions for existing and anticipated aircraft noise.

ONCC launches Noise 101 workshop as part of community outreach and education mission.

American Airlines receives Fly Quiet Award.

## 2005

Village of Maywood and School District 88 join ONCC.

ONCC Chairperson Mayor Arlene J. Mulder wins the Jay Hollingsworth Speas Airport Award for outstanding contributions in achieving compatible relationships between airports and adjacent environments.

ONCC and Chicago extend inter-governmental agreement thru 2010.

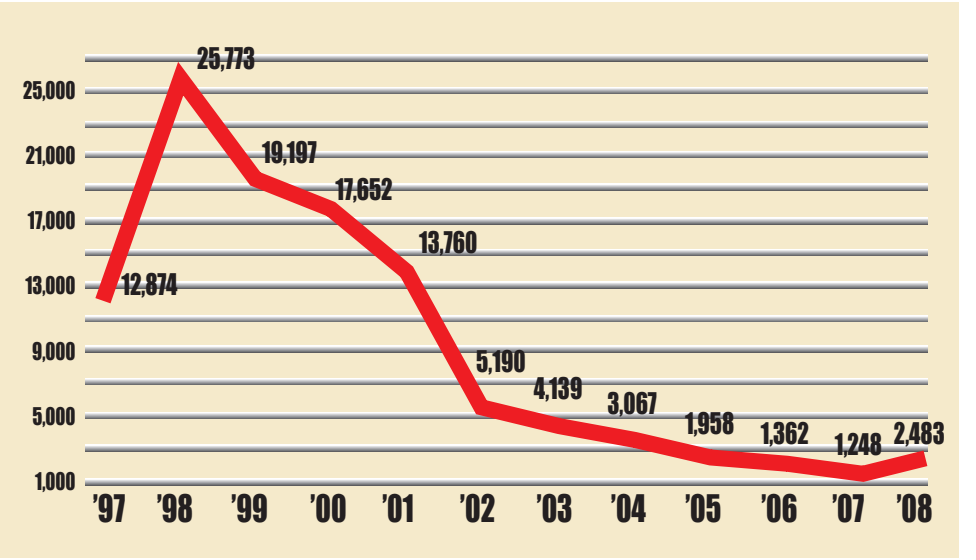
FAA's Record of Decision continues residential sound insulation to include over 6,000 housing units as part of O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP).

American Eagle and United Express receive Fly Quiet Awards.

## 2006

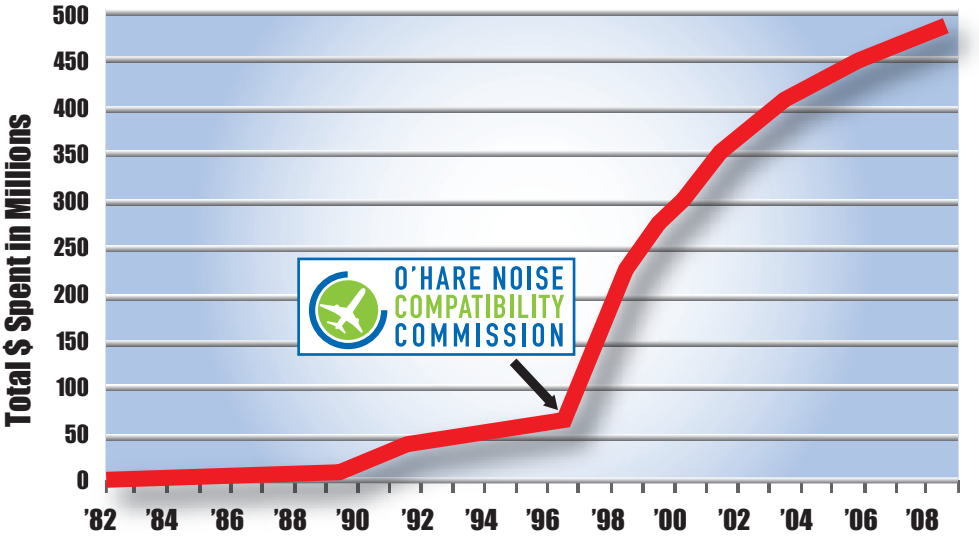
Village of Harwood Heights joins ONCC.

### Chicago Airport System — Noise Complaints (1997-2008)




*Source: Airport Noise Management System*

### O'Hare Sound Insulation Funding




*Source: Chicago Airport System*

ONCC member Des Plaines awarded a $750,000 land use grant from FAA's Vision 100. The grant encourages land use and zoning laws that are compatible with airports.

ONCC officially accepts roles and responsibilities for OMP as outlined by FAA.

American Eagle, Continental Airlines, FedEx Express, and Delta Air Lines Station Manager Chris Diaferio receive Fly Quiet Awards.

## 2007

City of Wood Dale and the Village of Schiller Park join ONCC.

Annual usage of the O'Hare Ground Run-up Enclosure to muffle aircraft engine testing climbs to over 80%.

Noise Complaints fall for nine consecutive years with just 1,248 in 2007.

ONCC celebrates completion of 100th school in O'Hare School Sound Insulation Program at Dever Elementary School, Chicago.

FedEx Express, Mexicana Airlines, Northwest Airlines and FAA Chicago Airports District Environmental Specialist Amy Hanson receive Fly Quiet Awards.

## 2008

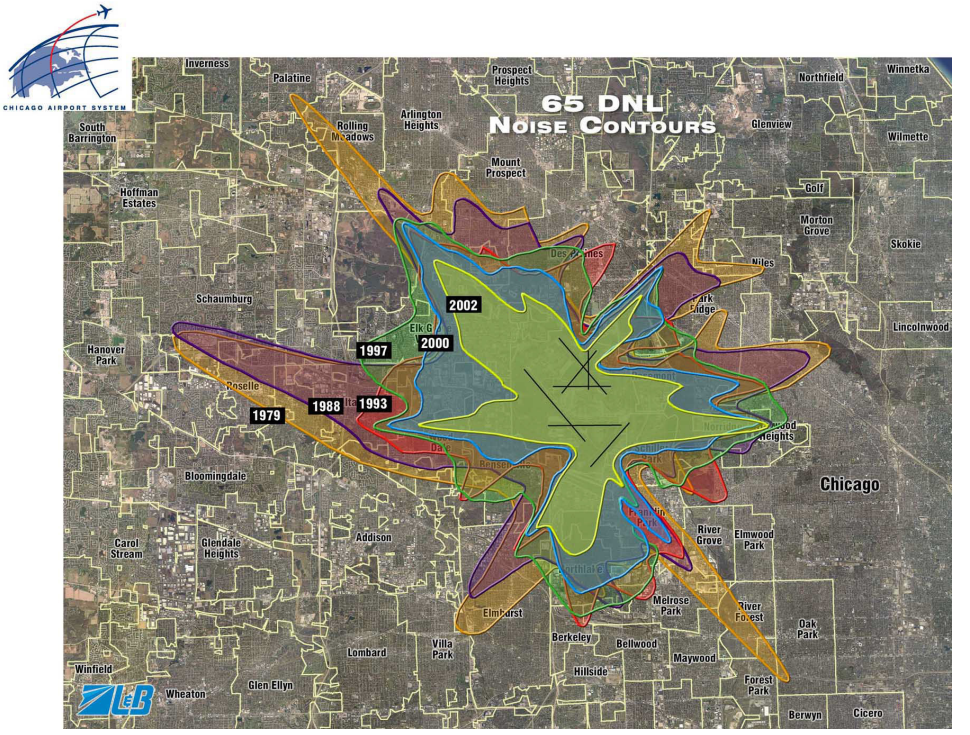
Village of Itasca joins ONCC.

Harwood Heights receives a $320,000 FAA Vision 100-Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act grant for land use study.

ONCC approves its first-ever policy for residential sound insulation for multi-owner buildings. Soundproofing is complete in 6,184 residences, with more than 6,000 additional units earmarked for completion by OMP's full build out in 2014.

ONCC oversees DOA's expansion of Airport Noise Management System that includes upgraded computers and software, replacement of portable and permanent monitors and deployment of additional monitors.

Arlington Heights adopts the nation's first municipal energy and sound ordinance for building construction. It is patterned after ONCC model ordinance.




ONCC hosts its first-ever noise symposium for federal and aircraft industry officials and community leaders to discuss environmental issues and aeronautical advancements.

Chicago commissions its first new runway in 37 years causing a shift in aircraft noise. A new population turns to ONCC for aircraft noise answers.

ONCC appeals to FAA to investigate noise metrics. ONCC asks for and receives a new monthly report on nighttime flights after regular hours for new runway.

# Looking Forward

To carry on its mission, ONCC has raised the level of partnership and cooperation with its fellow members, City of Chicago, Chicago Department of Aviation, Federal Aviation Administration, airlines and pilots, air traffic controllers and stakeholders to significantly reduce the impact of aircraft noise on the environment.

ONCC will continue to (1) advocate for more precise methods of keeping aircraft aligned with nighttime flight tracks that are away from residential areas; (2) promote the FAA's land use grant compatibility program; and (3) work with local governments to develop building codes that address sound insulation for new home construction.

ONCC recognizes the vital economic benefits that O'Hare International Airport brings to the region. ONCC is dedicated to safeguarding the quality of life for people living in areas surrounding the airport and will strive to keep aircraft noise reduction a top priority as the Chicago Airport System continues its modernization program.


**ONCC Executive Committee and Standing Committee Chairs**

Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, Chairperson

Union Ridge School Superintendent Dr. Raymond J. Kuper, Vice-Chairperson, School Committee Chairperson

Norridge Village Clerk Judith Dunne Bernardi, Treasurer

Palatine Designee Rita L. Mullins, Technical Committee Chairperson

Cook County Coordinator of Community and Inter-Governmental Affairs Frank A. Damato, Residential Committee Chairperson

Chicago Airport System Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino

Brian Gilligan, Executive Director


O'HARE NOISE COMPATIBILITY COMMISSION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