O'HARE NOISE COMPATIBILITY COMMISSION
HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

O'HARE NOISE COMPATIBILITY COMMISSION

Celebrating 20 years 1996-2016

Since ONCC's inception in 1996, the commission has heightened the awareness of state and federal lawmakers about aircraft noise effects on suburban and Chicago communities.

Collaborating with the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), ONCC members work through three standing committees—Residential Sound Insulation, School Sound Insulation and Technical.

Members include 41 communities and 16 school districts working together to mitigate aircraft noise in the O'Hare region.

The mission of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC), an inter-governmental aircraft noise advisory organization, is to mitigate aircraft noise through residential and school sound insulation and to advocate for quieter aircraft.

AT A GLANCE

1982

Chicago introduces a school sound insulation program.

1995-1996

CDA selects 10 homes for sound insulation pilot project.

The city of Chicago creates the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission and invites suburban mayors to oversee aircraft noise mitigation. It is the only recognized organization dedicated to reducing O'Hare aircraft noise.

The Residential Sound Insulation Program begins.

1997

ONCC officially commences with the signing of an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) among Chicago, 17 suburban municipalities and 9 school districts. It is chaired by Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder and co-chaired by Union Ridge School District 86 Superintendent Raymond J. Kuper.

The IGA authorizes ONCC to implement O'Hare noise relief projects; oversee an impartial noise monitoring system; and advise the city of Chicago on O'Hare-related noise issues.

Founding 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.

1998-1999

ONCC utilizes a 1997 O'Hare noise contour to identify eligible residential and school sound insulation projects. The commission relies on 32 permanent noise monitors to record aircraft noise data.

Chicago and the signatory air carriers at O'Hare commit to continue funding the Residential and School Sound Insulation programs.

2000

Niles joins ONCC.

ONCC lobbies Congress for continued NASA research funding to develop quieter aircraft engines.

The CDA Community Outreach Vehicle visits communities with experts who explain sound insulation programs, aircraft noise monitoring, the nighttime noise abatement Fly Quiet Program and the Chicago Airport System.

2001

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

Due to quieter aircraft, the size of the 2000 noise contour shrinks geographically by 34 percent while the noise metric is reduced by 44 percent.

Chicago leads the nation in residential and school sound insulation funding.

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

ONCC lobbies airlines to phase out hush-kit equipped aircraft.

2002

Des Plaines joins ONCC.

United Airlines retires all hush-kit equipped aircraft.

American Eagle and America West airlines are the first recipients of the ONCC Fly Quiet Award.

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) pledges congressional support for ONCC regarding air transportation and aircraft noise.

2003

Bartlett joins ONCC.

American Airlines receives the ONCC Fly Quiet Award.

ONCC goes on record at the International Aviation Noise Symposium to seek greater compatibility in land use surrounding airports.

2004

Park Ridge and School District 85.5 join ONCC.

ONCC participates in congressionally-mandated aircraft noise study. ONCC named one of 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.

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) pledges Congressional support for aircraft noise reduction efforts.

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

American Airlines receives the ONCC Fly Quiet Award.

2005

Maywood and School District 88 join ONCC.

ONCC chairman receives the Jay Hollingsworth Speas Airport Award for outstanding contributions in achieving compatible relationships between airports and neighbors.

The inter-governmental agreement extended for five years.

O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) begins; FAA Record of Decision names ONCC to oversee Residential Sound Insulation Program. Scope of work includes insulating 6,000 additional housing units based on the OMP full build out noise contour.

American Eagle and United Express receive the ONCC Fly Quiet Awards.

2006

Harwood Heights joins ONCC.

The FAA awards Des Plaines a $750,000 Vision 100 and use grant which encourages compatible land use.

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

2007

Wood Dale and Schiller Park join ONCC.

Annual usage of the O'Hare Ground Run-up Enclosure to muffle aircraft engine testing exceeds 80 percent.

ONCC celebrates Devers Elementary School, Chicago, as the 100th school sound insulated.

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

2008

Itasca joins ONCC.

Harwood Heights receives a $320,000 FAA Vision 100 land use grant.

ONCC approves sound insulation of multi-unit buildings.

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

ONCC hosts a national noise symposium for federal and aircraft industry officials and community leaders to discuss environmental issues and aeronautical advancements.

Runway 9L/27R, the first commissioned OMP runway, creates a shift in aircraft noise. A new population turns to ONCC for aircraft noise relief answers.

ONCC appeals to FAA to reevaluate established noise metrics and requests FAA monthly nighttime flight report for 9L/27R.

2009

Bensenville, Park Ridge and Niles School District 64 join ONCC.

Hitch and Farnsworth elementary schools in Chicago and Roosevelt School in Park Ridge receive approximately $6.5 million in federal funds for sound insulation.

New Internet option available to register complaints online.

Bensenville receives a $1 million FAA land use compatibility grant. Wood Dale also receives $180,000 FAA Vision 100 land use grant.

2010

Chicago City Council extends five-year, inter-governmental agreement.

ONCC participates in FAA Noise Research Roadmap Workshop, a five-year investigation about the effects of aircraft noise.

FAA approves funding eligibility of Ridgewood and Elk Grove high schools after both are re-tested for noise levels.

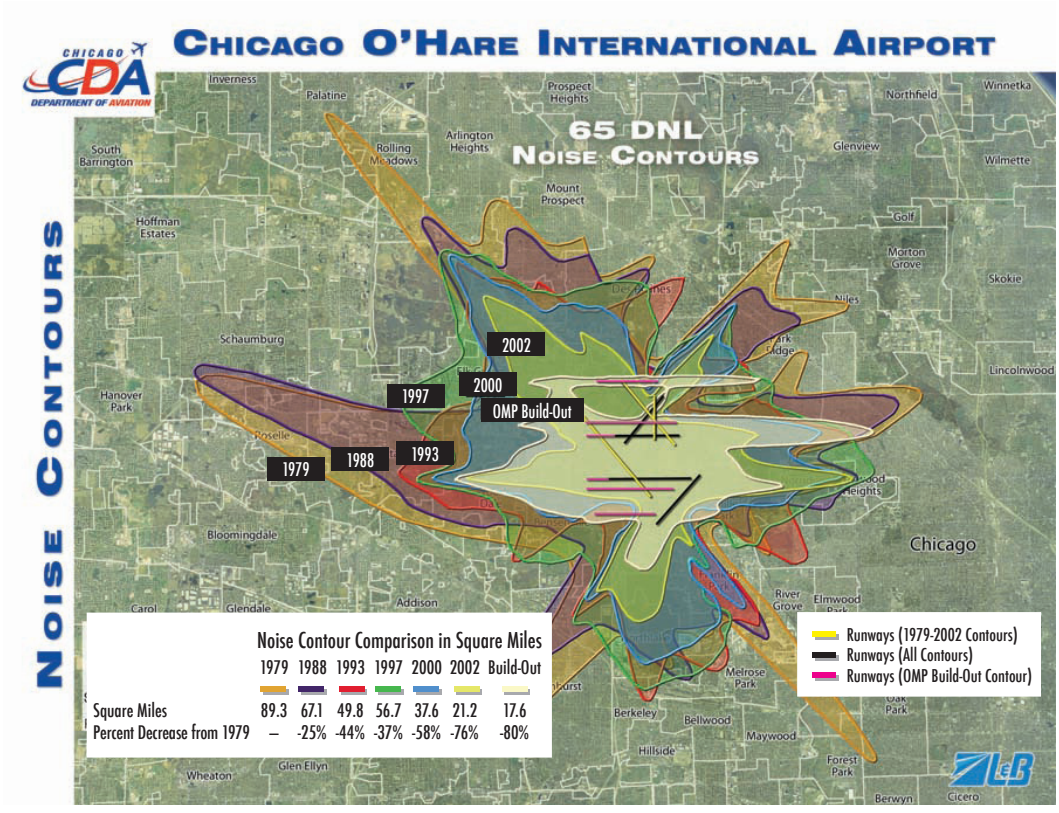
Construction crews complete sound insulation for George Washington and Roosevelt elementary schools in Park Ridge and Chicago's Hitch Elementary School.

ONCC launches a three-part project to revitalize the Fly Quiet Program (FQP) that identifies O'Hare preferential nighttime runways and limits flights between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Initiatives include updating the FQP manual, petitioning O'Hare Air Traffic Control management to review nighttime operations data and investigate the use of GPS-navigation at O'Hare.

Airport World magazine features ONCC's role in aircraft noise mitigation.

2011

Ridgewood and Elk Grove high schools receive $43.5 million from the FAA and Chicago for sound insulation construction.



St. Tarcissus Elementary School in Chicago is the 123rd school deemed eligible for sound insulation.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the City Council appoint citizen members from five northwest Wards 36, 38, 39, 41 and 45 to represent approximately 285,000 residents in ONCC.

ONCC hosts compatible land use symposium for 30 city planners and officials from 18 municipalities.

ONCC chairman receives invitation to FAA NextGen Advisory Committee.

2012

Elk Grove High School celebrates completion of its $15.5 million sound insulation project. Acoustic windows and other sound insulation installations provide a quiet learning environment.

St. Tarcissus and Farnsworth elementary schools in Chicago receive $9.3 million for sound insulation.

ONCC launches a community outreach initiative to inform legislators, local leaders and residents about new Runway 10C/28C and east/west runway configurations.

FAA executive director of environment and energy updates ONCC members on current research studies about aircraft noise.

O'Hare Air Traffic Control initiates a "good neighbor" policy for the voluntary nighttime Fly Quiet program.

2013

Morton Grove joins ONCC.

The CDA, FAA and ONCC conduct approximately 34 presentations to elected leaders and communities to remind attendees about progress of O'Hare's modernization, to prepare residents for changes in noise levels, and to build awareness of the forthcoming Runway 10C/28C in October.

Runway 10C/28C introduces east-west flow flight patterns.

Boeing Commercial Airplane's spokesperson addresses the Technical Committee and explains ways the manufacturer works to develop sustainable solutions for quieter and cleaner skies.

Ridgewood High School celebrates completion of its $28 million sound insulation project to mitigate aircraft noise.

Ebinger Elementary School in Chicago, the last designated school for sound insulation, receives $468,750 from the FAA and Chicago airline Passenger Facility Charges to begin the design process.

2014

Downers Grove, Bloomingdale and Chicago Ward 40 join ONCC.

ONCC submits two environmental resolutions to FAA to (1) accelerate the O'Hare EIS Re-Evaluation and (2) to conduct a supplemental EIS. The FAA pledges to complete the re-evaluation before the October 15 commissioning of Runway 10L/28R and states there will be no supplemental EIS.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel orders eight new noise monitors for Chicago and the western suburbs.

Residential Sound Insulation Program Phase 17 identifies 159 "historic" homes eligible for sound insulation.

Ebinger School in Chicago receives a $6 million construction grant to complete sound insulation.

ONCC endorses the FAA nationwide noise survey re-evaluating the DNL 65 dB metric.

2015

ONCC membership and Chicago City Council agree to another five-year IGA.

Lincolnwood and DuPage County join ONCC.

ONCC elects new leader, Mount Prospect Mayor Arlene A. Juracek; she initiates and hosts a panel of aviation experts to discuss O'Hare noise abatement.

Ginger S. Evans becomes Chicago's aviation commissioner.

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel pressures FAA to expedite aircraft noise survey.

CDA launches "real time" flight tracking system to identify and obtain information on specific aircraft.

ONCC meets with residents at four FAA public workshops regarding the Re-evaluation of the OMP EIS; joins the CDA at three community meeting to discuss noise abatement and mitigation initiatives. As a result, ONCC endorses CDA's recommendations and innovative approach for noise mitigation and abatement; extends an invitation to community noise groups to utilize ONCC as a forum to address noise issues.

The FAA releases the final Re-evaluation of the OMP/EIS; Runway 10R/28L opens on October 15 along with the south air traffic control tower.

ONCC commences an ad hoc Fly Quiet Committee made up of nine ONCC members and a community non-voting participant to modify the 1997 voluntary nighttime abatement program.

MOVING FORWARD

As O'Hare International Airport's multi-million dollar expansion moves forward, ONCC will continue to encourage open dialog among communities and aviation stakeholders, promote compatible land use planning among municipalities and urban planners and strive to reduce the impact of aircraft noise wherever and whenever possible for all citizens living within the O'Hare region.

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