O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission

Highlights and Accomplishments

O'HARE NOISE COMPATIBILITY COMMISSION

The mission of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission, an internationally recognized policymaking organization, is to reduce the impact of aircraft noise in surrounding neighborhoods through home and school sound insulation and to advocate for technological advances for quieter aircraft.

Since ONCC's inception in 1996, the commission has heightened the awareness of aircraft noise effects on communities among state and federal lawmakers. Partnering with the Chicago Department of Aviation and the Federal Aviation Administration, its members work through three standing committees—Residential Sound Insulation, School Sound Insulation and Technical.

ONCC members include 50 communities and school districts working together to mitigate aircraft noise in the O'Hare region, with more than 115 participants serving on various committees and projects.

At a Glance

1982

The city of Chicago introduces a school sound insulation program.

1995

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

1996

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley creates the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission and invites suburban mayors to oversee noise mitigation efforts around O'Hare International Airport. It becomes the only recognized organization dedicated to reducing aircraft noise near the airport.

The O'Hare Residential Sound Insulation Program begins.

1997

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

The inter-governmental agreement authorizes ONCC to plan noise relief projects to be implemented in the O'Hare area; oversee an effective and 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

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.

1999

ONCC relies on 32 permanent noise monitors to capture aircraft noise data.

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 newsletter.

2000

Village of Niles joins ONCC.

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

The Chicago Department of Aviation Community Outreach Vehicle travels to communities to highlight the commission's progress on home and school sound insulation, aircraft noise monitoring, the Fly Quiet Program and the Chicago Airport System.

ONCC website goes live: www.oharenoise.org.

2001

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

Due to quieter aircraft, a new noise contour indicates a 44 percent reduction of the aircraft noise metric for homes within the contour and a 34 percent reduction in the surrounding region.

The city of Chicago leads the nation in sound insulation funding; budget increases three-fold.

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.

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.

2004

City of Park Ridge and School District 85.5 join ONCC.

ONCC joins 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. The consortium includes universities, aircraft

and aircraft engine manufacturers and government agencies working together to identify solutions for existing and anticipated aircraft noise.

Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) of the 9th Congressional District pledges her support on aircraft noise reduction efforts in Congress.

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

American Airlines receives Fly Quiet Award.

2005

Village of Maywood and School District 88 join ONCC.

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

Chicago and ONCC extend inter-governmental agreement for five more years.

O'Hare Modernization Program underway; FAA Record of Decision names ONCC to oversee residential sound insulation program utilizing OMP full build out noise contour. Scope of work includes insulation for 6,000 additional housing units.

American Eagle and United Express receive Fly Quiet Awards.

2006

Village of Harwood Heights joins ONCC.

The FAA awards the city of Des Plaines a $750,000 land use grant. The Vision 100 grant encourages compatible land use and zoning with airports.

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 percent.

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

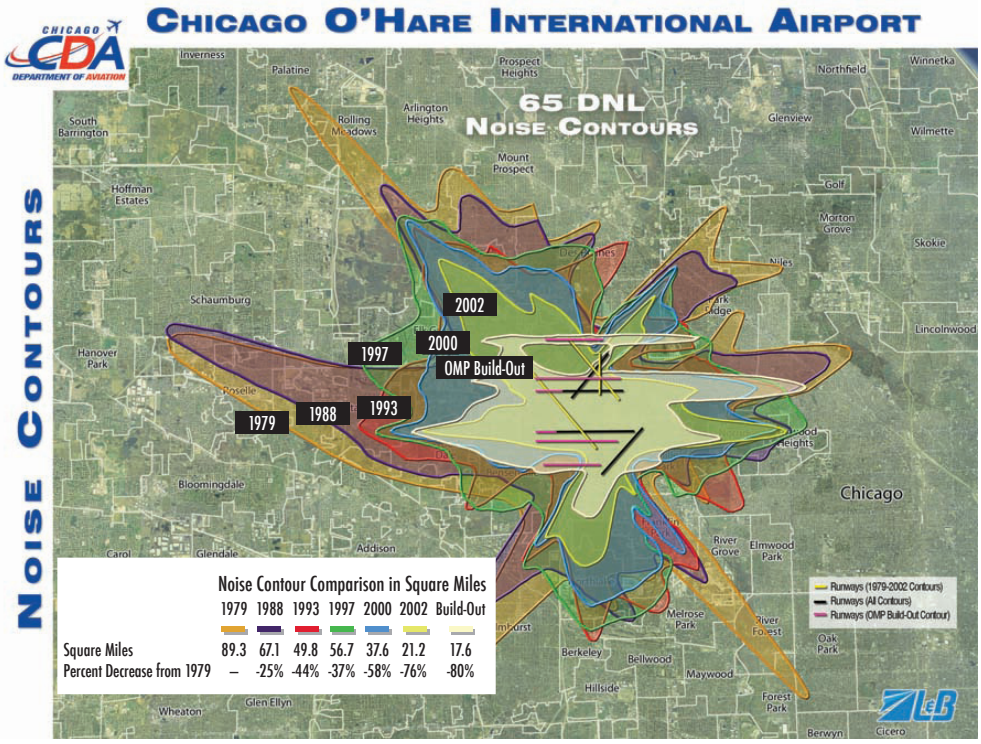
FedEx Express, Mexicana Airlines, Northwest Airlines and FAA Chicago Airports District Environmental Specialist Amy Hanson receive Fly Quiet Awards.

2008

Village of Itasca joins ONCC.

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

ONCC approves its first-ever policy for the sound insulation of multi-unit buildings.



Chicago Department of Aviation Airport Noise Management System improves data with upgraded computers, software and monitors for ONCC noise reports.

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 reevaluate established noise metrics.

ONCC requests new FAA monthly report on nighttime flights for the new runway.

2009

Village of Bensenville and Park Ridge/ Niles School District 64 join ONCC.

Three elementary schools, Hitch and Farnsworth in Chicago and Roosevelt in Park Ridge, receive approximately $6.5 million in federal funds to begin sound insulation.

Aircraft noise complaints quickly dispatched via new Internet option.

The village of Bensenville receives a federal grant worth $1 million. The city of Wood Dale also receives $180,000 FAA Vision 100 grant for compatible land use study.

2010

Chicago City Council approves another five-year, inter-governmental agreement with ONCC.

ONCC chairperson Mayor Arlene J. Mulder participates in FAA Noise Research Roadmap Workshop, a five-year investigation on 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 13-year-old Fly Quiet Program (FQP) that identifies preferential nighttime runways at O'Hare and limits flights between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. Initiatives include updating the FQP manual, petitioning FAA to review nighttime operations data and implementing the use of GPS-navigation at O'Hare.

Airport World magazine features ONCC's role in aircraft noise mitigation for O'Hare International Airport neighbors and highlights the commission's efforts to build relationships with aviation stakeholders.

2011

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

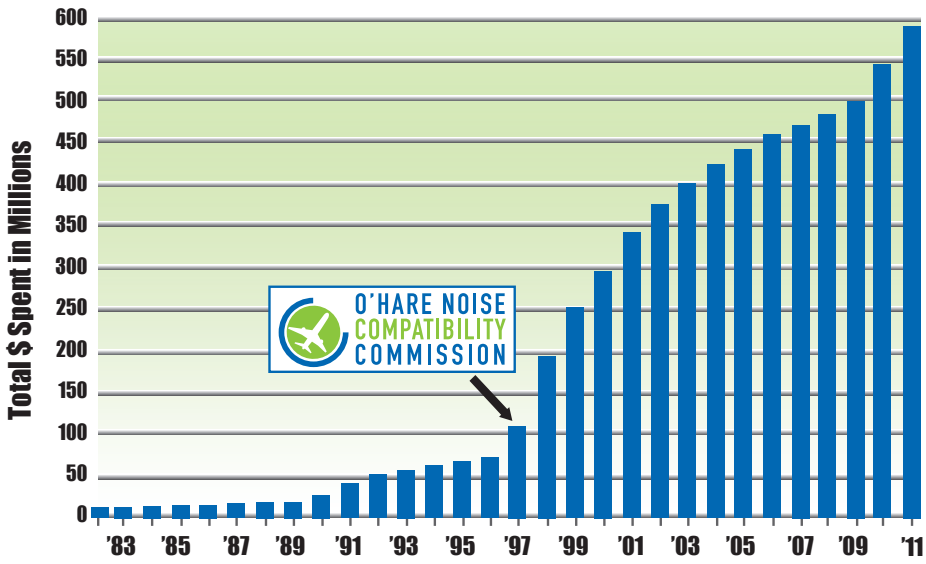
St. Tarcissus Elementary School in Norwood Park is the 123rd school deemed eligible for sound insulation.

Chicago City Council and Mayor Rahm Emmanuel appoint citizen representatives from five northwest wards to ONCC. Wards 36, 38, 39, 41 and 45 represent approximately 285,000 residents near O'Hare.

ONCC hosts symposium for 30 city planners and officials from 18 municipalities to address compatible land use planning near O'Hare.

Chairperson Mayor Arlene J. Mulder receives invitation to represent communities on newly formed FAA NextGen Advisory Committee.

O'HARE RESIDENTIAL AND SCHOOL SOUND INSULATION FUNDING



Source: Chicago Department of Aviation

Looking Forward

ONCC continues to serve as a forum among local governments, CDA, FAA, airlines, pilots, air traffic controllers and aviation stakeholders to reduce and mitigate aircraft noise in the region as the O'Hare Modernization Program and the aviation industry experience effects of a fluctuating economy.

ONCC will continue to (1) advocate for satellite-based navigation technology to align aircraft on preferential nighttime flight tracks away from residential areas; (2) promote compatible land use planning among municipalities and urban planners; and (3) encourage open dialog among communities and aviation stakeholders as runway realignment and expansion continues.

ONCC supports the airport's ongoing multi-billion dollar expansion as a vital economic engine that creates jobs and stimulates the region's economy. As modernization moves forward, ONCC will diligently promote the quality of life for O'Hare communities and strive to reduce the impact of aircraft noise whenever possible.

ONCC Executive Committee

Arlene J. Mulder, Chairperson, Arlington Heights Mayor; Raymond J. Kuper, Ed.D., Vice-Chairperson, School Committee Chairperson; Judith Dunne Bernardi, Treasurer, Norridge Village Clerk; Joseph Annunzio, J.D., Technical Committee Chairperson; Frank A. Damato, Residential Sound Committee Chairperson; Rosemarie S. Andolino, Chicago Department of Aviation Commissioner; Brendan McLaughlin, Executive Director.

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