

O'Hare Monitor Online



Noise Hotline 800-435-9569

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Commission Members

Municipalities

- Arlington Heights
- Bartlett
- Bellwood
- Chicago
- Des Plaines
- Elmwood Park
- Franklin Park
- Hoffman Estates
- Melrose Park
- Mount Prospect
- Niles
- Norridge
- Northlake
- Oak Park
- Palatine
- River Grove
- River Forest
- Rolling Meadows
- Rosemont
- Schaumburg
- Stone Park
- Unincorporated Cook County

School Districts

- 59 Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect
- 63 Des Plaines, Niles, Morton Grove, Glenview
- 80 Norridge
- 81 Schiller Park
- 84 Franklin Park
- 84.5 River Grove
- 86 Harwood Heights
- 87 Berkeley, Northlake, Bellwood
- 89 Maywood, Melrose Park, Broadview
- 214 Elk Grove Village, Des Plaines, Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect, Rolling Meadows, Prospect Heights, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove
- 212 Franklin Park, Schiller Park, Rosemont, Northlake, River Grove, Melrose Park
- 234 Norridge, Harwood Heights
- 299 Chicago Public Schools
- 401 Elmwood Park

Chicago Commits \$20 Million for Aircraft Noise Reduction Work

Chicago Aviation Commissioner Thomas R. Walker announced at the June 13th meeting of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission that the City would spend \$20 million for aircraft noise mitigation efforts during 2003, including \$16.6 million for the Residential Sound Insulation Program.

"We always knew that the City would continue its commitment to the Commission's work, but in these tough economic times for the aviation industry, we had to work harder to identify the right combination of funding," Walker said. "I'm pleased that we and the airlines at O'Hare were able to do that and that we are able to advance the outstanding noise reduction work that has already been done in the communities around O'Hare."

Included in the funding is up to \$2 million that can be used to leverage federal dollars for the School Sound Insulation Program. Another \$1.4 million will be spent on the Airport Noise Monitoring System, technical initiatives aimed at further reducing aircraft noise and educational programs.

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\$20 Million *(Continued from page 1)*

“We’re grateful to Mayor Daley and the airlines for continuing their pledge to help us reduce aircraft noise at O’Hare,” said Commission Chair, Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder. “As leaders of local governments, we also know how difficult it is to find funding for projects these days, which makes this commitment of \$20 million all the more significant.”

It is expected that the funding will allow the Commission to continue its noise mitigation and sound insulation efforts at levels near those of past years. Exact numbers of schools and homes that will receive insulation will be determined by the Commission’s committees at a later time.

To date, 81 schools have been sound insulated at a cost of \$199 million. Another 22 schools are in the construction or design stages, bringing the total program expenditure to \$236 million. With the completion of the 2003 Residential Sound Insulation Program, more than 4,700 homes will have been insulated at a total cost of nearly \$157 million.

FAA Announces Funding for O’Hare School Sound Insulation Program

The FAA has announced that it will make available \$4.6 million for the 2003 O’Hare School Sound Insulation Program. Combined with the recently announced \$2 million from the City of Chicago, the funds are expected to be sufficient to accomplish sound insulation work at three schools this year.

The O’Hare Noise Compatibility Commission’s School Sound Insulation Committee identified the schools following extensive testing for the impact of aircraft noise and after the schools met certain other criteria. The schools are:

Grove Junior High School, Elk Grove Village
Parkview Baptist, Northlake
Mary Seat of Wisdom, Park Ridge

The Committee noted that the funding would cover sound insulation construction work at these schools. If sufficient funding is available, design work will begin at MacArthur Middle School in Berkeley.

New Procedures Designed to Further Reduce Nighttime Aircraft Noise

The Federal Aviation Administration has agreed to a new procedure that will help reduce nighttime aircraft noise around O'Hare. The procedure allows air traffic controllers at O'Hare to give pilots the headings that correct for cross winds to keep aircraft on flight tracks over non-residential areas during the nighttime hours. In addition, the controllers have special overlays on their radar screens to help them keep the aircraft on the flight tracks, which are designated by the O'Hare Fly Quiet Program.

The new procedure is needed because of delays in FAA approval of the automated Advanced Flight Track Procedures (AFTPro). The new procedures were implemented on April 15 and will continue for a one-year period. Meantime, the FAA will continue its review process for AFTPro.

"While we are hopeful that this manual procedure will help to reduce noise over residential areas around the airport, an automated on-board system is the long-term solution," said Chicago Aviation Commissioner Thomas R. Walker.

"We're very pleased that the FAA has approved this new procedure and it's another example of how working in cooperation on aircraft noise issues can produce effective solutions," said Commission Chair, Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder.

Commission Launches Noise Reduction Initiative for New Homes

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission has launched an initiative to help O'Hare area communities reduce the impact of aircraft noise through sound insulation guidelines for new construction.

While aircraft noise has been greatly reduced since the Commission began its work in 1996, there is no guidance for communities that wish to further reduce the impact of noise through the insulation of newly constructed homes. Homes continue to be constructed in areas around O'Hare that are affected by aircraft noise, but current national building codes used by many communities do not address sound insulation. There are few resources available to communities that wish to develop their own guidelines or building codes to address this issue. In addition, the O'Hare Residential Sound Insulation Program is not available for homes constructed after October 1998.

The O'Hare Residential Sound Insulation Program, which is considered one of the finest and most aggressive programs in the nation, has developed considerable expertise in residential sound insulation. The Commission currently publishes a booklet for homeowners who are ineligible for the program, but wish to enhance the sound insulation of their homes. The Commission's New Construction Noise Standards Ad Hoc Committee is using this booklet as a starting point for discussions with officials in O'Hare area communities on developing effective sound insulation guidelines for new construction. The committee's goal is to establish specific guidelines that can be used as resources for communities as they attempt to develop their own noise insulation building codes.

FAA Tackles Airport Land Use Issues

The FAA is beginning an initiative to enhance airport land use compatibility and develop processes to better influence land use planning and zoning around airports. The Land Use Planning Initiative was outlined for the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission's Technical Committee by Tom Bennett, an Environmental Protection Specialist with the FAA's Community and Environmental Needs Division, at the committee's May meeting.

"Because aircraft noise adversely affects a significant portion of the nation's population, a nationwide commitment, involving federal, local, and private resources, is required to reduce the impact of aviation noise on the people who live in areas surrounding airports," Bennett said.

Bennett said that one of the major issues is the shrinking noise contours seen at O'Hare and at other airports around the country due to quieter aircraft. He said that non-compatible land uses such as residential development could creep into areas where homes would never have been built before.

The federal government is not proposing to get involved in local land use. Instead, as part of the Land Use Planning Initiative, the FAA is offering state and local governments some assistance in improving land use compatibility around airports. This help includes a "toolkit" with information on FAA policies/regulations, planning and communications; a resource guide to encourage state and local officials to address airport development and land use planning issues and work cooperatively with all parties involved; and a Web site (www.aee.faa.gov/noise/LUPItoolkit.htm) that serves as a clearinghouse for the latest information on airport land use planning.

Bennett said that cooperation among all those involved in the issue is the most important element.

Learn More About the ONCC and Aircraft Noise Issues

One of the priorities for the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission is helping residents understand the complex issues surrounding aircraft noise mitigation. Education is a major component of the ONCC's mission.

Among the ways the Commission disseminates information on aircraft noise issues are its Web site (www.oharenoise.org), its Annual Report and a videotape presentation. The Annual Report can be viewed online or a printed copy can be ordered free of charge through the Web site. The videotape program entitled "Aircraft Noise Reduction: The O'Hare Story" is being shown on some cable television systems in the Chicago area and is included as a DVD in each issue of the 2002 Annual Report.

Brian Gilligan
Executive Director

773-686-3198

2003 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are open to the public

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission	Residential Sound Insulation Committee	School Sound Insulation Committee	Technical Committee
July No Meeting	July No Meeting	July No Meeting	*July No Meeting
August No Meeting	August 20, 2003 Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	*August No Meeting	August 26, 2003 Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
September 5, 2003 Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	September 17, 2003 Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	September No Meeting	September 23, 2003 Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
October 3, 2003 Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	October 15, 2003 Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	October 8, 2003 <i>*School District 59</i> <i>2123 S. Arlington Hts. Rd., Arlington Hts.</i>	October 28, 2003 Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
November 7, 2003 Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	November 19, 2003 Norridge Village Hall 4000 N. Olcott	November No Meeting	November 25, 2003 Arlington Heights Village Hall 33 S. Arlington Hts. Rd.
December 5, 2003 Donald E. Stephens Convention Center 5555 N. River Rd., Rosemont	*December No Meeting	December 10, 2003 <i>*School District 59</i> <i>2123 S. Arlington Hts. Rd., Arlington Hts.</i>	*December No Meeting

**Revised information is in italic.*

Meeting schedules are subject to change. Please check www.oharenoise.org for updates.

