



City of Des Moines

ADMINISTRATION
21630 11TH AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE A
DES MOINES, WASHINGTON 98198-6398
(206) 878-4595 T.D.D.: (206) 824-6024 FAX: (206) 870-6540



September 12, 2019

Dear Executive Director Metruck,

The City is in receipt of your letter of September 5, 2019. We appreciate your acknowledgement and apology regarding the issues that prompted our letter informing Mr. Lyttle of Des Moines City Council action to temporarily suspend our participation in the StART Committee. As you will recall the issues are:

- The allocation of \$10 million to begin design work on Near-Term projects of the Sustainable Airport Master Plan (SAMP) without environmental review.
- The meeting was held at a remote location (Kirkland).
- This action violates state SEPA requirements.
- The item was on consent agenda.
- There was no prior notice given to any stakeholder.

The City of Des Moines is disproportionately impacted by the year-over-year, double-digit growth of activity at the Airport. It is precisely this dynamic that was the catalyst for the StART committee whose charter was to support meaningful and collaborative public dialogue and engagement on Airport related operations, planning, and development. Additionally, the charter states that StART's effectiveness will be driven by a willingness by all parties to fully and candidly discuss matters of mutual concern.

1. To that end, your letter makes a number of statements about actions accomplished by the StART. I would ask you to clarify the following of your statements:
Regarding the Late Night Noise Limitation program: We are aware the Airport gave out awards to airlines with "quieter" flights but, of course, our community is concerned with the "noisier" flights. Please clarify the results attributable to this program.
2. You state there has been accommodation in late-night schedules and publicizing of performance: Can you please provide the changes to night-time flights, specific airlines and scheduled flights that have been changed to reduce night-time impacts from Airport operations?
3. Adjusting the runway glide slope: It is our understanding that this has not occurred and will take up to a four year process with the Federal Aviation Administration, and could cost anywhere from \$5 million to \$30 million [StART Facilitators meeting Summary, February 27th, 2019 – presentation by Mr. Robert Tyroski, Airfield, Airspace Planner, Port of Seattle].

The Waterland City



P.O. Box 1209
Seattle, WA 98111-1209
Tel: 787-3000

www.portseattle.org

September 5, 2019

The Honorable Matt Pina
City of Des Moines
21630 11th Avenue South
Suite A
Des Moines, WA 98198

Dear Mayor Pina,

I am writing in response to your letter of August 13, 2019 advising of the City of Des Moines' decision to suspend participation in the Sea-Tac Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART) and to the similar decision made by the Cities of Burien and Federal Way. Let me start by apologizing for the lack of timely notification regarding the preliminary design funding. We are re-committed to prompt communication with all airport-area communities on SAMP-related and other relevant issues.

Trust is essential, and I am glad to see it referenced in your communication. Port staff and the city representatives all worked hard to design StART as a forum for community input and action, with stakeholders from all parties at the table working to address current operational concerns. Our intent is to continue holding StART meetings.

We have made meaningful progress and initiated several new actions at Sea-Tac directly resulting from StART, including: the Late Night Noise Limitation program, accommodation in late-night schedules and publicizing performance; adjusting the runway glide slope; working with FAA to reduce use of the third runway at night; initiating a Ground Noise analysis; and requesting airlines to upgrade or replace older, louder equipment at Sea-Tac. We also expect the working groups to continue to dive into industry-specific topics.

I welcome a conversation about how we can form partnerships to develop positive outcomes for all, with all parties held to the same standards. In that spirit, we will be contacting you and the other cities to explore a constructive way forward in our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SP Metruck".

Stephen P. Metruck
Executive Director

cc: Port of Seattle Commission
The Honorable Jimmy Matta, City of Burien
The Honorable Jim Ferrell, City of Federal Way
The Honorable Erin Sitterley, City of SeaTac
The Honorable Allan Ekberg, City of Tukwila
The Honorable Jonathan Chicquette, City of Normandy Park
City Manager/Administrators, Highline Cities
The Honorable Eileen Cody, Washington State Legislature