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# Late Night Noise Reduction Programs Take Effect

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September 12, 2019 Contact: Perry Cooper | Sea-Tac Airport (206) 787-4923 | cooper.p@portseattle.org

## **Late Night Noise Reduction Programs Take Effect**

#### Runway Use Agreement and Late Night Noise Limitation Underway

SEATTLE – The Port of Seattle has secured a revised Runway Use Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and began implementation of a new Late Night Noise Limitation Program for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Both are outcomes of collaboration within the Sea-Tac Airport Stakeholder Advisory Round Table (StART), an advisory round table focused on identifying practical solutions to reducing aircraft noise in neighboring communities.

The objective of the revised Runway Use Agreement, which went into effect on September 4, is to minimize use of the Third Runway (the western-most runway, 16R/34L) during the late-night hours of midnight to 5 a.m. This is intended to lessen aircraft noise in the communities adjacent to the Third Runway and under its flight path.

The Late Night Noise Limitation Program is a new, voluntary Port of Seattle initiative designed to reduce late night aircraft noise at Sea-Tac Airport by encouraging airlines to fly during less noise sensitive hours or to transition to quieter aircraft. The program focuses on the same late-night hours of midnight to 5 a.m. The program was developed to increase air carrier awareness of the impact of aircraft noise on local communities.

"These recommendations came about because of the commitment of individuals who spent many long hours working with the Port, FAA, air carriers, and local community

- Airfield Noise Assessment This effort will investigate and determine sources of airfield noise, including the use of reverse thrust by aircraft, and potential ways to minimize their impact. The Port just hired a noise consultant to conduct the assessment, with work expected to begin this fall.
- Noise Abatement Departure Profiles This effort will analyze a steeper aircraft departure procedure and the potential benefits to residents under the flight-paths. The Port has hired a noise consultant to conduct the analysis. The analysis is expected to take a couple of months and when complete – will include proposed next steps.
- StART is also working to develop and implement a shared federal advocacy agenda to better engage the FAA and Members of Congress in our shared goals around reducing aviation-related noise in local communities

#### **Expanding current Port programs**

The Port is committed to building programs that benefit our closest neighbors through matching grants, economic development and job creation, workforce development, environmental practices, and safety, including:

- The South King County Fund will make investments of up to \$10 million over the next five years in programs that may include addressing airport noise and other projects that support increased environmental health and sustainability.
- Airport Community Ecology Fund (ACE) supports environmental projects and programs in the cities of SeaTac, Burien, and Des Moines with more than \$240,000 in grants since 2017.
- Economic Development Partnership Program funds local initiatives across King County with more than \$1.8 million in awards since 2016.
- Spotlight reserves advertising locations at Sea-Tac Airport for promoting local cities and King County destinations.
- Airport Career Awareness Events offer a series of career-oriented educational experiences for local high school students.

### About Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

Operated by the Port of Seattle, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA, KSEA) is ranked as the 8th busiest U.S. airport, serving 49.8 million passengers and more than 432,315 metric tons of air cargo in 2018. With a regional economic impact of more than \$22.5 billion in business revenue, Sea-Tac generates more than 151,400 jobs (87,300 direct jobs), representing over \$3.6 billion in direct earnings and more than \$442 million in state and local taxes. Thirty-two airlines serve 91 non-stop domestic and 29 international destinations.

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