

MINUTES  
Air Transportation Committee  
Sea-Tac Communities Plan

June 28, 1973

Chairman Jan Charnell called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the meeting room of the community office, 253 South 152nd Street, Burien.

In attendance were:

Elliott Brogren

Jim Davis

John F. Cramer

Monte Powell

John M. Miller

R. M. Boyd

Lorraine Smith

Florence M. Evans

John and Ann Tedesco

Judy Sroufe

Bud Eckman

Charles I. McJunkin

Albin A. G. Anderson

Adrienne Durbin

Irene Jones

Cliff Bourland

Frances Hellums

Pat Ashcraft

John Miller

Robert Beardemphl

C. C. Rhoton

John L. Pfeifer

Moorfield Storey, Jr.

Lorene C. Taylor

Jackie E. Taylor

Beverlee Hendrickson

Mrs. H. M. Stoner

Ted Nakkerud

Frank Ehle

Jean Pihlman

Eleanor Lee

Robert Shafer

Virginia Dana

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dantzler

Adrienne Naud

Howard N. Olsen

Berta Provine

John Dodds

Howard Segal

Jack Freytag, Robin M. Towne & Associates

George Saito, FAA

Jim Todd, Coordinator, EDC

John Anthony, Community Office

Marty Curry, Community Office

Ed Parks, Port of Seattle, Department  
of Planning & Research

Donovan Tracy, Community Office

1. Following introductions, Ed Parks of the port of Seattle Department of Planning and Research gave a brief explanation of planning problems from the Port's standpoint. Ed is the technical coordinator of the Sea-Tac Communities Plan. He explained that in dealing with the problems at airports there are really three environments: The physical boundaries of the airport, or the Port-owned area; the airport environment, or the area around the airport which received the problems and the benefits it creates; and the economic environment, or the total area (region) it serves.

Ed gave a short history of Sea-Tac stating that it was established in 1942 at Bow Lake and was a very small facility with few residences around it. The Bow Lake site was actually chosen over a Bellevue site due to prevailing fog conditions in Bellevue. Ed explained that conflicts arose as the airport expanded over time and surrounding residential areas began to close in on the airport. The efforts of the Zone 3 Committee, NOISE and Miller Creek interests were cited as being instrumental in making environmental issues and community concerns known. A committee member stated that he was present at the groundbreaking of the Bow Lake Airport in 1942 and stated that no one could imagine at that time the problems which would result.

Ed explained that while the present project started only as a noise study, it was soon realized that Planning for the entire community was necessary to solve the problems. Discussion commenced with King County concerning a joint effort. Through the cooperation of Mr. George Buley and Mr. George Saito of the FAA, the first application involving both an airport and a local planning agency was prepared and submitted on Dec. 15, 1972, to the FAA for funding assistance under their Planning Grant Program.

2. Dr. Robert Beardemphl of the Highline School District then spoke to the committee on the problems aircraft noise has caused local schools. The District over the last 5 years has been studying and trying to solve the problem primarily from a building standpoint. The District considers 14 buildings to have a serious noise problem.

Dr. Beardemphl discussed two reports prepared by or for the District which have tried to identify the scope of the problem and realize costs associated with solving it. The reports were: "Aircraft Noise", October, 1971, and "Noise Abatement Study, Status Report to Educational Facilities Laboratory", March, 1973. Dr. Beardemphl also mentioned a behavioral study which will analyze how students react to noise in the classroom. He stated that much also needs to be known about how they react in the playground and at home.

Dr. Beardemphl also discussed actions the District has taken. He and Dr. Sealey have appeared before the Senate Commerce Committee in Washington, D. C., and have appealed to the Port on an informal and formal basis. On advice of legal counsel, the District has filed a claim against the Port because of possible problems due to the statute of limitations.

When asked about school closures, Dr. Beardemphl said he couldn't speak for the District, but it is his personal opinion that schools would be closed due largely to declining enrollments. He couldn't comment as to which schools and when action would occur. Dr. Beardemphl was also asked why schools were being soundproofed if there was a possibility that they may be bought out. He explained that the soundproofing efforts thus far were only experimental. He was also asked whether the ILS (Instrument Landing System) was going to make it more dangerous for kids going to schools. He replied by stating that the District had no information to indicate that as a problem.

3. Jack Freytag of Robin M. Towne and Associates, noise consultant to the project, discussed the noise measurement system. ANE (Actual Noise Exposure) and NEF (Noise Exposure Forecast) were reviewed as measurement techniques used in the project and will provide a base for comparison with other airports. Using ANE, 4200 flyover measurements at 66 locations, including street traffic measurements, will be taken. For each aircraft measurement, a photograph will be taken. Photo ranging will help in determining the distance to each aircraft as its noise is measured. Five descriptive methods of analyzing noise will be used. EPNL, (Effective Perceived Noise Level), one of these, will match peoples' response to noise.

Mr. Freytag explained that this was the first time such comprehensive measurements, providing the five descriptors, had been taken. He also explained that Zones 1, 2 and 3 for Sea-Tac had not been established by actual noise measurements.

When asked how this study of noise differs from others, Mr. Freytag cited the number of measurements, considerations for weather, logging of aircraft by a technician in the field and the complex descriptors as being factors not considered in previous studies. He noted that vibrations were not being studied directly, explaining that vibrations are very difficult to study and are unique to, or vary with, every different wall, window, etc. However, comparison data would be used to assess vibration problems. He also explained that sensitive waterproof microphones would tend to distort overall results. Jack stated that location of measurement stations would be on a grid system to assure uniformity. Maps would be provided to the Community Office and to the committee of the locations as they are established.

4. Ed Parks was introduced again to discuss noise abatement procedures. He distributed to the committee a reproduction of a HUD publication dealing with noise abatement procedures (copy attached to official copy of the minutes). Ed reviewed the three federal agencies involved with the noise problem. HUD (Housing and Urban Development) deals with land use, zoning and building provisions; EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has been charged by Congress to prepare noise standards for the U.S. by July 28; and FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) handles the regulation of aircraft including construction and flight. FAA has sponsored aircraft sound reduction under FAR-36 standards. SAM (Sound Absorption Material) are one of the prime ways of reducing sound generated from aircraft.

Ed explained three ways or areas in which sound can be reduced: at the source, the receiver, or the distance between them. He mentioned that FAA is working on the problem in the distance area as well as the source by experimenting with flight procedures, particularly the 2-step approach. It was mentioned by a member of the committee that while a 2-step glide slope may reduce the problem further out, it intensifies it closer in. Ed concluded by saying the Sea-Tac Communities Plan must use all these procedures, or the best combination of them, in order to

solve the problems. The area of property taxes was mentioned by the committee as another area for consideration.

5. Proposed redrafting of the original grant application goals was presented by Eleanor Lee, a member of the project's Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) representing the EDC. She stated that while the grant goals were understandable to lawyers and planners and may have been good enough to get the grant, they need to be restated to be readily understandable to the community. She distributed to each member a proposed draft she had prepared (attached to the official copy of the minutes).

Mrs. Lee reviewed changes that were suggested by the Urban Development Committee. After some discussion and suggestions that enforcement be written into the goals, it was determined that while these goals relate to the project, there was a need for goals for the committee and for the various subject areas it is to work on. It was agreed then that the committee could and would develop its own goals as it went along. Eleanor will present both committees' suggestions to the Policy Advisory Committee on July 3.

6. Chairman Charnell identified a number of areas the committee should begin working on and asked for volunteers to work on task forces. Jan said that we've heard a lot about measurements, but emphasized that there need to be ways to relate them to decisions. He stated a need for a community survey to determine what people think is noisy compared to what consultants say is noisy and then help draw the lines.

Marty Curry of the community office discussed the problems of relating the environmental and planning studies to the broader community. She stated that funding had been approved for the filming and production of four programs (Air Quality, Noise, Water and Land Use) for use by the two committees in presenting and discussing the studies with the community. The Community Schools (Adult Education) Program of the Highline School District would provide an appropriate means of scheduling and presenting the programs. Marty called for the help of a task force for review of script for the Noise and Air Quality programs and possibly to serve as actors in the programs.

Those volunteering for task forces were:

1-Goals statements

2-Community survey

Lorraine Smith, C.E. Bourland, Robert Shafer, Florence Evans and Bud Eckman

3-Abatement alternatives

John Cramer, Monte Powell, Bob Boyd, Moorfield Storey, Jr., and Frank Ehle

4-Audio-visual

Jim Davis, Pat Ashcraft and Howard Segal

5-Speaker's bureau

Eleanor Lee

6-Program

Howard Olsen, Virginia Dana, Monte Powell, Jean Pihlman and John Miller

7-Near-term programs

Jim Davis, Virginia Dana, Tom Dantzler and John Miller

8-Fact finding (communication)

9-Governmental liaison

10-Urban development comm  
liaison

11-Future projections

Howard Segal

12-Land-use sensitivity  
noise code

John Cramer, Monte Powell and Bob Boyd

The committee concurred that a roster should be prepared and sent to all members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9: 55 p.m.

DT: mj

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