



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Great Lakes Region
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

JAN 18 2013

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
Member, United States House
of Representatives
820 Davis Street, Suite 105
Evanston, IL 60201

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your December 28, 2012, email on behalf of the City of Park Ridge. The email requests information on the Northeast Cargo area improvements at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

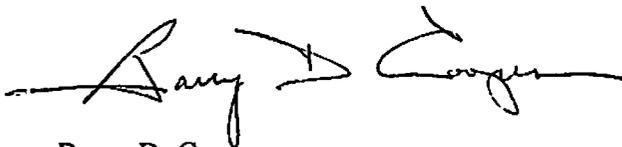
The improvements were proposed after the issuance of the Record of Decision for the O'Hare Modernization Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The improvements have independent utility from the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), and as such, a separate environmental assessment was prepared. The Environmental Assessment (EA) identified that the project had independent utility because the existing cargo facilities at O'Hare do not provide sufficient aircraft ramp space with co-located warehouse facilities to allow for the efficient handling and processing of cargo while also meeting increasing cargo security requirements. Additionally, consistent with the OMP EIS, several existing cargo operators with facilities in the Southwest Cargo area at O'Hare will be receiving new, larger aircraft that they plan to operate at the Airport within the next few years. Due to their size, these aircraft cannot be accommodated at the existing Southwest Cargo area without disrupting existing operations.

The improvements were evaluated in full accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City of Chicago and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) coordinated the project with the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission. The environmental assessment showed the improvements would have no significant environmental impacts.

Specifically, noise that would be generated from the Northeast Cargo operations was compared to noise modeling for the OMP EIS. That noise analysis showed the average number of cargo operations per day, time of operation and runway use was not expected to change. Based on the noise analysis and the other analyses in the EA, the FAA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact/Record of Decision on November 26, 2008.

The FAA appreciates the opportunity to address the concerns of the residents of Park Ridge. The FAA will continue to respond to questions raised by the ONCC and the City of Park Ridge when requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry D. Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Barry D. Cooper
Regional Administrator
Great Lakes Region