



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

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

DEC 05 2014

Thank you for your recent letter regarding operations at O'Hare International Airport. From your letter it appears you have specific concerns about aircraft noise experienced over your community.

The City of Chicago O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) is a multi-year, multi-phase reconfiguration of the existing airfield to an east/west runway orientation. This project is a comprehensive redesign of the runways, taxiways, and other associated infrastructure. Since construction began in 2005, runway usage and air traffic patterns have continuously been adjusted to accommodate aircraft operations and airport construction. The most recent adjustment occurred when the City commissioned its fourth parallel runway (10C/28C) on October 17, 2013, effectively transitioning O'Hare airspace and runways into a primarily east-west configuration. As a result, Runway 9L (the northernmost east-west runway) is now being used more frequently as an arrival runway than it had been since it was commissioned in November 2008.

In 2002, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) began evaluating all of the proposed development and reconfiguration in the OMP Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The FAA conducted a series of public meetings and responded to public comments, before finalizing and publishing its conclusions in a Record of Decision in September 2005. Noise exposure, runway configuration, airspace configuration, air quality and impacts on surrounding communities were addressed through the extensive public process.

Communities surrounding airports, especially airports as busy as O'Hare, are impacted by noise. Mitigation of airport noise is the primary responsibility of the city, as airport proprietor. The city, working with the FAA, the airlines, and the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC), continues to mitigate noise impacts surrounding O'Hare. The FAA provides federal funding and technical guidance. Working with the City of Chicago and the ONCC, we have provided approximately \$205 million in Airport Improvement Program grants and Passenger Facility Charge funding for school sound insulation and more than \$80 million for residential sound insulation to reduce the impacts of aircraft noise to communities adjacent to O'Hare. The FAA continues to participate with other federal agencies, universities, and industry groups in research to reduce noise impacts.

Although Elk Grove Village is not a member of the ONCC, you may find some of the work they do of benefit. For information about the ONCC, including its membership, committee work, meeting schedule and accomplishments, please visit the ONCC website at www.oharenoise.org.

Based on the site map and the addresses that you provided, Lake Cosman Estates is located approximately 4.3 miles west of the end of Runway 9L and just north of the extended centerline. Unfortunately, Lake Cosman Estates does not fall within the area that qualifies for federally funded sound insulation. The following Chicago Department of Aviation website offers information to homeowners on sound insulating their homes:

<http://www.flychicago.com/OHare/EN/AboutUs/NoiseManagement/Pages/SoundPrograms.aspx>

The modernization of O'Hare International Airport is needed to meet Chicago's aviation demands of the future in a manner that provides improved safety and efficiency for the airport and public. Through its analysis of the OMP, the FAA took great care to examine health and safety concerns to ensure that all appropriate impact mitigation actions are taken. While we acknowledge that impacts such as noise cannot be completely eliminated, the FAA has taken significant steps to minimize those impacts, and we will continue to do so as technological advancements in the aviation industry provide those opportunities.

Thank you for sharing your perspective with the FAA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry D. Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the left.

Barry D. Cooper
Regional Administrator
Great Lakes Region