



September 25, 2018

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205, 207, 214, 234, 299, 401

Rebecca McPherson
Great Lakes Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
2100 E. Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60017

Dear Ms. McPherson,

As you are aware, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) is currently engaged in assessing opportunities to develop a Fly Quiet Nighttime Noise Abatement Program to be submitted to the FAA for approval and for implementation upon O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) Full Build Out in 2021. During the course of our meetings it has become clear that not all our members have the same understanding of certain terms, such as "metroplex" and that our discussions could be more productive if we can reach a common understanding of the term and if, when and how a metroplex-type analysis was done for O'Hare.

During a recent meeting at the FAA's office with FAA tower and regional administration personnel, we were able to hear about the Chicago airspace analysis that has been done, and that these efforts are actually a precursor to metroplex analyses at other airports. We are requesting a simple fact sheet summarizing the FAA's perspective on metroplex vis a vis O'Hare that we can share with our members and also the public via the ONCC website.

We are aware that there was considerable work done on the Chicago airspace to prepare for Runway 10C/28C as part of OMP. We are also aware that the FAA has designated 11 airfields throughout the country as Metroplex Systems under the umbrella of NextGen and that O'Hare is not one of the designees. However we also understand that airspace was re-analyzed under a Part 150 for Midway Airport changing the configuration and flight patterns for the busy skies in our region.

We are asking for some clarity regarding these questions:

- What is the definition of Metroplex?
- What is it designed to do? (ie, does it reassign flights to other airports or does it better manage the system of airports/airspace within the metroplex region)
- There are 11 active Metroplexes, why is there not a Chicago metroplex?
- Do any of these tools apply at O'Hare:
 1. Wake Recategorization?
 2. Optimized Profile Descents?
 3. Lower visibility procedures?
- Are there documents we can point to that specify/define the analysis for O'Hare?

We look forward to your assistance in providing the material we are requesting. Your efforts to help clarify FAA terms and policies regarding airspace management are truly appreciated and will assist with more productive efforts by our members.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene A. Juracek".

Arlene A. Juracek, Mount Prospect Mayor and
O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission Chair

Cc: Members, O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission