

Q: Why is the FAA making changes to the airspace procedures in the Phoenix area?

A: Improving the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System remains a key priority for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), with air travel expected to continue to increase for the foreseeable future. To enhance safety, capacity and could reduce delays at congested airports, the FAA is proposing to implement new satellite-based air traffic procedures as well as updates to the existing satellite-based air traffic procedures that will help enhance safety and improve air traffic efficiency at the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. These procedures are key building blocks for the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) and can provide significant near-term benefits such as more direct and predictable flight paths, improved airport arrival rates, greater fuel savings, and reduced aircraft noise. The proposed changes will improve safety, enhance operational efficiency, and could reduce operational delays, providing a flexible system capable of safely handling the demands and complexities of the future.

Q: What was the result of the lawsuit filed by the City of Phoenix and certain historic neighborhood associations in regards to the proposed PBN changes?

A: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on May 24, 2018 agreed to follow a two-step plan set forth in the agreement the agency entered into with the City of Phoenix and certain historic neighborhood associations following the decision in *City of Phoenix, Arizona v. Huerta*, 869 F.3d 963 (D.C. Circuit 2017). Step One modified the west-flow departure procedures at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Under Step Two, the FAA agreed to consider feedback on procedures throughout the Phoenix area — not just on the westerly departure routes.

At this time, the FAA has completed all of its obligations under the agreement. Any future actions that the FAA may undertake regarding airspace changes in and around Phoenix, will be considered new actions that are unrelated to the agreement.

Q: How long will the PHX PBN process take?

A: Although the FAA has already implemented over 1,000 PBN procedures nationwide, there are no quick methods or short cuts for setting up the new routes. As part of our review process, we must ensure the safety of the new procedures and that they comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. We will also be meeting and engaging with stakeholders including state, tribal, local, and community leaders, industry, and the public at large. The process is labor intensive and time consuming and you should expect that it will take several years before the procedures will be finalized and published.

Q: Will the public be able to provide input before the FAA implements these changes?

A: Yes. In addition to meeting and engaging with state, tribal, local, and community leaders as part of the process, the FAA will hold community meetings. We encourage you to check back and monitor this website for updates to the PBN process and to find out when and where community meetings will be scheduled in your area.