

FAA Facts



Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C. 20591

Metroplex Program

The Federal Aviation Administration's Next Generation Air Transportation System, or NextGen, is the ongoing transformation of air traffic control technologies and procedures in the United States. Think of this transition like moving from paper maps to GPS when you drive your car.

A key NextGen goal is to safely improve the way aircraft navigate complex metropolitan areas, which we call Metroplexes, to make flight routes and airports more efficient. The FAA has identified multiple Metroplex areas in the United States. Each Metroplex includes one or more commercial airports that serve at least one major city.

A Metroplex project allows the FAA to improve regional traffic movement by making the best use of airspace and procedures using the precision of satellite-based navigation.

In addition to improving navigation, Metroplex projects may reduce fuel burn and carbon emissions. Other benefits include:

- Modernizes air traffic procedures to today's standards
- Enhances aviation safety
- Reduces task complexity for air traffic control and pilots

Use of NextGen procedures in these areas could improve on-time performance, which would benefit the region and the entire national airspace system.

Las Vegas Metroplex Project

The airspace surrounding Las Vegas has a large number of air traffic procedures that have not been changed for many years. While these procedures are safe, most are inefficient due to advances in technology. This is one of the reasons why the airspace surrounding the Las Vegas metropolitan area has been identified for Metroplex development.

The proposed Metroplex would allow for more direct and efficient routing of aircraft into and out of Las Vegas, potentially reducing flight times for passengers. Changes may occur for arrivals and departures from airports in the Las Vegas Metroplex project.

Airports included in the Las Vegas Metroplex

- Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS)
- Henderson Executive Airport (HND)
- North Las Vegas Airport (VGT)
- Nellis Air Force Base (LSV)

Environmental Process

Before any new procedures can be implemented, Federal law and FAA policy requires the FAA to conduct environmental reviews in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These reviews will lead to an Environmental Assessment. As part of the process, the FAA will hold a series of community meetings.

- As locations, dates and times are determined they will be listed on the website below
- Residents of Las Vegas and the surrounding areas are encouraged to attend the community meetings where they can:
 - ❖ Talk with experts to learn how proposed air traffic changes could affect their communities
 - ❖ Make comments about the proposed procedures
- Comments may be made online for 30 days following each meeting by accessing the link below
- All comments will be reviewed before the FAA makes a final determination
- Implementation of the new procedures projected for fall 2019

For up-to-date information, please review the project website:

www.faa.gov/nextgen/communityengagement/las/