

FAA Facts

Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, D.C. 20591

Performance Based Navigation: Untangling the Airspace

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.

You might think of this transition as similar to moving from paper maps to GPS when you drive your car.

Performance Based Navigation (PBN) is part of NextGen:

- **PBN allows the FAA to improve traffic movement** by making the best use of airspace and procedures.
 - PBN uses satellite-based navigation and on-board aircraft equipment.
 - It provides benefits through all phases of flight.
 - It creates shorter, more direct flight paths, increasing safety through predictability.
 - It improves airport arrival rates.
- PBN is a core component of international initiatives designed to meet industry and air traffic goals for increased safety and efficiency.

Austin, Texas

The current work at Austin consists of minor adjustments to existing satellite-based routes.

- These routes, used for arrivals and departures, were initially put into place in 2015.
- After implementation, the FAA discovered several locations where safety enhancements could be improved.

Air traffic controllers, airline representatives, and environmental protection specialists, noise specialists and the Airport Advisory Council were consulted, and the FAA developed revisions.

- These revisions are scheduled to be put into use in the last half of 2017.

O V E R

The new revisions overlay existing flight paths, bringing the benefits of increased safety, efficiency, reduced emissions, and reduced delays and reduced noise.

- Air traffic flows are more predictable, which reduces complexity, enhancing an already-safe operation.
- These updated procedures provide the pilots with accurate information and expectations in addition to reducing controller workload and enhancing safety.

This update to procedures is intended to create as small of a noise impact as possible.

- Not all communities may see any differences from the proposed changes. However, some people living or working under current air traffic patterns may see and/or hear aircraft as a result of the proposed designs.
- There may be communities that have less noise from these changes.

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

<https://www.faa.gov/nextgen/communityengagement/aus/>

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