

# Boston Logan International Airport

## RNAV (GPS) Runway 4-Left Environmental Assessment

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New England Region

**Dates:** May 2-3, 2022

***Prepared for:*** Elected Officials and Stakeholders



Federal Aviation  
Administration



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# PROJECT OVERVIEW

The FAA proposed a new instrument approach procedure (IAP) to Runway 4L at Boston Logan International Airport (BOS). This new procedure, referred to as the RNAV (GPS) RWY 4L procedure, will provide enhanced safety for aircraft approaching Runway 4L as well as the ability for BOS to operate more efficiently under poor weather conditions.

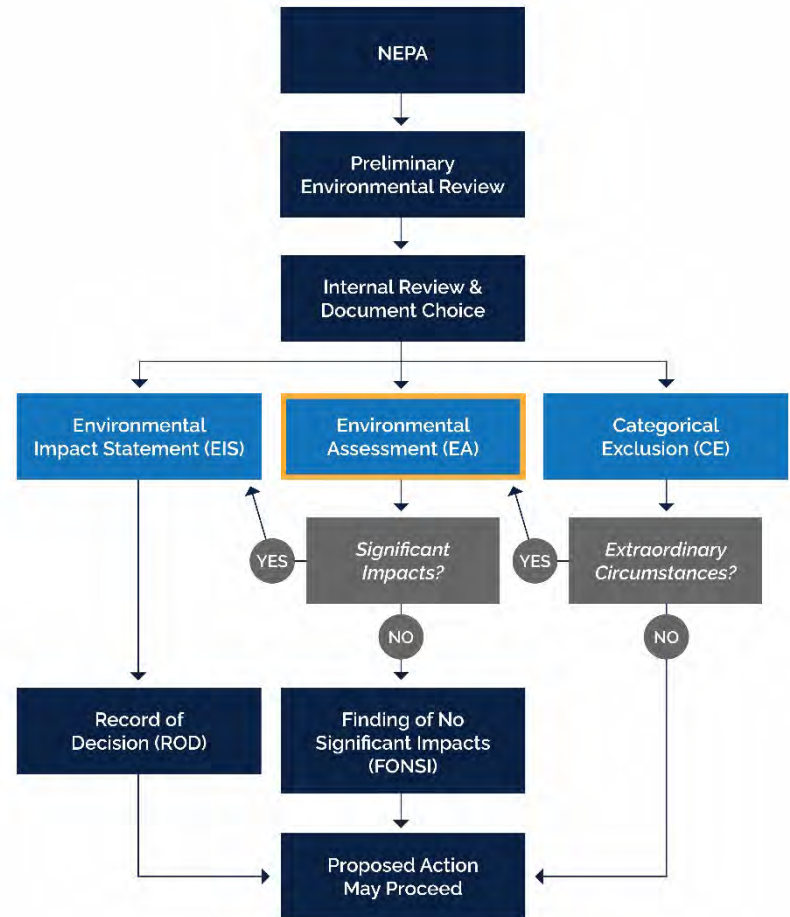
The implementation of this new procedure is considered a major federal action with potential to cause environmental impacts. FAA complied with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant laws. As a part of the NEPA process, the FAA prepared an Environmental Assessment which details the proposed new procedure and potential environmental impacts.



RNAV (GPS) RWY 4L Procedure

# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) & Environmental Study Process

The purpose of an Environmental Assessment is to determine if FAA's proposed action has the potential to result in significant environmental effects. If there are no significant impacts, then the proposed action may proceed under a categorical exclusion if one applies, or, following the completion of an environmental assessment, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).



# Environmental Assessment Project Timeline

- ✓ **October 2019** – Environmental Assessment of Proposed Action Begins
- ✓ **September 2020** – Release of Draft Environmental Assessment for RNAV (GPS) RWY 4L Procedure
- ✓ **October 2020** – Draft Environmental Assessment Community Engagement Workshops
- ✓ **June 2021** – Coordination with Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) and Other Consulting Parties Regarding Proposed Finding of No Adverse Effect
- ✓ **August 2021** – Additional Requested Information Shared with MHC
- ✓ **October 2021** – Additional Answered Questions Letter Shared with MHC
- ✓ **January 2022** – Additional Information in support of FAA’s Proposed Finding of No Adverse Effect Shared with MHC
- ✓ **May 4, 2022** - FAA published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register for the Final EA, Finding of No Significant Impact and Record of Decision.



# The Benefits & Impact of the Environmental Assessment

- ❑ **Noise and Noise-Compatible Land Use-** Noise Exposure was calculated for all 27,080 census blocks within the General Study Area (GSA). No significant noise impacts with the GSA. The results indicate that the proposed new procedure does not include 1.5 dB or higher increases in any areas exposed to DNL 65 dB or higher, 3 dB or higher increases in areas exposed to DNL between 60 dB and 65 dB, nor 5 dB or higher increases in areas exposed to DNL between 45 dB and 60 dB.
- ❑ **Air Quality-** Criteria pollutant emissions from ongoing operations with the Proposed Action are not expected to exceed applicable general conformity or de minimis thresholds and are not anticipated to jeopardize conformity with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants.
- ❑ **Climate** - Although overall greenhouse gas emissions are expected to increase as fuel burn increases slightly, these increases are minimal compared to the total emissions at the airport. Anticipated annual increase in greenhouse gas emissions as result of the proposed new procedure is +0.2 short tons CO2 equivalent (CO2e).
- ❑ **Department of Transportation Section 4(f) Properties** - 11,854 Section 4(f) properties were identified in the General Study Area and were analyzed for potential environmental consequences. There was no significant impact on any 4(f) Property. There were no significant noise impacts or reportable noise impacts found within the GSA. This includes national, state, and local parks as well as state forests, state historic sites, and state and local refuges that were assessed.
- ❑ **Historic, Architectural, and Cultural Resources** - The proposed new procedure would not physically alter any historic properties or other cultural resources. The small increase in overflights associated with the Proposed Action will not introduce audible or visual elements that would diminish the integrity or the significant historical features of any historic resources within the Area of Potential Effect.
- ❑ **Environmental Justice** - No environmental justice communities would be affected at a disproportionately higher level by the Proposed Action than other population segments.

# Communication Briefing



## Virtual Communication Briefings

- FAA will host two virtual Congressional and Stakeholder Communications Briefings on May 2, 2022 and May 3, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to provide early notification of FAA's publication for the Area Navigation (RNAV) Environment Assessment (EA).
- Communication Briefings were held virtually via on Zoom.



## Project Webpage – the FAA Public Website

[https://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/community\\_engagement/bos/](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/community_engagement/bos/) includes the Final EA and information on the proposed new procedure

- Website goes live May 4, 2022.



## Advertisements

- A notice of publication of the Area Navigation (RNAV) Environmental Assessment (EA) will be available in three newspapers; the Boston Globe, Boston Herald and Patriot Ledger. Electronic Final EA is available on-line. If the public or an individual needs assistance, reach out to us via the email address: [9-ANE-RA-Office@faa.gov](mailto:9-ANE-RA-Office@faa.gov)
- Final EA will be placed in the Federal Register on May 4

# Communication Briefing

## Advertisements

The Final EA document will be available for review on the project website called the FAA Boston Workshops and will also be available in the same Boston area libraries listed below:

- Boston Public Library, Central Library, 700 Boylston St, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Codman Square, 690 Washington St, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Fields Corner, 1520 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, MA
- Boston Public Library, Grove Hall, 41 Geneva Avenue, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Lower Mills, 27 Richmond St, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Mattapan, 1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, Roxbury, 149 Dudley St, Roxbury, MA
- Boston Public Library, South Boston, 646 E Broadway, South Boston, MA
- Boston Public Library, South End, 685 Tremont St, Boston, MA
- Milton Public Library, 476 Canton Avenue, Milton, MA
- Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington St, Quincy, MA
- Hyde Park Branch of Boston Public Library, 35 Harvard Avenue, Hyde Park, MA

- Link to Boston Workshop Website: <https://faabostonworkshops.com/>
- Link to Public FAA Website: [https://www.faa.gov/air\\_traffic/community\\_engagement/bos/](https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/community_engagement/bos/)

# THANK YOU!

