



VANCOUVER AIRPORT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Aeronautical Noise Management Committee (ANMC)

Thursday 10 September 2020 - 1:00PM
Online – Via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance:

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| Chair: | Marion Town | Director, Environment – YVRAA |
| Secretariat: | Rachel Min-Brown | Environmental Analyst – YVRAA |
| Participants: | Ivan Yichen Ma | Citizen Representative – Richmond |
| | John Hopkins | Staff Representative – City of Richmond |
| | Meg Brown | Citizen Representative – Vancouver |
| | Alena Straka | Staff Representative – City of Vancouver |
| | Ron Sorensen | Citizen Representative – Surrey |
| | Hugh Campbell | Staff Representative – City of Surrey |
| | Paula Kolisnek | Staff Representative – City of Delta |
| | Don McLeay | National Airlines Council of Canada |
| | Fraser McKinnell | Transport Canada |
| | Greg Down | NAV CANADA |
| | James Marasa | NAV CANADA |
| | Tej Dhaliwal | NAV CANADA |
| | Terry Cruse | NAV CANADA |
| | Jennifer Aldcroft | Manager, Environment – YVRAA |
| | Mary Point | Manager, Indigenous Relations – YVRAA |
| | Mark Cheng | Supervisor, Noise Abatement & Air Quality – YVRAA |
| Guests: | Jonathan Bagg | NAV CANADA |
| | Russell Atkinson | Director, Air Service Development – YVRAA |

1.0 WELCOME AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Marion Town welcomed attendees to the on-line meeting and reviewed the meeting agenda. The following individuals were identified as first-time attendees or guests:

- Greg Down – NAV CANADA (Manager, Area Control Centre Operations)
- Jonathan Bagg – NAV CANADA (Senior Manager, Stakeholder & Industry Relations)
- Russell Atkinson – YVRAA (Director, Air Service Development)

2.0 IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AIRPORT OPERATIONS

Marion introduced Russell Atkinson, Director Air Service Development (YVRAA), who joined the meeting to provide updates on the impacts of COVID-19 on airport operations industry trends.

The aviation industry has experienced a significant decline in air travel due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Travel restrictions have been put in place globally to stop the spread of the virus since earlier this year. Although some regions have eased their restrictions, the situation has not changed greatly in many regions, including in Canada, where restrictions are in place for foreign nationals entering the country and the Canada-US border remains closed to non-essential travelers.

Additionally, the US continues to log a number of new cases, which prolongs the recovery period. While Canada has done relatively well to flatten the curve, a surge in new cases has been observed lately, including in British Columbia. These factors all contribute to continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 restrictions and the future recovery of air travel.

The Airport Authority is closely monitoring leading indicators for signs of recovery. For example, domestic flights in China have fully recovered to the pre-pandemic levels since the number of new cases in the country has dropped. Domestic travel within Europe has also been increasing as well.

The Airport Authority is also monitoring passenger load factors at YVR and is working closely with our airline partners on their planning and route schedules. Due to the impacts of COVID-19, the load factors in all sectors (domestic, international and transborder) have decreased significantly. The domestic sector is currently where YVR is seeing the majority of seats and an increase in capacity. While the passenger numbers through the airport is slowly trending upwards, the number of passengers remains much lower than the same period last year, and it is anticipated that passenger numbers will decline in the fall.

Recovery will take a collective effort from government agencies and industry partners. The Government of Canada's Flight Plan for Navigating COVID-19 and YVR's joint pilot program with WestJet for COVID-19 testing of outbound passengers are examples of collective efforts taking place. The Airport Authority continues to work closely with government agencies and industry and tourism partners to leverage future opportunities and support recovery of travel.

3.0 NAV CANADA VANCOUVER AIRSPACE MODERNIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

Jonathan Bagg provided an update on the Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project. While there have been some adjustments to NAV CANADA's focus and strategy due to the impacts of COVID-19, this project remains a company priority as they continue to plan for the future.

Jonathan thanked ANMC members for attending the project briefing in June where project information and preliminary design concepts were shared. While the project team continues to advance work on the preliminary designs, resource availability and staff scheduling are being

impacted by the current workplace restrictions due to COVID-19. As a result, public consultations initially planned for early 2021 may be delayed depending on work progress this fall. Revised planning is underway, and further updates will be provided to the ANMC.

4.0 ANMC DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE - DISCUSSION

Mark Cheng discussed the updates made to the ANMC terms of reference and sought input from the Committee members.

As background, the current version of ANMC Terms of Reference posted on the YVR website is from 2009 and it required a comprehensive review and updates. A draft of the updated Terms of Reference was distributed to ANMC members prior to the meeting for review.

Before inviting comments from members, Mark outlined the following main revisions made to the document:

- In the Background section (Section 1.0), more information was added on YVR's lease requirement to manage noise and context of how the ANMC fits within the overall YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Program.
- While purpose, scope, and role of the ANMC remain unchanged, edits were made in Sections 3.1-3.3 to clarify the focus of the ANMC is on noise associated with YVR aircraft operations. Non-aircraft related noise issues, such as noise associated with construction and development projects, are dealt with separately through the Airport Authority's environmental assessment program and are managed by the project team with the assistance from the YVR Communications group.
- Membership section (Section 3.5) was updated to include City of Surrey and remove the Province of BC and the Vancouver Health Authority. Both these entities were participants on the ANMC but have not been involved in many years.

Mark also advised the membership appointment section (Section 3.10) remains unchanged. For citizen representatives from municipalities, the appointment process is left up to individual Jurisdictions; however, the Airport Authority does encourage having set terms and a re-appointment process to ensure the right balance of continued participation, increasing knowledge and understanding of airport issues and community representation.

Committee members provided the following feedback:

- Add a document control section to record revisions
- Share a copy showing all changes made from the current version
- Updated member list

Per the discussions, the Airport Authority staff will send members a blackline version of the draft Terms of Reference document following the meeting. Members were asked to provide any additional comments by October 5, 2020.

The feedback to update the member list was a reference to a separate document (a Committee Manual), which was provided in the past to new ANMC members as part of their welcome package when first appointed to the ANMC. This Manual included the Terms of Reference, copies of the annual noise report and past meeting minutes, as well as a contact sheet for committee members. As all relevant documents are now posted online on the YVR website, this Manual is no longer provided to new members and links to the relevant documents are provided in introduction packages instead. In addition, new members are invited to meet with Airport Authority staff to

discuss their role on the ANMC and to answer any questions they might have. As committee membership changes over time, a list of individual members will not be included in the Terms of Reference although the names of current members appointed by their organizations can be found in meeting minutes.

5.0 QUARTERLY REPORT SUMMARY

Rachel Min-Brown presented a summary of operational statistics and noise complaints received between January and August 2020, which were compared against the same period in 2019.

- Between January and July 2020, there were approximately 99,970 aircraft movements (both runway and non-runway), which is a 48% decrease compared to the same period in 2019 due to the impacts of COVID-19. Passenger numbers also decreased by 63% over the same time period.
- The number of night-time (midnight to 6AM) runway movements between January-July 2020 also decreased compared to the same time period in 2019. In the 2020 time period, there were fewer passenger flights during the night-time hours whereas cargo operations using wide-body jet aircraft increased.
- Between January and August 2020, there were approximately 2,220 run-ups performed at YVR, which is a decrease of 19% compared to the same time period in 2019.
 - 72% of all high power run-ups were conducted by south airfield operators.
 - the Ground Run-up Enclosure remains the preferred location for high power run-ups on the south side. However, it is normal that some high power run-ups are permitted at other locations depending on the requirements of the run-up being performed.
- Between January and August 2020, a total of 1,998 noise concerns associated with YVR aircraft were registered by 88 individuals, largely as a result of a single complainant. Compared to the same period in 2019, this represents a 39% increase in the number of concerns but a 54% decrease in the number of individuals.
- One individual in Surrey submitted 83% (1,664) of all concerns, primarily regarding departure and arriving routing and frequency of flights over the area. This individual had also submitted a number of concerns in 2019. The Airport Authority has offered to meet with the individual to discuss their concerns, but the offer was declined.

6.0 OTHER BUSINESS

a) Noise Monitoring Terminal (NMT) Project Updates

Mark advised that capital budget request to upgrade NMT hardware and expand the NMT network has been submitted for 2021. Along with many other capital projects, this specific project was deferred from this year due to COVID-19. Confirmation of budget approval is expected later this year and the Committee will be updated as decisions are reached.

b) UBC Study and YVR Noise Data

Mark advised that YVR has provided community noise data collected by the airport's NMTs to the UBC School of Population and Public Health to assist them in assessing the impacts of reduced society activities due to COVID-19 on their long-term health studies related to noise and air quality exposure. These studies focus on noise from vehicle and road traffic, and the community noise data will be used to assess if the potential reduction in vehicle traffic noise impacts study results.

c) HMMH – Airport Noise Levels during COVID-19 Pandemic

Mark provide a summary on a recent study by HMMH summarizing trends on airport operations, noise levels, and complaints at a number of US airports due to COVID-19.

HMMH is a large consulting firm in the US heavily involved in aviation noise issues, and conducted the study using data supplied by a number of large commercial and general aviation airports in the US.

Summary of key findings include:

- Complaints, operations, and noise levels all decreased beginning mid-March.
- Daily number of aircraft operations dropped by as much as 80% by mid-April, but has recovered to about 40% of pre-COVID-19 by end-June.
- Noise complaints followed similar trends but did not drop as much by percentage.
- Average airport cumulative noise levels have dropped by more than 5 dB during COVID.
- Community noise levels dropped an average of 2 dB
- Since late March, community noise has been higher than aircraft noise

A link to the study's results can be found here - [HMMH Study](#).

The Airport Authority has not done a similar analysis of data but will plan to look at the data to identify trends for YVR.

d) South Runway Closure Schedule for the Remainder of 2020

The Airport Authority continues to maintain the airfield to ensure safe operations. South runway maintenance schedule for the remainder of 2020 is as follows:

- September 14, 15, 16 (addition)
- October 7 and 21
- November 18
- December 16

The dates are posted on the YVR website.

e) CORE Project

Marion advised the Airport Authority made a recent announcement to terminate the CORE Program, a multi-year capital project that included the construction of a new parkade, a central utilities building, and a geexchange heating and cooling system. The decision was made to reduce operating and capital costs to protect the long-term financial health of the airport and help prioritize resources on projects to support the recovery of aviation activities. The Airport Authority is working with the contractor to finalize winding down of the project, and all work will be concluded by November 30, 2020.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Marion thanked members for their attendance and continued contributions. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

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| Next Regular ANMC Meeting: December 3, 2020 | |
| Rachel Min-Brown | September 21, 2020 |
| Secretariat Signature | Date |