

AVIATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

February 11, 2022



Recapping the Aviation Committee's 2021 Priorities and Activities

The City of Newport Beach (City) Aviation Committee (Committee) began 2021 by setting an ambitious agenda of 16 priorities to pursue. The priorities were divided into four focus areas:

1. Quieter Departures
2. Airport Operations and Relations
3. Government Relations
4. Community Outreach / Communication

Each committee member was assigned to an Ad Hoc committee or to consult with City staff and officials on advancing one or more of the priorities. The City's team of Aviation consultants provided technical expertise as needed. At each committee meeting, members reported on actions made toward achieving the priorities and the reports were summarized on a tracking sheet. Highlights of the Committee's accomplishments under each focus area include:

Quieter Departures

After careful study and analysis, the Aviation Committee approved a **preferred departure protocol for commercial aircraft**. The City and Airport Working Group (AWG) representatives had already been encouraging the air carriers to utilize a certain Noise Abatement Departure Procedure, called NADP-1, and five of the six major carriers serving John Wayne Airport (JWA) agreed to do so. The Aviation Committee then added recommended procedures that include no increased engine thrust after the initial cutback until passing the first waypoint past the coastline. The recommended protocols were introduced to the major air carriers that serve JWA at a **City-AWG-Air Carrier Workshop** in late 2021. A major carrier then offered to run (at no cost to the City or AWG) a number of AWG-selected scenarios based on variations of recommended departure protocols on its flight simulator. The simulator data captured was then processed for AWG by an academic team to create projected noise output levels for positions along the departure track. These are now being studied in detail to determine which of the scenarios would yield the greatest noise reduction for commercial departures versus current procedures. This will be presented to all the airline workshop participants in early 2022 for their own review and implementation for JWA departures.

In response to the Committee's and certain air carriers' desire to see a **broader implementation of the STAYY departure** (the RNP departure for JWA that includes two gentle turns to keep aircraft positioned over the Upper Bay versus neighborhoods), the City communicated with the FAA in writing and then raised the issue during a Zoom meeting held

over the summer. The FAA has indicated a software issue is currently preventing wider use of the procedure and the problem will be resolved in late 2022. Currently, only Southwest, United and Alaska have FAA approval to fly the STAYY, and only for departures to destinations east of Las Vegas.

The Committee also prioritized **encouraging air carriers to utilize the quietest aircraft in their fleets at JWA**. Some of the most significant noise reductions come from carriers updating their fleets to newer-generation aircraft, such as the Airbus Neo and Boeing Max. The engines on the newer aircraft are more fuel efficient, less polluting and generate significantly less noise than previous generation aircraft. The Committee first worked to identify which carriers were currently flying and/or were placing orders for the newer aircraft. The next step was to determine which of those aircraft could be substituted for an older model currently used at JWA. The most important step is now in progress and involves establishing relationships with the air carrier personnel responsible for aircraft scheduling. One major carrier has already invited a Committee representative and an AWG representative to its corporate headquarters to have further discussions with its noise technical team and network schedulers.

The City wrote to [Spirit Airlines](#) and [Frontier Airlines](#) to thank them for their significant investments in noise and pollution reducing technologies and for operating the A320 neo for most of their JWA flights. Spirit Airlines sent a nice [reply](#).

Airport Operations and Relations

The Committee received regular updates on activities related to the **development of John Wayne Airport's General Aviation Improvement Program (GAIP)**. The County of Orange spent much of last year working with the FAA to obtain Federal approvals, and the City and Committee used that time to further develop relationships and strengthen communication with the airport's Fixed Base Operators (FBOs).

In 2020, the Aviation Committee researched, developed and approved a list of desired components for a **Fly Quiet / Fly Friendly program** for General Aviation at JWA. The Committee's recommendations were then forwarded to the County of Orange for consideration. By mid-2021, a team led by County of Orange Supervisor Katrina Foley, supported by JWA and County staff and consultants, and including Aviation Committee representatives, Newport Beach residents, and the FBOs, was in place to develop the initiative. The new, Fly Friendly program for General Aviation will commence in early 2022 and will include all of the components recommended by the Aviation Committee.

Another Committee goal was to develop a stronger relationship with JWA management and staff and to better understand the airport's operations. Assigned committee members met with JWA staff, visited the Access and Noise Office, and attended relevant Airport Commission meetings.

Government Relations

Recognizing the importance of developing and maintaining strong relationships at all levels of government, the Committee reviewed and approved an airport/aviation government relations plan at its February 2021 meeting. Committee Chair Diane Dixon and Co-Chair Noah Blom,

City staff and the City's two federal and county government relations consultants helped to implement the plan's objectives. The objectives included meeting with and maintaining ongoing communication with Federal and County elected officials and their staffs, tracking the implementation of the 2018 FAA Reauthorization Act, monitoring County and Federal actions related to aviation, and advocating for improved engagement between the FAA and communities. A key Committee priority for 2021 was to **establish a good working relationship between the City and FAA**. This was a challenging task as the agency prefers to meet with cities in roundtable settings, where all communities in the geographic area are represented. The City explained that Newport Beach is unique in that it has been working to find its own solutions to aircraft noise and air quality impacts, wanted to directly inform the FAA of the Committee's progress, and be able to communicate future ideas to the local FAA office. With the help of Congresswoman Michelle Steel's office, City officials and City consultant Kevin Karpe (airspace/air traffic) met with the FAA's Western-Pacific Region Regional Administrator, Raquel Girvin, and a team of FAA representatives. It was a productive meeting and Ms. Girvin assigned one of her senior advisors as a liaison to the City. City staff and Kevin Karpe have since continued to communicate with the liaison and FAA staff to address issues raised by the Committee and community.

Community Outreach

The City's new [John Wayne Airport Flight Data Dashboard](#) was introduced at the Aviation Committee's June 2021 meeting. The dashboard was the result of Committee discussions on how to present the noise and operational data produced by JWA in a user-friendly manner. City IT staff **developed the dashboard**, which enables community members to view data related to commercial departures and narrow in on certain aspects including noise levels, airlines, aircraft type, weight, number of flights and flight paths.

Also this year, the City debuted a **short video** titled "[A Community's Efforts to Reduce Airport Impacts.](#)" The video features two Aviation Committee members and provides a brief history of Newport Beach's efforts to limit the impact of JWA on its community and encourages citizens to stay informed and get involved in the issue.

To learn more about the Aviation Committee and its annual priorities, visit newportbeachca.gov/aviation. The Committee will discuss and likely select its 2022 priorities at its February 28 meeting.

News from Washington, D.C.

Channon Hanna, the City's federal lobbyist provided the following update:

House Subcommittee Holds Hearing on 5G and Aviation Safety

The Aviation Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held a hearing on February 3 titled "Finding the Right Frequency: 5G Deployment & Aviation Safety." Witnesses included FAA Administrator Steve Dickson and representatives of Airlines for America, the Aerospace Industries Association, the American Association of Airport Executives, the Air Line Pilots Association, the Regional Airline Association, the Helicopter Association International, CTIA, and Roberson and Associates. During his opening statement,

Subcommittee Chair Rick Larsen (D-WA) stated that he hopes the hearing helps the Subcommittee have “a firm grasp of what the telecommunication and aviation industries, the FAA, the FCC, the NTIA and others can do to anticipate future 5G rollout conflicts, avoid them, and what impact future FCC actions may have on aviation operations, and establish a process, formal or informal, to proactively address these conflicts.” More information can be found [here](#).

Welcome New Aviation Committee Members

At its November meeting, the Aviation Committee welcomed new members Ron Rubino, who is representing District 4, and Elizabeth Braley, who is representing District 5. Ron and Liz were appointed to fill the vacancies created when Committee members Tom Meng and Bonnie O’Neil resigned after many years of valued service to the Aviation Committee and community.

District 1 Vacancy

The City Clerk is currently advertising for an Aviation Committee member to represent District 1. ([Council District Map](#)) Interested community members are encouraged to apply and can find more information on the [City website](#). The vacancy was created when Committee Member Alan Guenther resigned last fall. Alan shared his expertise as a pilot with the committee and spent many hours researching and working toward quieter departures.

Aviation Committee 2022 Meeting Dates

The committee currently meets on the third Monday of each month unless otherwise noted with an * below.

February 28*	August 15
March 21	September 19
April 18	October 17
May 16	November 21
June 20	December 19
July 18	

Dates and location are subject to change. Please visit newportbeachca.gov/calendar in advance of the monthly meeting for current information or sign up for Committee information and meeting notifications [here](#).

Next Aviation Committee Meeting

The Aviation Committee will meet on Monday, February 28 at 5 p.m. in the Community Room of City Hall, 100 Civic Center Drive.