Research to Examine Land Use Decisions and their Relations to Airport Noise Concerns and Complaints

Aircraft Noise and Emissions Mitigation

Air commerce is an important and necessary factor in today’s economy whether it supports large city business or endangers vacation travel or leisure community development. As an integral part of local and regional economies, airports must find a way to peacefully coexist with their surroundings. At the same time, if airports are to be effective at providing for the travel and commercial needs of local and regional populations, they must be accessible and provide a wide range of services.

The proposed research activity endeavors to assess how incompatible land use around airports fuel noise concerns and complaints. This study explores the developmental history of the airports as well as the land use surrounding their location. Attention will continue to be given to operational patterns such as approach and departure corridors, times of peak operation, changes in the operational nature of the airport over time as well as correlative changes in noise issues, concerns and complaints.

During this phase of the study, the Co-Principal Investigators and research team will work closely with airport administrators, civic leaders, and aviation organizations to collect salient data concerning the most prominent issues leading up to and precipitated by incompatible land uses around their airport. Analysis of past data, interviews and focus groups will be used in order to better understand the wider issues. The research population will be expanded to include individuals who also live in high noise complaint areas but choose not to complain about airport related noise. These individuals’ perspectives will provide a balance to the noise complaint data and will help researchers understand the dynamics of why some individuals complain about airport noise while others do not.