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Burlington International Airport (BTV) Announces Flight Tracking and Noise Monitoring System

New System Allows BTV Airport to Analyze Noise Data and Community Members to Track Noise Events Through Online Portal

Burlington, VT – Today, the Burlington International Airport announced the installation of a flight tracking and noise monitoring system, paid for by grant funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Through the use of permanent noise monitors located in affected areas, the Airport will be able to measure noise levels associated with aircraft operations and provide information to individuals and communities affected by Airport operations through an online portal.

“This system is a representation of the collaborative effort among the local community and I am grateful for these partnerships,” said Nic Longo, Acting Director of Aviation. “Without the support and funding provided by the Federal Aviation Administration, through their Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Noise Compatibility Program, this project would not be possible. I feel this system will allow community members to have a tool at their disposal to provide noise feedback, which will inform future noise analysis.”

BTV applied for and was awarded Airport Improvement (AIP) funds to install a system to track flights and monitor noise. The information collected through the tracking system, Vector, will correlate to a database as well as feedback submitted by individuals. This database will allow the Airport to more accurately analyze noise trends, as well as provide a basis for the airport to develop a noise abatement program. It should be noted that not all military operation paths will be visible on the flight tracking system, but their associated noise will be recorded. A public portal will be made available for individuals to view at: www.btvsound.com. Materials are available translated into Swahili, Mandarin, Arabic, and Bosnian.

This tool will show decibel levels (dbA) for single noise events, which are not used within the required FAA Noise Models and will allow residents throughout the area to view noise events from single aircraft.

Currently the newly acquired operational noise monitors are located at Winooski City Hall and the Chamberlain School in South Burlington. A third monitor is to be installed in Williston, whose site has been located, and will be operational by the end of the year. The Airport expects to maintain operations of these monitors for up to 3 years.

"I would like to thank the Burlington International Airport for hearing the voices of Winooski residents who have asked for more transparent access to noise data. I hope this public portal will allow concerned residents in the flight path to understand the extent of their noise exposure with a monitor placed right in downtown Winooski," said City of Winooski Mayor Kristine Lott. "We appreciate the ongoing partnership with the City of Burlington and the Airport as we continue to move forward with noise mitigation efforts and look forward to continuing conversations about how to address concerns and work together."

"I am pleased with this installation, as it provides good knowledge and information about noise for the local community, which allows for better conversation regarding noise mitigation," said Helen Riehle, South Burlington City Council Chair and Airport Commissioner. "I am appreciative of the effort the Airport put into applying for the grant to install this system and bringing it into operation."

Background

A system of this kind was included in both the 1990 approved Noise Compatibility Program (NCP); the 2008 updated NCP, and is more clearly defined in the newest submission of the 2020 Updated NCP. Through both public comments during the NCP open comment period, as well as through emails, the community requested that the Airport provide noise and flight tracking data for all operations at the airport. This program will allow residents throughout the area to view noise events from single aircraft.

This system compliments the existing Noise Exposure Map (NEM) published in 2019. However, should not be confused with the NEM Day-Night Average (DNL) noise levels, which averages noise over a 24-hour day with weighted penalties for night operations, over the course of a year, which is a required average noise measurement by the FAA.

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Please visit www.btvsound.com for further information regarding Burlington International Airport's Noise Compatibility Program and Sound Mitigation efforts.