



# LAX Community Noise Roundtable

Aviation Noise News Update  
March 12, 2014

# Airports Wins Preserved in Federal Spending Bill



- **The House and Senate Appropriations negotiators have released the details of an Omnibus spending bill that will fund the agencies of the federal government through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014 (September 30, 2014)**
- **The appropriations bill resulted in very positive developments for airports and their communities**
  - Fully funds the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) at \$3.35 billion
  - Funds the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) at \$15 million



- **The House of Representatives passed a bill that will eliminate the need for the Department of Transportation (DOT) to submit annual reports to Congress on the application of new standards or technologies to reduce aircraft noise levels**
- **The bill, titled The Transportation Reports Elimination Act of 2014 (HR 3628), modifies the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act**
  - The bill still requires the Secretary of Transportation to continue to work with ICAO to develop new performance standards for aircraft and aircraft engines that reduce noise
  - The Secretary shall give high priority to developing standards that:
    - Are performance based and can be achieved by use of a full range of certifiable technologies
    - Protect the useful economic value of existing Stage 3 aircraft in the U.S.
    - Ensure that U.S. air carriers and aircraft engine and hushkit manufacturers are not competitively disadvantaged
    - Use dynamic economic modeling capable of determining impacts on all aircraft in service
    - Continue to use a balanced approach to address aircraft environmental issues
- **Rep. Bill Shuster introduced the bill, saying “this is a basic good-government bill.”**

# LA Congressman: Police, EMS Helicopters Fall Under Noise Rules



- **Representative Adam Schiff says he wants the FAA to apply noise rules to all helicopters transiting the LA area, including those flown by emergency services**
  - This statement came after Schiff and Senator Dianne Feinstein successfully inserted language into the omnibus spending bill that compels the FAA to act on mitigating noise in Los Angeles
  - Rep. Schiff said, “Not all law-enforcement flights are emergencies.”
- **The Airborne Law Enforcement Association (ALEA) had supported noise-mitigation legislation provided that it exempted emergency services**
  - Law enforcement flights account for at least 60 percent of the area’s helicopter traffic



- **This study examined aviation noise effects on schools and school children, and the link between aviation noise and reading comprehension and motivation**
  - The study examined the relationships at 46 U.S. airports, prioritized by the number of schools exposed to DNL 55 dB and higher
  - Student performance measures were based on the standardized reading and math test scores in grades 3 through 5 at each school
- **The Study Goals:**
  - Identify and evaluate conditions under which aircraft noise affects student learning
  - Identify and evaluate one or more alternative noise metrics that best define those conditions
- **Study Findings:**
  - Increasing evidence that suggests that children exposed to chronic aircraft noise at school have poorer reading ability and school performance on achievement tests than children who were not
  - Showed that sound insulated schools have better test scores than those with no sound insulation
  - Showed that the effect of noise was greater for non-disadvantaged students than for disadvantaged students
  - The metric that shows the largest effect is the incremental level  $L_{tot} - L_{amb}$  for ambient levels greater than 50 dB.



**As presented in a letter to the LAX Community Roundtable on February 8<sup>th</sup>:**

- **The FAA indicated it will subject its plans for improving the efficiency of airspace in southern California to an Environmental Assessment (EA) of noise and other potential impacts**
- **The airspace improvement is called the Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex in the Southern California Area (SoCal OAPM)**
  - The program will employ RNAV technology to maximize the efficiency of arrival and departure procedures at airports from Santa Barbara to San Diego including LAX
- **The EA will evaluate potential impacts of changes in aircraft routing that are proposed to occur below 10,000 feet above ground level as well as evaluate a No-Action Alternative**
- **The FAA does not expect the SoCal OAPM to increase operations at the regions airports**

## Air France Reduces its Airbus 320 Noise Emissions During the Airport Approach Phase



- **In the summer of 2014, Air France will progressively equip all of its aircraft in the Airbus 320 family with noise reduction kits**
- **The new equipment will lower the noise generated by the aircraft by up to 8 dB during the descent and approach phase**
  - The noise reduction kits include installing new vents that reduce airframe noise when drag devices are deployed



# Airlines Go on a Record New Aircraft Shopping Spree



- **Airlines are on the largest jet-buying spree in the history of aviation with orders for more than 8,200 aircraft world-wide**
- **Domestic carriers spent \$11.6 billion last year on capital improvements which include aircraft purchases, up from \$5.2 billion in 2010**
  - The new planes allow airlines to save fuel by operating the latest models that also feature the most efficient and quietest engines on the market
- **Over the last five years, airlines have retired nearly 1,300 older aircraft, which equates to more than 20 a month**
- **1,500 new planes will be delivered to the U.S. airlines by Airbus and Boeing over the next decade**

