

DC METROPLEX BWI COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE WORKING GROUP PUBLIC MEETING

Thirty-ninth meeting of the DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable Working Group

Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 7:04 p.m. – 8:18 p.m.
Meeting held in-person and virtually via GoToWebinar

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR PARTICIPANTS

Roundtable Member	District/Organization	Attended	Roundtable Member	District/Organization	Attended
Debra MacDonald*	District 9	✓	Marcus Parker, Sr	Alternate for Dan Klosterman, District 32	
Austin Holley, Vice Chair*	District 33	✓	Debra Jung*	Howard County Council, District 4	
Nancy Higgs*	District 33				
Ellen Moss*	District 1 Anne Arundel County Council	✓	Brent Girard	Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen	
Mary Reese*	District 30	✓	Adam Spangler	Office of Congressman Anthony G. Brown	
Jesse Chancellor*	District 9	✓	Sam Snead*	Office of Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman	
Howard Johnson*	District 12	✓	Laila Jones	Office of Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman	
Drew Roth*	District 12	✓	Bruce Gartner*	Office of Howard County Executive Calvin Ball	✓
George Lowe*	District 13		Mandy Rimmell*	Office of Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski	
Scott Philips*	District 13	✓	Paul Shank, Chief Engineer	MDOT MAA	
Paul Verchinski	Alternate for George Lowe and Scott Phillips, District 13		Darline Terrell-Tyson, Director, Office of Environmental Compliance and Sustainability	MDOT MAA	✓
Evan Reese*	District 30	✓	Greg Voos	Mid Atlantic Regional Representative, NBAA	
Al Donaldson*	District 32	✓	Kyle Evans	General Aviation Representative, CP Management LLC	
David Nibeck	Alternate for Al Donaldson, District 32		David Richardson	Southwest Airlines	
Daniel Woomeer*	District 32	✓	Reginald Davis or Veda Simmons	FAA Community Engagement Officer, Eastern Service Center, Operations Support Group	✓
Dan Klosterman*	District 32		Steve Alterman	President, Air Cargo Association	

*Voting members

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration (MDOT MAA)

Bruce Rineer, Manager, Noise Section

Kevin Clarke, Director of Planning and Environmental Services

Karen Harrell, Noise Section

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Veda Simmons (Online), Public Engagement Officer (temporary replacement for Reginald Davis)

Contractor Support

Royce Bassarab, HNTB

Jordan Mueller, Assedo Consulting

MEETING MATERIALS

Participants received the following materials in advance:

- March 15th Meeting Minutes- V3_DRAFT_20220315_MEETING MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introduction and Roll Call of Attendees

Mr. Bruce Rineer began the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He stated that the meeting will be recorded and indicated that this meeting will be held differently from recent meetings. He stated that those who are attending virtually will not have the opportunity to speak, but asked if they do have a comment, to put the comment in the question box, and the Chair would be notified and that comments would then be read. He stated if participants experience technical issues, they should log off and log back on to the meeting. If issues continue, participants can use the chat box to let him know.

Mr. Rineer concluded the introduction and turned the meeting over to the Roundtable Chair, Ms. Debra “Debbie” MacDonald. Ms. MacDonald greeted those in attendance, noting how pleasant it was to see everyone in person, then proceeded with the roll call of voting and non-voting Roundtable Members, and announced that a quorum of Roundtable Members had been met.

Approve Agenda

Ms. MacDonald moved on to the approval of the meeting agenda. Mr. Dan Woomeer made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Drew Roth seconded. None opposed. The motion to approve the agenda passed.

Review and Approve March 15th Meeting Minutes

Ms. MacDonald moved on to the review and approval of the March 15th Meeting Minutes. Mr. Rineer introduced Mr. Jordan Mueller with Assedo Consulting, who will be taking the minutes. Ms. Mary Reese made a motion to accept the March 15th Meeting Minutes, and Mr. Woomeer seconded the motion. Ms.

MacDonald called a vote on the motion to approve the March 15th Meeting Minutes. The motion passed with all present voting members voting yes.

2. ROUNDTABLE CHAIR COMMENTS

Ms. MacDonald indicated a few items for follow-up. The Monthly Summary Report of activities undertaken in furtherance of the goals of the February 15, 2022, Resolution in support of the SB 658 & HB 1103 to establish the Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission was shown and Ms. MacDonald indicated that a second page was added to the report for this meeting. She indicated that there were not a lot of specific additions for this month, unlike last month. Ms. MacDonald then indicated that a thank you letter has been drafted to the county executives but will wait on sending the letter until the legislative committee has given their update to ensure the letter is accurate.

Ms. MacDonald moved on to discuss communication with the FAA and noted that she had forwarded communications from Veda Simmons to Roundtable members, including the FAA's Noise Portal overview presentation, which was updated to include a phone number and a physical address as contact information.

Ms. MacDonald stated that she had requested information on other community engagement activities that the FAA had worked on recently. Roundtable members had some questions about the examples, and Ms. MacDonald was particularly interested in two examples from Boston in December 2021. Ms. MacDonald asked the FAA about the realized impact of the procedure changes and how that change would be measured. Ms. MacDonald also questioned whether Massport or the Massport Community Advisory Committee (MCAC), which is equivalent to the Roundtable, had done any post-implementation evaluation beyond noise complaints and what metrics they were using. Ms. MacDonald has not heard back regarding the inquiry but indicated that there will be a follow-up.

Ms. MacDonald then moved onto the FAA's PBN presentation scheduled for May. She noted that they have requested that the FAA provide a presentation to the Technical Committee before going in front of the full Roundtable. Ms. MacDonald indicated that the Technical Committee is preparing for a meeting on May 10th but has not established a time yet.

Howard Johnson arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Ms. MacDonald indicated that a full Roundtable meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, and will include a presentation from the FAA on the PBN updates. Ms. MacDonald requested that the FAA staff involved in the NEPA process be present at that meeting so that the Roundtable could have access to the expertise of those involved in developing and approving the procedures. Ms. MacDonald then stated that the Technical Committee was holding a pre-Roundtable meeting on May 10th for the FAA presentation and that MAA and HMMH staff involved with the suggestions given to the FAA regarding the PBN process are asked to be present for that meeting. Ms. MacDonald also specifically asked that Mr. Paul Shank attend the May 10th meeting.

Mr. Jesse Chancellor stated that the same MAA and HMMH staff members are also invited to the May 10th Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Chancellor clarified that he would like MAA and HMMH staff to attend the May 17th meeting as well as the May 10th Roundtable meeting. Mr. Rineer inquired about a

time for the May 10th meeting. Ms. MacDonald indicated that there was no set time, mentioning that the Technical Committee was open to times. She then stated that a time would be chosen so that Mr. Shank could attend. A conversation took then took place between Mr. Reese, Mr. Rineer, Mr. Chancellor, and Ms. MacDonald about coordinating communication efforts with Mr. Shank. Ms. MacDonald requested that the group confirm a time for the May 10th meeting by the end of the week.

4 MDOT MAA UPDATE

No update.

5 ROUNDTABLE COMMITTEE UPDATES

Technical/Legislative Joint Committee ABCx2 Update

Ms. MacDonald transitioned into committee updates. Mr. Bruce Gartner started the conversation regarding ABCx2 and apologized for the delay in updates. ABCx2 has aggregated some useful research and ideas based on guidance from the Technical Committee and will provide this information to Mr. Gartner ahead of a meeting with ABCx2 and the Technical/Legislative Joint Committee on May 3rd. The Committee updated the ABCx2's scope and have a better understanding of the contractor's next steps. Mr. Gartner said that communication with Mr. Sam Snead from Anne Arundel County was going well, and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to help fund this project was in the signature process, commenting that he hoped to have those documents by the end of the week.

Mr. Chancellor then indicated that a system rollout could happen in June if Mr. Gartner and Mr. Snead, as well as the Joint Committee, Anne Arundel County, and ABCx2 are all in agreement. Mr. Chancellor stated that ABCx2 has been collecting data since the beginning of the year, saying that the first report could be quickly developed to communicate relevant data about NextGen.

Mr. Roth then asked if there was going to be a meeting about the placement of the virtual monitors. Mr. Chancellor responded by discussing the meetings with ABCx2, including the one planned for May 3rd, to discuss the placement of the monitors. Mr. Roth expanded on his question, saying it may be better to figure out placement of the virtual noise monitors after understanding what the FAA findings are. Mr. Gartner stated that he believes there is ability to adjust placement given the 24 existing monitors and the planned additional monitors. Mr. Roth noted that MDOT MAA permanent monitors in Howard County (specifically NMT #28) lie between the proposed and current departure tracks, and that if the FAA were to implement a proposal, the observed noise would not be expected to change. Mr. Roth suggested placing virtual noise monitors under current flight tracks and proposed flight tracks. Mr. Chancellor then indicated that a benefit of ABCx2's system is that many of them are in grids that could provide flexibility in data acquisition in case data is not being collected from a particular physical monitor.

Mr. Scott Philips then asked if the virtual monitors consider and capture differences in how flight paths are flown, noting that, for example, speed can vary over a specific location. Mr. Gartner stated that the monitors will be collecting aircraft data regardless of the location. Mr. Chancellor asserted that they are trying to get as close as they can to describe what is happening in the region by capturing it accurately and then report that data out to keep all the impacted parties informed about what is happening with aviation noise in the region.

Mr. Philips then asked if the monitors would be able to capture the full spectrum of noise. Mr. Chancellor did not know the answer to that but invited everyone to the Technical Committee meeting to hear ABCx2's presentation. Mr. Philips then stated that low-frequency noise penetrates building materials more than high-frequency noise and having that data will help create a more complete picture. Ms. Reese asked if it was possible to model the penetration of low-frequency noise. Mr. Philips indicated he was not aware if ABCx2 could do that modeling but expected it was possible.

Mr. Reese then mentioned that ABCx2 may not be able to capture and model that data, but they likely could characterize intensity and frequency. Mr. Philips stated that currently, the low end of the frequency spectrum is cut off when noise impacts are assessed, which impacts the ability to understand the full picture. Lower frequencies are harder to hear but can be sensed. Mr. Reese stated that they did not get into the question about frequency range. Mr. Philips then stated that a DOT study indicated that low frequencies have a psychological impact on people that is not captured in the metrics. Ms. Reese agreed, stating that she would like to work with Mr. Philips to capture these frequencies if the models do not exist.

Mr. Chancellor noted that people are constantly suffering from the effects of aircraft noise. Mr. Philips spoke highly of the flexibility of virtual noise monitors, especially in areas where no permanent noise monitor exists.

Technical Committee

No update.

Legislative Committee: 2022 General Assembly Legislative Session Updates

Ms. MacDonald transitioned the conversation to the Legislative Committee. Ms. Reese gave the Legislative Committee update. Ms. Reese noted the discussion of the previous Roundtable meeting and the slim opposition toward the House and Senate bills. Ms. Reese then noted the positive feedback toward the House and Senate bill, and specifically noted the singular elected official who opposed the bill. Ms. Reese stated that the Legislative Committee felt very positively about the feedback and the path towards getting the legislative agenda passed next session. Ms. Reese noted that it is common for the voting process to take one to two sessions and not to be discouraged. She stated that the public comment and participation was excellent.

Ms. Reese stated that, though the bill did not pass as it did not make it out of committee, language was added to the budget on page 76. The language requires that the MAA draw noise contours that include the 40, 45, 50, and 55 dB DNL contours. Ms. Reese stated that this will be helpful for several reasons, specifically in the research being conducted by Dr. Zafari. Ms. Reese reiterated that people start to voice their concerns starting at 40 dB DNL. Ms. Reese mentioned an email previously sent out about researchers' papers and testimony. She thanked everyone for their participation in this process and stated this work is gaining national attention.

Ms. Reese then expressed her disappointment about the negative, non-supportive feedback on the bill, as well as the lack of attendance from Southwest at Roundtable meetings. Ms. Reese believes that if Southwest attended, the Roundtable would be able to provide a better understanding of what the commission bill is trying to achieve and how it does not impact Southwest. Ms. Reese stated that she would reach back out to reinvoke Southwest to the meetings. Ms. Reese then opened the floor to questions and comments.

Ms. MacDonald asked when Dr. Zafari's study would be ready. Mr. Chancellor stated that the study should be ready by the end of summer per a legislative mandate. Mr. Chancellor mentioned that the study needs to go through peer review to finalize the work and to expect it around late June or early July.

Ms. Reese added that she has additional meetings with legislative staff to request more feedback on commission bills. Ms. Reese commended Mr. Chancellor for his work to disseminate information about proposed legislation, saying that as a result, elected officials have received numerous phone calls with feedback. Mr. Chancellor stated that he has received calls from homeowners' associations, community associations, and people who are skeptical about the bill coming to fruition, but also mentioned how a lot of people are reenergized about the bill and its outcome.

Mr. Austin Holley asked if any communication was received from MAA leadership about their initial comment on not taking a stance on legislation, only to express opposition to the bill the Roundtable had proposed. Ms. Reese indicated that there has been no communication on the subject, but that it is very disappointing and serves as another barrier and threat to the Airport Authority and credibility of the Roundtable. She stated that this is not well received by elected officials. Mr. Reese requested that these comments be brought to MDOT MAA leadership, specifically Mr. Ricky Smith, in the spirit of partnership and asked for a response and clarification as to why this contradiction happened.

Mr. Gartner asked if the Roundtable has reached out to Congressman Sarbanes' office since the newly approved congressional districts will include a key area between Anne Arundel and Howard Counties in his district. Ms. Reese stated that she can reach out to his office.

Ms. Reese suggested that a letter be written to the MAA regarding their negative response to the commission bill. Ms. Reese stated that the MAA alluded to the fact that the work of the Roundtable may be complete due to the changes through the PBN process. She asserted that the language was unclear, but it appears there is an understanding that the Roundtable will be dispersed. Ms. Reese stated that if any other members have questions or need clarification on this to send those concerns to her and that she will draft a letter for review over the next week. Mr. Reese stated that the Roundtable has had to correct the record when Mr. Shank has characterized the PBN changes as sufficient to address the group's concerns.

Communications Committee

Ms. MacDonald then transitioned into the Communications Committee update. Ms. MacDonald mentioned that Ms. Nancy Higgs could not be there in person but sent a letter as an update. This update was projected for the Roundtable to view. Ms. MacDonald discussed how a contact list was used to garner legislative support but ran into some difficulties.

Ms. MacDonald noticed that the Roundtable is entering a very busy communicative timeline due to the FAA presentation, the ABCx2 virtual airport monitoring system, Dr. Zafari's study, and numerous other outreach endeavors. Consequently, Ms. MacDonald expressed her concerns about safeguarding the contact list. Ms. Higgs was tasked with researching tools and methods that could be used to keep the contact list safe and accessible to only a few members and proposed using Constant Contact. Other members of the Roundtable have mentioned they use it in their workplace as well. Though the service is primarily used for marketing, Ms. Higgs is setting up a training for Ms. MacDonald in the coming weeks to evaluate the product. Ms. MacDonald said her initial thoughts on the product are promising and that Ms. Higgs has offered to pay for the first year.

Ms. Reese asked if the MDOT MAA could pay for Constant Contact. Mr. Rineer replied that it is unlikely that could happen. Mr. Chancellor stated his concerns about Ms. Higgs paying for the program. He was grateful that she is willing to front the costs but wants to discuss if that is the best option moving forward for the Roundtable. Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Chancellor both agreed and stated that the discussion would be continued in the May meeting.

Mr. Chancellor stated that the Roundtable has not sent any official outcomes of recent legislative efforts to constituents, saying that he would like something to be sent out within the next two weeks so that people can receive information on legislative and activity status. Mr. Chancellor also recognized the difficulties that sending updates can pose due to the current outreach system. He requested that Ms. Reese draft a letter with these updates. Ms. Reese agreed to draft a letter that includes budget language, legislative efforts, and research updates. She stated that she will forward the letter to the Roundtable but requested that a Communications Committee member forward it to the community.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. MacDonald opened the public comment period. Ms. MacDonald directed the conversation toward the online participants first. Mr. Rineer stated that there were two people online, Ms. Nancy Higgs and Ms. Cynthia Rafferty, who had a question. Mr. Rineer read the question: "Is anyone reaching out to congressman Anthony Brown regarding his state push for growing BWI airport capacity without input from his constituency?"

Ms. Reese stated that she will reach out to Mr. Brown's representative who had been attending the meeting but has stopped. She stated that he is not the only elected official who champions the growth of the airport, commenting that communities need a spot at the table to provide input and feedback. She reiterated that she would reach out to Mr. Brown's representatives.

Ms. MacDonald then asked for in-person public comments. Ms. Laura Donovan was the only member of the public who had a question. Ms. Donovan asked: "Is Next Gen finished? Where are we in this process?" Mr. Reese, who made clear that he was not speaking for the FAA, stated that the FAA's performance regarding NextGen made the Department of Defense look good. He believes that the FAA have only achieved 50 to 60% of their technological goals, according to open-source information. Mr. Philips asked if the question was related to the potential that the flight paths might move again. Ms. Donovan stated that she is very close to the airport and feels like the paths are constantly changing but is not sure why. Mr. Reese stated that there have been many seasonally unpredictable high winds that are impacting flight paths. Ms. Donovan then asked if others have experienced a change in flight patterns in their neighborhoods as well.

Ms. Reese noted that there have been considerable changes in her area as well, including military traffic. Mr. Philips stated that this is a good point to highlight. He commented that highway design on the ground seems to undergo a long process before changing, as opposed to what seems to be an instantaneous adjustment in the sky. He expanded that by saying it is difficult to adjust because you cannot move somewhere when you do not know where the change is going to be. Ms. Donovan stated that this is her worst fear. Mr. Chancellor then shared a story about a young man who was desperately tried to stay in his home but could not take the disturbance anymore. Because of the noise in Howard and Anne Arundel Counties, he is looking in Carroll County though he works in DC.

A short conversation then ensued about the process it takes to change a flight path in NextGen and how it is not an instantaneous event. This conversation included a discussion of the Roundtable's involvement in proposing PBN updates and the discoveries regarding the process required to do so. Mr. Roth commented that day-to-day change is not necessarily an indicator of progress. Ms. MacDonald then asked if the information about runway closures that is sent out via email by MDOT MAA is available by telephone. Ms. Karen Harrell stated that runway closures are not currently publicized by phone.

Ms. MacDonald then concluded the public comments.

5. ELECTION OF SUCCESSOR ROUNDTABLE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Ms. MacDonald transitioned the conversation to elections of the Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. MacDonald started the conversation by stating that she and Mr. Holley were elected one year ago. Ms. MacDonald then opened the floor to nominations for Chair. Ms. Reese nominated Ms. MacDonald and commented on the great work she has done as Chair. Ms. MacDonald stated that she is grateful for the position and would like to run again for Chair. Mr. Gartner seconded the vote. Ms. MacDonald thanked the room for the support and confidence the Roundtable has in her. The call to vote was a unanimous yes. None opposed.

Ms. MacDonald then moved onto Vice Chair. Mr. Daniel Woomer nominated Mr. Holley for Vice Chair, and Mr. Chancellor seconded the motion. The vote was a unanimous vote for yes. Mr. Holley thanked everyone for their trust and faith.

6. NEXT MEETING

Ms. MacDonald stated that the next Roundtable meeting was planned for May 17, 2022, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Mr. Rineer asked if the in-person attendance requirement would remain the same for Roundtable members. He also assumed that the FAA's presence would be virtual. Ms. MacDonald noted that virtual participation works well for presentations since they can be better controlled. She further stated that their hybrid methodology needs to change to maintain order and control. Ms. Reese stated that in-person meetings make a huge difference to meeting execution and order. She suggested that voting members be in person, and Ms. MacDonald agreed. Several Roundtable members concurred, saying technical access for the public has been problematic, but that virtual presentations have been adequate.

7. ADJOURN

Mr. Reese motioned to adjourn. Mr. Woomer seconded that motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.