

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission



O'Hare Residential Sound Insulation Program Kicks in to High Gear

(Des Plaines, IL) The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) recently announced that it will increase residential sound insulation of homes impacted by the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) by 43 percent in 2008. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently added \$18 million in grant funds to the aggressive project, with the City of Chicago matching monies through Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs).

"Last year we had a substantial commitment of \$21.6 million in funding," said Frank Damato, ONCC Residential Sound Insulation Committee Chairperson. "We strongly support the increase in the number of homes to be insulated by approximately 330 to 1,000 total. We know this economy has put a lot of constraints on budget items, but we are optimistic that additional monies will come through to make these added homes sound-insulated and increase the quality of life for O'Hare area neighbors."

Park Ridge is one of the communities that has already received an allocation of homes and will be eligible for additional homes in the future. "Right now 75 homes in the northern portion of Park Ridge have qualified for and received sound proofing," commented Alderman Donald Bach of Park Ridge. "Our residents are grateful to ONCC, the FAA and the City of Chicago for their dedication and hard work to mitigate aircraft noise in our community. With another new noise monitor in Park Ridge, we will be able to have a good, solid baseline to measure and compare noise regarding the ongoing O'Hare expansion. We are confident the south end of our city will receive the same consideration for residential sound insulation."

Residential sound insulation construction starts again this summer on eligible single-family and multi-family homes in areas where the FAA indicates homes will be most affected by aircraft noise upon OMP's completion. The FAA assigned ONCC specific responsibilities as O'Hare Airport is reconfigured, which include continued oversight of communities impacted by aircraft noise as new runways are constructed.

How the Intergovernmental Partnership Works

What began as a 10-home demonstration project in 1995 by the City of Chicago is now a partnership with the FAA, the City of Chicago and the ONCC with a total of 6,100 homes sound-insulated already and an additional 6,000 housing units slated to be completed by the full buildout of the OMP.

"We know we raised the bar by increasing the homes we want sound-insulated for the 2008 Program," said Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, ONCC chairperson. "Completion of the first phase of the O'Hare Modernization Program is just a short five months away and the 2014 completion year is just six years from now. That's a lot of work in a short amount of time in order to ensure a high quality of life for those living within the new noise contour of O'Hare Airport."

Communities earmarked for sound insulation for the 2008 Program Year include:

- Schiller Park with 354 multi-unit residences;
- Park Ridge with 9 multi-unit residences;
- Bensenville with 232 multi-unit residences;
- Chicago with 434 multi-unit residences.

ONCC/add one

The ONCC officially began its work in 1997 with 17 municipalities and nine school districts. Since then, ONCC's membership has almost doubled to 43 members in Cook and DuPage counties, which include 27 communities, Cook County and 15 school districts.

The ONCC is comprised of three standing committees that direct funding for the school and home sound insulation programs and promote technological advancements to reduce aircraft noise at its sources.

The ONCC relies on a highly sophisticated Airport Noise Management System (ANMS) that generates real-time reports of aircraft noise incidents. The City of Chicago noise hotline also tracks aircraft noise complaints. In 2007, these complaints fell for the ninth consecutive year to 1,248 calls compared to a high of 25,773 in 1998.

The mission of ONCC is to develop meaningful methods of reducing the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding neighborhoods through home and school sound insulation, and to reduce, wherever possible, aircraft noise at its source. For more information, contact Brian Gilligan, 773-686-3198.

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ONCC members represent the following communities: Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Bellwood, Chicago, Des Plaines, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Harwood Heights, Hoffman Estates, Itasca, Maywood, Melrose Park, Mount Prospect, Niles, Norridge, Northlake, Oak Park, Palatine, Park Ridge, River Forest, River Grove, Rolling Meadows, Rosemont, Schaumburg, Schiller Park, Stone Park, Wood Dale and Cook County. Members represent the following school districts: 59; 63; 80; 81; 84; 84.5; 85.5; 86; 87; 88; 89; 214; 234; 299; and 401.