



# O'Hare Monitor

Information from the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission

Spring 2000

Volume 2, Issue 2

## Commission Members

Arlington Heights  
Chicago  
Elmwood Park  
Franklin Park  
Hoffman Estates  
Melrose Park  
Mount Prospect  
Norridge  
Northlake  
Oak Park  
Palatine  
River Grove  
River Forest  
Rolling Meadows  
Rosemont  
Schaumburg  
Unincorporated  
Cook County

## School Districts

59 80  
81 84  
86 87  
214 234  
299  
Telephone  
773-686-3198

Meetings of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission are open to the public and are held on the first Friday of each month except July. The meetings begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Rosemont Convention Center, 5555 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois.

## Meeting Schedule

**No July Meeting**  
August 4, 2000  
September 1, 2000  
October 6, 2000  
November 3, 2000  
December 1, 2000

## Commission/Airport Take Lead on Advanced Flight Track Procedures

What if an airplane could fly a course with nearly the same precision as a train follows the rails and do that in all kinds of weather? One answer is that fewer populated areas around airports would be impacted by jet noise.

Soon O'Hare's neighbors will experience the benefits of new procedures that will allow pilots to follow prescribed headings more precisely than ever before, despite wind direction and velocity.

With the urging and support of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission, O'Hare is the first airport in the country scheduled to begin a large-scale implementation of new technology, such as Area Navigation (RNAV) and Flight Management Systems (FMS), to improve the nighttime departure flight tracks off all runways. The procedures are designed to enhance the Fly Quiet Program at O'Hare.

The Advanced Flight Track Procedures (AFTPro), will enable aircraft to better adhere to preferential nighttime flight tracks designed to navigate aircraft toward areas of more compatible land use, such as forest preserves, highway corridors and industrial areas. The use of this technology will automatically compensate for weather and air speed while ensuring airspace safety, efficiency and, when possible, reduced aircraft noise impact above surrounding residences.

The system was tested successfully in a flight simulator at the United Airlines Flight Center near Denver. The Chicago Department of Aviation, which intends to implement the procedures in late summer 2000, reported that more testing will be done soon in cooperation with the FAA.

AFTPro is also a key element in  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Commission Re-elects Officers

In March, the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission re-elected by unanimous vote Arlington Heights Village President Arlene J. Mulder as its chairperson and School District 86 Superintendent Raymond Kuper as its vice-chairperson. Each will be serving a fourth consecutive one-year term. The elections occurred at the Commission's regular monthly meeting, which was also its formal Annual Meeting.

## Noise Hotline 1-800-435-9569

O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission  
P.O. Box 1126  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60017-1126



*(Continued from page 1)*

NASA's Quiet Aircraft Technology (QAT) Program, which in addition to researching quieter aircraft engine and airframe systems, utilizes changes in procedures at airports to reduce overall noise levels in surrounding communities. At NASA's first QAT planning workshop in April 2000, both the City of Chicago and the Commission were publicly recognized for their contributions to securing funding for the QAT Program and their efforts towards

meeting NASA's aggressive goals.

"This is another great example of how this Commission is able to be the catalyst to bring all the right groups together to address jet noise issues and find solutions," said Arlene J. Mulder, Commission chairperson. "I want to thank United Airlines for providing the valuable flight simulator time for this testing."

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## AIR 21

While not widely reported, the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, which was signed into law by President Clinton on April 5, is expected to have a positive impact on aircraft noise mitigation efforts at O'Hare.

The legislation, commonly known as Air 21, increases the percentage of noise discretionary funding from 31% to 34%. This means the national noise program will be funded at more than 206 million dollars this year and more than 312 million dollars next year. Chicago Commissioner of Aviation Thomas Walker has pledged that the City will fight for a large portion of this funding.

Air 21 grants O'Hare International Airport priority status for Noise Compatibility Planning and Program grants. O'Hare also is one of only four airports specifically named in this provision of the legislation.

In addition, Air 21 gives airports the ability to increase the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) by up to \$1.50. PFC funds are the main funding source of the residential

sound insulation program. The City of Chicago has not yet decided if it will choose to increase the PFC. However, Commissioner Walker pledges that the City continues to place a high priority on the successful sound insulation programs overseen by the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission.

### New Executive Director Named

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission at its May meeting appointed Brian Gilligan as its new executive director. Gilligan, a Mount Prospect resident, brings to the position a strong background in business and education. He earned his MBA from DePaul University and is a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve.