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News Release

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Detroit Metropolitan Airport Seeks Aircraft Enclosure to Reduce Nighttime Noise

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) is seeking federal funding to help construct a ground run-up enclosure (GRE) on the airfield at Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) to reduce aircraft-generated noise in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The GRE is the centerpiece of a list of 20 recommendations which the airport authority has submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration after consulting with a committee made up of representatives of communities in the vicinity of DTW.

The recommendations came at the conclusion of a four-year Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study Update voluntarily launched by the airport.

“A ground run-up enclosure will have a noticeable impact for our neighbors because the airlines often conduct aircraft engine maintenance at night when ambient noise levels are low,” said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. “This enclosure will absorb and deflect a significant amount of noise resulting from airline run-ups.”

A three-sided ground run-up enclosure is typically located strategically on the airfield to allow airlines convenient access for the purpose of testing after repairs are made to aircraft engines. These tests can range from a few minutes to as many as 45 minutes with the engine running at various levels up to full power.

The estimated cost of designing and constructing a GRE is approximately \$5 million with a possible 80% contribution by the FAA. The airport authority anticipates issuing a solicitation for pre-design services for the GRE this year and construction is planned for 2010.

Other recommendations developed by the Study Advisory Committee, with the assistance of noise study consultant Barnard Dunkelberg & Company, include modifying air traffic procedures to concentrate more flights over compatible land uses; implementation of continuous descent approach for arriving aircraft; working with communities to update zoning ordinances and installation of a flight track/noise monitoring system.

The FAR Part 150 Update was approved by the WCAA Board on October 31, 2008 and is currently being reviewed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

“It has been a pleasure to work cooperatively with insightful people at the FAA and the mayors and supervisors of our neighboring communities to develop a practical set of recommendations that will make a difference,” said Robinson.

A complete list of the recommendations as well as the noise exposure maps developed by the study can be viewed at www.metroairport.com

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