



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee

Date: January 23, 2018

From: Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation

File: 01-0153-04-01/2018-
Vol 01

Re: **2017 Report from City Citizen Representatives to the Vancouver International Airport Aeronautical Noise Management Committee (YVR ANMC)**

Staff Recommendation

That the report from the City citizen representatives appointed to the Vancouver International Airport Aeronautical Noise Management Committee (YVR ANMC) regarding the Committee's 2017 activities be received for information.

Victor Wei, P. Eng.
Director, Transportation
(604-276-4131)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: CS	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

As directed by Council, the City’s two citizen appointees to the YVR ANMC provide annual updates directly to the General Purposes Committee on agenda items discussed at the YVR ANMC meetings. This report provides the 2017 update through a status report prepared by the City’s appointees to the YVR ANMC (Attachment 1).

Analysis

The YVR ANMC continues to achieve good participation from all cities and agencies and provides the opportunity for insightful discussions on a wide range of aeronautical noise-related topics as well as continued educational tours to enhance members’ understanding of airport operations. The attached status report from the citizen appointees provides a summary of the key agenda items discussed at three Committee meetings held in February, June and December 2017. Staff also provide the following supplemental comments.

2019-2023 YVR Noise Management Plan

Under the provisions of VAA’s federal ground lease, VAA is required to have a noise management plan that is approved by the Minister of Transport. The Plan serves to document the program and identifies key areas of work over a five-year period. As the current 2014-2018 plan runs to the end of 2018, a new 2019-2023 Plan and associated initiatives will be developed in 2018 in consultation with the YVR AMNC and the broader community, including two web-based surveys as outlined below in Figure 1.

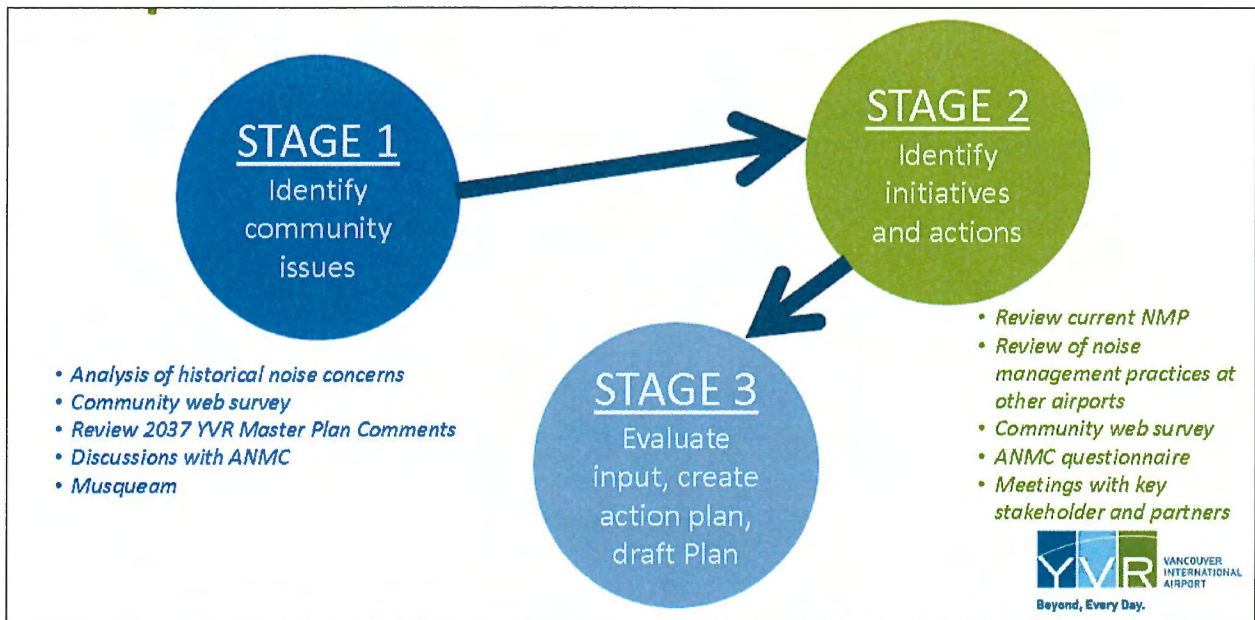


Figure 1: Proposed Process to Create 2019-2023 YVR Noise Management Plan

Joint Workshop: YVR Sustainability Materiality Assessment

VAA’s Annual & Sustainability Report summarizes the Authority’s activities and business results at Vancouver International Airport through four pillars of sustainability: Social, Economic, Environment, and Governance. In October 2017, a joint workshop with the YVR Environmental Advisory Committee was held to gather members’ feedback on potential revisions to the sustainability metrics of the annual report to better reflect those topics that are most important and relevant to VAA and stakeholders, and that VAA has the most impact and effect on. Aeronautical noise is one of the measures for inclusion.

2017 Aeronautical Noise Management – Summary Report

During January 1 to December 31, 2017, YVR received a total of 1,293 noise concerns from 253 individuals across Metro Vancouver, which is a 31% decrease in the number of concerns and a 16% decrease in the number of complainants over the same time period in 2016 (Figure 2). One individual in South Surrey registered 50% of all noise concerns during this period in 2017 (i.e., 651 concerns regarding overflights of the area). Of the balance of 642 concerns, 73 were received regarding engine run-up activities and 69 were received regarding night-time use of the north runway during the annual south runway closure for maintenance and runway end safety area work.

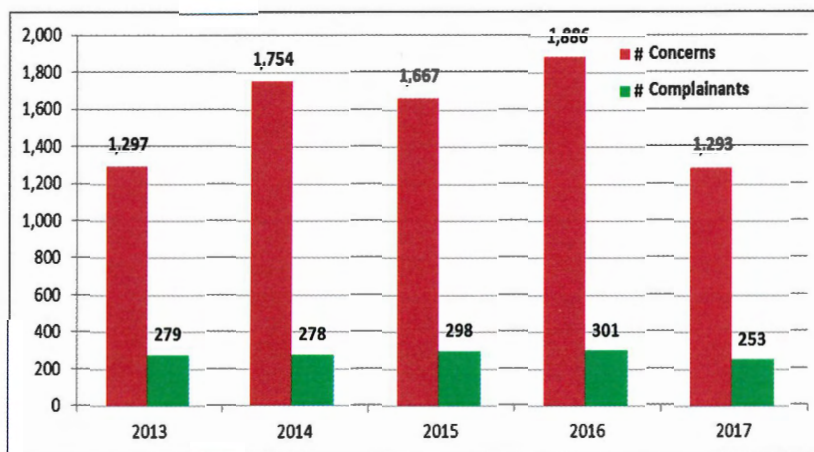


Figure 2: Region-wide Noise Concerns and Complainants

A total of 309 concerns were registered by 83 Richmond residents during 2017, which is a 21% increase in the number of concerns and no change in the number of complainants versus 2016 (Figure 3). However, three individuals registered 166 concerns in 2017 (54% of all concerns) regarding propeller and jet aircraft and engine run-up activities, which is similar to 2016 when three individuals registered 116 concerns (47% of all concerns) regarding float planes, propeller departures and engine run-up activities. Thus, when the concerns of the three individuals are excluded, the year-over-year increase in the number of concerns from 2016 to 2017 is only four or less than 3%.

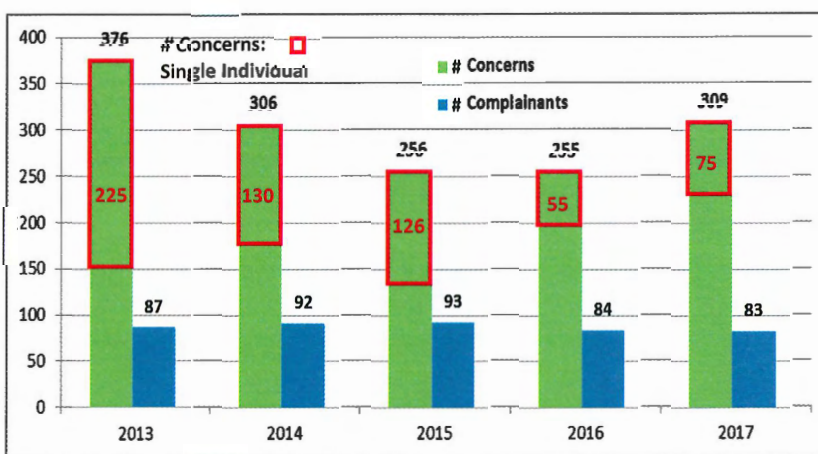


Figure 3: Richmond-Related Noise Concerns and Complainants

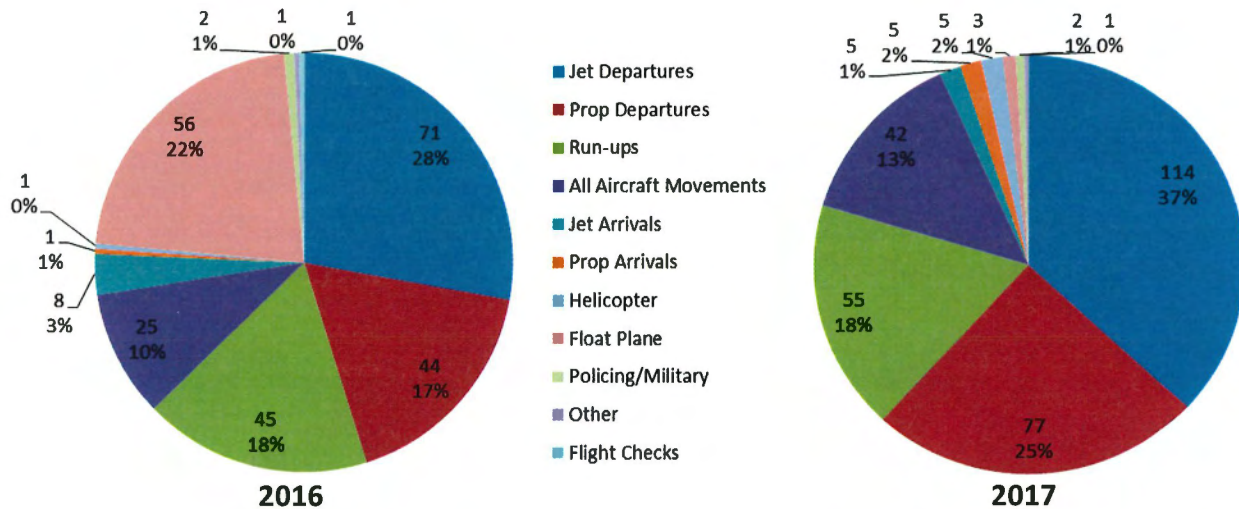


Figure 4: Total Number and Per Cent of Richmond-Related Noise Concerns for 2016 and 2017 by Operational Category

As shown in Figure 4, the primary Richmond-related operational concerns identified in 2017 include jet departures, propeller departures, engine run-ups, and all aircraft movements. Compared to the operational concerns identified in 2016, the main difference is that far fewer concerns related to float plane operations were received in 2017. This is due to a single individual in Richmond who logged 53 concerns related to float plane operations in 2016 but none in 2017.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The City’s citizen representatives to the YVR ANMC continue to uphold Richmond’s profile at the Committee and contribute positively to discussions. The YVR ANMC remains a valuable forum for addressing aeronautical noise impacts on Richmond. The provision of input regarding action items to support VAA’s new 2019-2023 Noise Management Plan will be an opportunity for the City and the City’s representatives to the YVR ANMC to ensure that the initiatives are consistent with a goal of minimizing aeronautical noise impacts to the community and enhancing residents’ quality of life.

Joan Caravan
 Transportation Planner
 (604-276-4035)

In collaboration with: Gary Abrams and Ihsan Malik
 City Citizen Representatives to the YVR ANMC

Att. 1: 2017 Report from City Citizen Representatives to the YVR ANMC

Date: January 17, 2018

To: City of Richmond General Purposes Committee

From: G.W.D. Abrams
Ihsan Malik
City of Richmond Citizen YVR ANMC Representatives

2017 Status Report: YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Committee

City Appointees:

Gary W.D. Abrams, a Richmond lawyer with military and civil flying experience and involvement in the British Columbia Aviation Council and other aviation organizations, has acted as Citizen Representative from the beginning of 2015. He was reappointed in December 2017 for a two-year term ending December 31, 2019.

Ihsan Malik, a retired aircraft maintenance engineer with Air Canada, was appointed in December 2016 for a two-year term ending December 31, 2018.

Both live in Richmond.

Past Year at the YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Committee

The ANMC met on February 22, June 15, and December 7, 2017. Gary Abrams attended also a joint meeting at YVR on October 31 of the ANMC and the YVR Environment Advisory Committee, at which those in attendance were invited to assign relative importance to 34 “draft material topics for sustainability reporting,” including aeronautical noise.

February 22, 2017 YVR ANMC Meeting

- The main topic of discussion at the February 22 meeting of the ANMC was Phase 2 of the YVR 2037 Master Plan consultations. Public consultations were taking place over a seven-week period ending March 7. Vancouver Airport Authority (VAA) staff observed that the Noise Exposure Forecast (NEF), in use since 1994, may not be the most effective means of stating the exposure to aircraft noise or flight activity of residents or communities. N70 maps, portraying the number of events above 70 decibels (N70) over a given 24-hour period, and flight plan maps showing generalized flight routes over Metro Vancouver and the expected volume of air traffic over each during a given 24-hour period, have been developed as a possible new reporting methodology. Such materials can provide the public with a general idea on how future growth at YVR may affect the noise and aircraft distribution over communities compared with current operations.
- The progress of the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) project, begun in 2015 and to be completed in 2020, was also reviewed. The current and projected construction would have minimal impact on Richmond.

June 15, 2017 YVR ANMC Meeting

- VAA staff spoke of the two options for a future third east-west runway to be addressed in the period of the YVR 2037 Master Plan. These were a new south parallel runway and a new foreshore runway (just to the south of the present north runway, 08L-26R). Three long-term NEF contours have been developed for arrivals only, which were overlaid to create one multiple scenario envelope (MSE) contour, to be included in the 2037 Master Plan documentation.
- Work on the south runway required its night-time closure for 3½ months during the spring and summer of 2017.
- The YVR noise management report for the 2nd quarter of 2017 showed a 13 per cent increase in the number of “concerns,” to 99, emanating from 28 persons in Richmond. Of these, 65 related to aircraft departures. There were suggestions that the complaint data be presented (if possible) in a more comprehensible manner.

December 7, 2017 YVR ANMC Meeting

The YVR ANMC meeting on December 7 was longer than usual and considered a wide range of topics.

- The Manager Air Service Development for VAA spoke of the greater role recently taken by airports, including YVR, and destinations to identify new markets and destinations under the Open Skies bilateral air services agreements to which Canada is a party. In 2016 YVR served a record number of 22.3 million passengers, a 10 per cent increase over 2015. The number of aircraft movements has, in contrast, shrunk (by 14 per cent from 1998 to 2016) due to the increased use of larger and more efficient aircraft. New or enhanced services to seven points in Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Latin America were projected in the coming year.
- The major construction work, on the north runway and three taxiways, in prospect for the coming year, were reviewed.
- A supervisor at the NAV CANADA Area Control Centre (located in Surrey) provided a detailed review of the procedures in use for managing the complex airspace surrounding YVR, designed to ensure a high level of safety.
- The representative of the National Airlines Council of Canada reviewed the progress of the aviation industry in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving fuel efficiency since creation of an action plan in 2012. The four major Canadian carriers had achieved an average improvement of 1.8 per cent per year from the 2008 baseline.
- VAA staff reviewed the three stages of a plan, to begin in 2018 with preparation of a web survey, for the creation of the Airport’s sixth five-year Aeronautical Noise Management Plan. A draft plan would be reviewed by the ANMC in the late summer of 2018, before submission to the executive and board of the Airport Authority and to Transport Canada.

- The noise management report for the 4th quarter of 2017 was presented. It disclosed 287 “concerns”, registered by 79 persons, in Richmond in the first 11 months of 2017. The subject most complained of, by persons in Richmond, was jet departures – a total of 90 in 11 months. Engine run-ups were the subject of 49 “concerns”, float plane operations of only 3. It is difficult to draw any conclusions from these statistics, except that a person who in earlier periods lodged multiple “concerns” about float planes apparently is no longer doing so.

Recommendations to the General Purposes Committee

No specific recommendations are made. The work of the Committee will continue.

Gary Abrams
Ihsan Malik