



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee **Date:** May 5, 2022  
**From:** John Hopkins **File:** 01-0153-04-01/2022-  
 Director, Policy Planning Vol 01  
**Re:** **Report from the Citizen Representatives on the Vancouver International  
 Airport Aeronautical Noise Management Committee for 2021**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Report from the Citizen Representatives on the Vancouver International Airport Aeronautical Noise Management Committee for 2021", dated May 5, 2022, from the Director, Policy Planning, be received for information.

John Hopkins  
 Director, Policy Planning  
 (604-276-4279)

Att. 1

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>  <i>Joe Erceg</i>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>  <i>ME</i>
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>  <i>[Signature]</i>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Vancouver International Airport Aeronautical Noise Management Committee (YVR ANMC) is a committee of stakeholders formed and operated by the Vancouver International Airport Authority (YVR). The City's representatives on the YVR ANMC are two citizen representatives appointed by Council and a staff member from the Policy Planning Department.

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update to Council on the work and activities undertaken by the YVR ANMC in 2021.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #8 An Engaged and Informed Community:

*Ensure that the citizenry of Richmond is well-informed and engaged about City business and decision-making.*

*8.1 Increased opportunities for public engagement.*

### Findings of Fact

#### Vancouver International Airport Authority Aeronautical Noise Management Committee

YVR is responsible for noise management at the airport that is addressed through a comprehensive noise management program, which includes:

- Development and implementation of a five-year Noise Management Plan;
- Stakeholder engagement through the YVR ANMC;
- Procedures and directives to mitigate noise from aircraft and aircraft operations;
- Flight tracking and noise monitoring across the region;
- Dedicated YVR staff responsible for responding to questions and concerns from the community; and
- Education and awareness programs.

The purpose of the YVR ANMC is to enable YVR to engage regularly with stakeholders and provide a forum where aeronautical noise management issues associated with YVR aircraft operations can be identified and discussed. In addition to representatives of YVR, members of this committee are appointed by stakeholders groups and include affected municipalities, the Musqueam Indian Band, airline associations, NAV Canada and Transport Canada.

Attachment 1 provides a report submitted by the appointed Richmond citizen representatives that summarizes the activities and work discussed by the YVR ANMC in 2021. This report provides additional information related to aeronautical noise matters, community concerns and initiatives arising from the operation of the airport.

**Analysis**

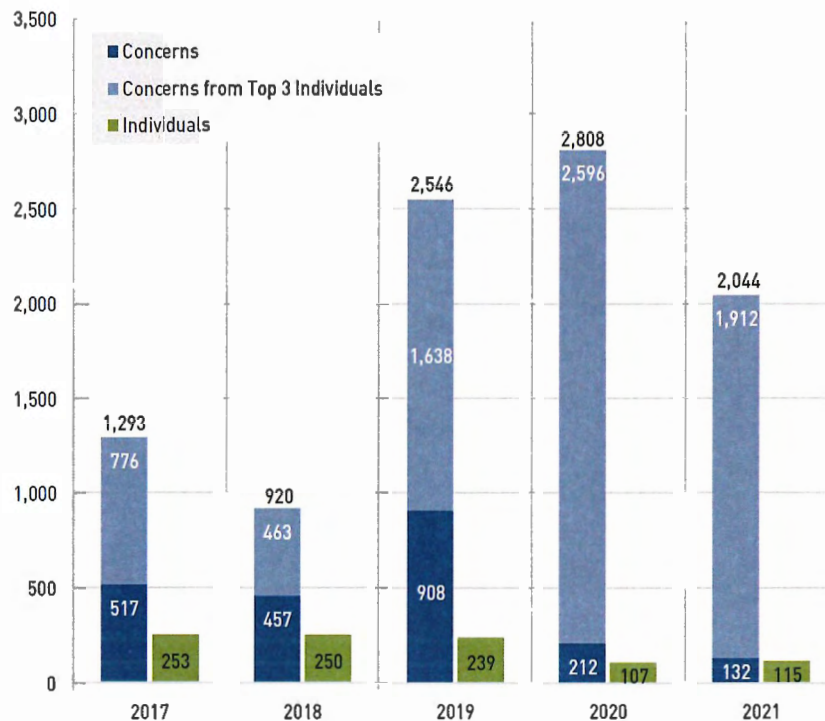
COVID-19 Impacts

In 2021, aircraft operations at YVR continued to be impacted by the ongoing global pandemic with overall aircraft movements and passenger numbers at significantly reduced volumes comparable to pre-pandemic 2019 levels. Total aircraft movements in 2021 were down 49% compared to 2019 data. However, YVR reported an upward trend in air traffic in the latter half of 2021 as a result of a combination of factors including relaxation of pandemic restrictions and increase in Canadian vaccination rates. Compared to 2020, aircraft movements increased approximately 7% in 2021.

2021 Aircraft Noise Concerns

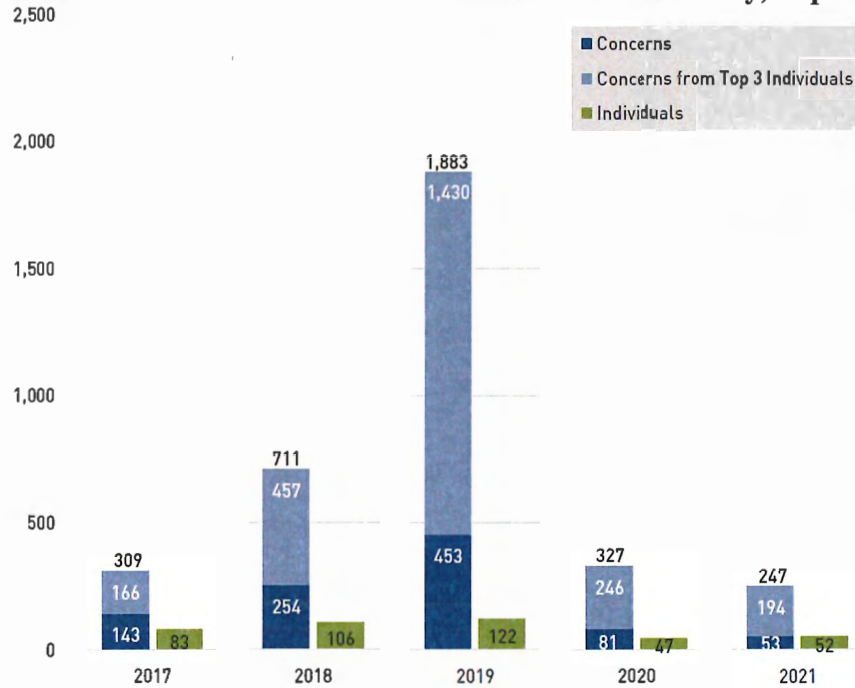
Community concerns regarding aircraft noise in 2021 were compiled by YVR staff. In 2021, YVR received a total of 2,044 community noise concerns related to YVR aircraft operations from 115 individuals across the Lower Mainland. Of the total community noise concerns received, approximately 94% were received from three individuals in the Lower Mainland. Compared to 2020 data, there was a decrease in the number of community noise concerns received (from 2,808 down to 2,044 registered concerns) and slight increase in the number of individuals who made noise concerns to YVR (from 107 up to 115 individuals). The above referenced data on community noise concerns received in the Lower Mainland received by YVR is shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Number of Concerns & Individuals – Lower Mainland, Top 3 Defined**



Community concerns regarding aircraft noise received from Richmond in 2021 were also compiled by YVR. In 2021, YVR received a total of 247 community noise concerns related to YVR aircraft operations from 52 individuals in Richmond. Of the total community noise concerns received from Richmond, approximately 79% were received from three individuals in the City. Compared to 2020 data, there was a decrease in the number of community noise concerns received (from 327 down to 247 registered concerns) and slight increase in the number of individuals in Richmond who made noise concerns to YVR (from 47 up to 52 individuals). The above reference data on community noise concerns received in Richmond is shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Number of Concerns & Individuals – Richmond Only, Top 3 Defined**



Jet arrivals and departures, propeller aircraft movements and engine run-ups (required testing activity as part of regular maintenance activities) were the common community noise concerns about aircraft operations documented by YVR.

The approach taken by YVR staff when community noise concerns are received is summarized as follows:

- Provide multiple ways for individuals to contact YVR about aircraft related noise.
- Investigate all community concerns with flight tracking information and other data sources.
- Respond to individuals with information gathered by YVR staff.
- Offer to reach out directly to individuals that submit community noise concerns to discuss issues and their concerns.

### Airspace Modernization Project and Use of Runways

The NAV Canada Airspace Modernization Project was initiated in 2019 to optimize flight paths around YVR with the objective of accommodating increased air traffic while maintaining safety and reducing the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding communities. In 2021, NAV Canada identified that additional design work is required and that the overall project timeline, including planned public consultation, will need to be revised. The YVR ANMC will be updated on this project and will continue to work with all project stakeholders to address aircraft noise issues in the community.

With respect to the use of the north and south runways, YVR staff have indicated that optimizing the use of YVR's existing runways and taxiways is a key element identified in the 2037 YVR Master Plan approved by Transport Canada. Any option for changing operations between the two runways that has noise implications will be presented and discussed with the YVR ANMC. It is important to note the environmental assessment approval conditions for the north runway specify that YVR can increase the use of the north runway when it approaches capacity limits. In general, these guidelines are exceeded during the spring and summer months. As air traffic gradually increases, it is anticipated that the use of the north runway would increase until such time as a third runway is needed, which is not expected for several decades.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

The YVR ANMC is a valuable stakeholder forum for addressing aeronautical noise impacts in Richmond. The City's citizen representatives to the YVR ANMC continue to uphold Richmond's interest at the committee and contribute positively to discussions.



Kevin Eng  
Planner 3  
(604-247-4626)

KE:cas

Att. 1: Richmond Citizen Report Summarizing 2021 Activities of the YVR ANMC

**Date:** April 5<sup>th</sup> 2022

**To:** City of Richmond General Purposes Committee

**From:** Arvind Sharma, Ivan Ma  
City of Richmond Citizen YVR ANMC Representatives

**2021 Status Report: YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Committee**

**City Appointees:**

Arvind Sharma, Aeronautical Maintenance Engineer (AME) working for Lufthansa at Vancouver International Airport and has been the City representative on YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Committee (ANMC) since 2018 and recently renewed his term. Ivan Ma was the other City representative on YVR ANMC. Ivan is a Project Manager at Translink and a general aviation pilot. Ivan Ma's term ended at the end of 2021. Gary Abrams is the new Council appointed Richmond City representative on the YVR ANMC commencing in 2022.

**Past Year at the YVR Aeronautical Noise Management Committee**

ANMC met on March 18<sup>th</sup>, September 16<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

<b>March 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b>
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1. First meeting of year reflected the impact of Covid during 2020. Passenger traffic was down by 70% and cargo movement by 20%. Travel restrictions and spread of different Covid variants has affected business. YVR presented its new Strategic Plan for 2021 focused on 6 key areas to improve and sustain during Covid and be adaptable for 2022. NAV Canada staff were in attendance to present and explain progress on the YVR airspace modernization project. Public/local community consultation was planned in fall of 2021.
2. YVR reported full year statistics of Noise complaints for 2020. There were 2808 concerns from 107 individuals, which was a 10% increase in concerns but 55% decrease of individuals making complaints. 3 individuals provided 92% of complaints. In the last meeting, there was a concern raised regarding how complaints from a few individuals was skewing the data. YVR conducted a study to find how noise complaints were recorded by other international airports regarding total number of complaints and complaints from repeat individuals. The findings of the study identified that the procedures in place for documenting and reporting on noise complaints by YVR were consistent with other airports. For Q1 there were 251 Noise complaints registered by 22 individuals, which was 74% decrease from last year. Out of this total (251), 229 complaints were from 2 individuals. There were no complaints which had exceeded limits or needed to be reported to Transport Canada

3. YVR shared with committee FAA Survey findings to understand the relationship between aircraft noise exposure and community annoyance. The community complaints increased once the noise levels reached a certain sound benchmark. The survey was done for 20 airports and involved over 10,000 residents. Presently FAA is collecting data and has not indicated any changes in policy at this time.

<b>September 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b>
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1. The ANMC held its second meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Newly appointed YVR CEO Tamara Vrooman attended this meeting and answered questions from Committee members. There was discussion regarding noise complaints and YVR projected growth plans
2. YVR Airspace modernization project update report was provided by NAV Canada staff, including some of the challenges being faced and additional design work required, which will impact the overall project timeline. The committee was informed that NAV Canada remains committed to reducing noise impacts on surrounding communities with projected growth and modernization plans. Committee was briefed about all new technology being incorporated to reduce noise impacts.
3. YVR provided updates on the modernization and upgrades to Noise Monitoring Terminals (NMT). Works to expand the NMT network were also planned by adding 4 new terminals to improve the capture and collection of noise data.
4. YVR is working to provide more material on noise management on their website. Based on previous ANMC suggestions all public material will be provided in French too.
5. YVR presented noise complaint data from January to August 2021. A total of 1505 complaints were received from 93 individuals. Of this total, 1400 complaints were received by 3 individuals. YVR staff had communications with an individual to discuss their concerns regarding float plane operations including following up with float plane operators to discuss the concerns of the community and mitigate noise concerns.

## December 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

1. The last meeting of the YVR ANMC for 2021 took place on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
2. YVR provided information on the plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions from the airport authority's direct operations by 2030. This target has been accelerated by 20 years. Plans were outlined on how YVR will be working with all stakeholders and business partners to achieve this goal.
3. YVR provided updates on the Noise Monitoring Terminals (NMT) upgrade and infrastructure project. All old equipment has been upgraded and 3 new NMT have been installed (one at Musqueam and two located in Delta). The location of the 4<sup>th</sup> new NMT will be determined based on the work being done as part of the YVR airspace modernization project.
4. YVR provided updates on planned 2022 runway works and maintenance and associated adjustments to runway operations as a result. No major impacts are anticipated and noise impacts will be minimized based on pre-planning and flight plan movements.
5. YVR noted that regular updates to its website occurs to provide information and resources available to the public. For the YVR ANMC committee, a SharePoint will be launched and available to members to improve access and ensure information, materials and resources (including historical information) are available online.
6. A noise management summary for the year 2021 up to November 15<sup>th</sup> was provided. A total of 1874 concerns were registered by 112 individuals. Of those, 1745 complaints came from 3 individuals.

Arvind Sharma