

Airport Noise

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

The logo for 'Knowing NextGen' is located in the bottom right corner. It features a blue curved line above the word 'KNOWING' in blue capital letters. Below 'KNOWING' is the word 'nextGen', where 'next' is in green lowercase letters and 'Gen' is in blue capital letters.

KNOWING
nextGen

NextGen, the Next Generation Air Transportation System, is a set of programs being implemented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) over the next several years. One of the important issues as NextGen rolls out is what it means in terms of noise around airports.

IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES REDUCE NOISE

NextGen replaces radar-based flight tracking (surveillance) with satellite-based surveillance using data from the US Global Positioning Satellite System, or GPS. Because satellite-based surveillance and GPS-based aircraft navigation are far more accurate and precise than the systems that have been used for years, they enable reconfiguration of flight paths within a metroplex (the metropolitan area where several airports are located). Takeoff and landing flight tracks occur within a tighter area. This can be an improvement in areas where that tighter area is a body of water or unoccupied land. But it can also mean more noise concentration in populated areas directly under the flight path.

New engine designs, lighter aircraft, and changing technologies have made aircraft quieter than ever. But they still make noise.

WHY WASN'T I WARNED?

Any increase in noise to or above 65 dB for a residential area or noise sensitive area requires an environmental review. However, assuming there are no changes to or above 65 dB DNL, if changes in flight routes result in lower total average noise across population center points, and if aircraft fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions are lowered, then the FAA can exercise an expedited review of the change, with no notification required. Therefore, while perhaps the level of noise may not have increased, *you may be experiencing noise for the first time or more frequent noise if you live or work under a reconfigured flight path.*

FLIGHT ROUTES AT OUR AIRPORT

To give you an idea of what this may mean to you, we have provided information about potential changes to flight routes. The images shown on the following pages are the most current information we have available.

These images on the next page depict existing flight flows over the surrounding jurisdictions under existing conditions. The top one represents NORTH operations at the airport. The image below shows the same information for SOUTH operations.

Noise contours are shown for the annual average Day/Night noise levels (DNL) of 65, 55, and 50 dB. Noise contours were developed using [\[FAA MODEL USED HERE\]](#). These contours and maps are shown for existing levels of traffic on [\[DATE OF STUDY\]](#). The average day represents annual flight operations divided by 365. Noise contours at night are also shown, but are weighted more heavily under FAA guidelines. No change in flight destinations, aircraft types, or number of flights is shown in these plans, only changes in flight routes near the airport.

WHAT CAN I DO?

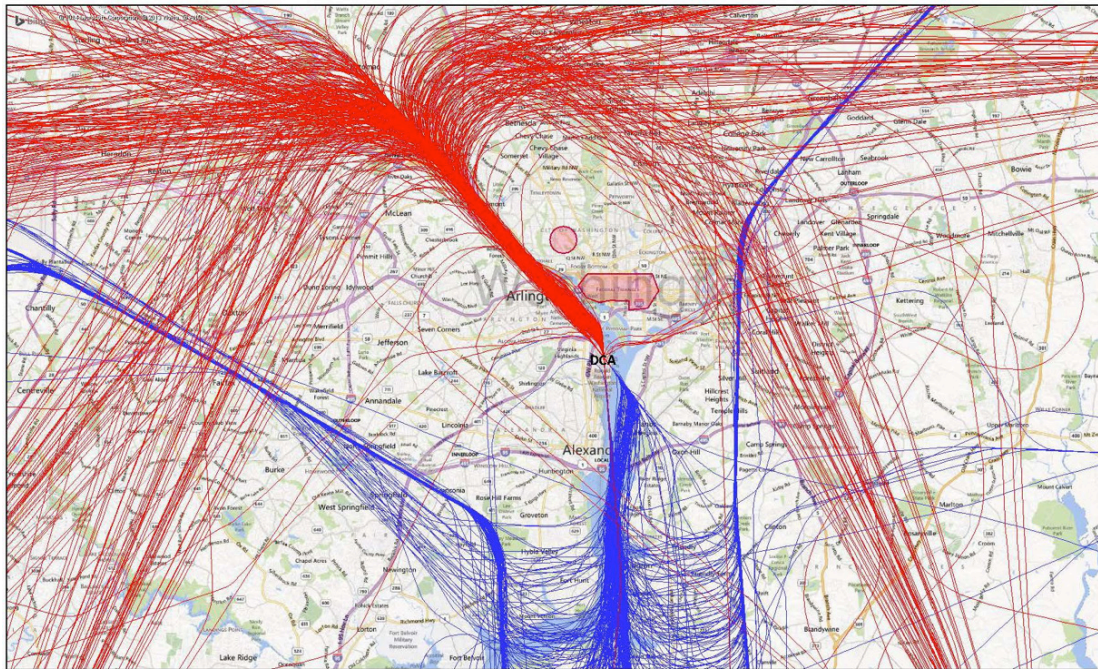
Once a Metroplex has been designed and implemented, there's not a lot that can be done. What's most important is to be sure you know when your airport is going to be considered for Metroplex. The FAA conducts community hearings two years before making a change. After that the FAA no longer reaches out to the community. Those hearings are your opportunity to find out about reconfigured flight paths and present your concerns.



Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)
Arrival and Departures Only
Typical North Flow

- Prohibited Airspace (P56)
- Departures
- Arrivals

slprma-15



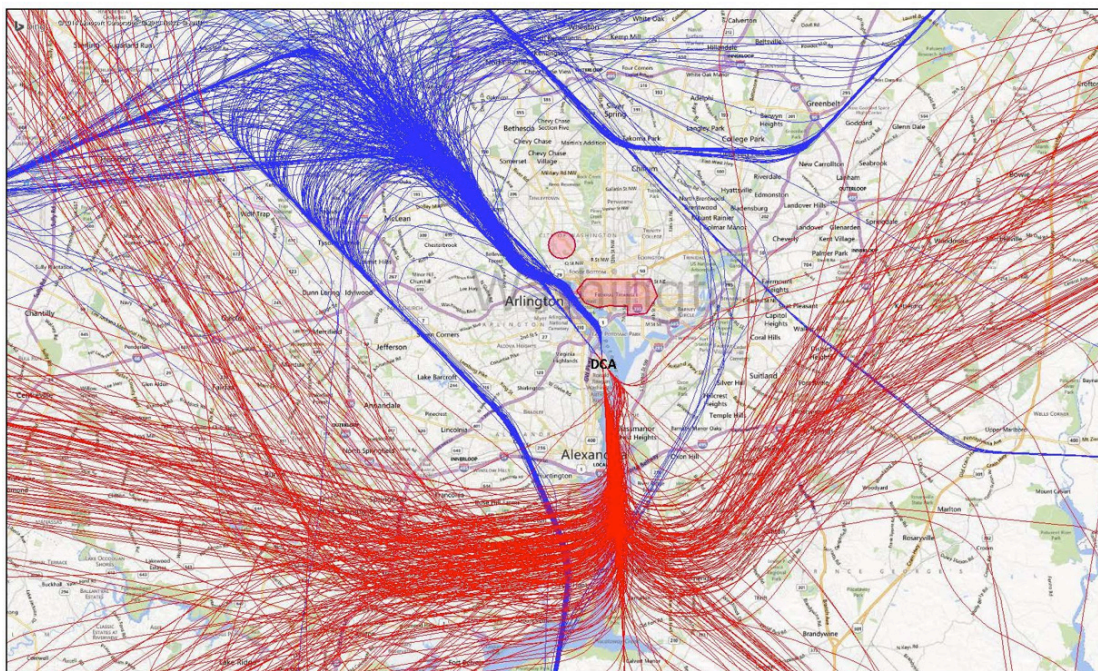
Flight flows under existing conditions for NORTH airport operations.



Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)
Arrival and Departures Only
Typical South Flow

- Prohibited Airspace (P56)
- Departures
- Arrivals

slprma-15



Flight flows under existing conditions for SOUTH airport operations.

AIRPORT LOGO
CAN BE PLACED HERE



For more information,
visit www.faa.gov/nextgen