NextGen Is Changing Air Travel

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. This modernization program is a complex undertaking that the FAA believes will lead to more efficient and accurate flight trajectories that will benefit travelers and airlines.

NextGen replaces ground-based tracking systems with satellite-based Global Positioning Systems (GPSs). This change allows more precise, accurate routing and tracking of aircraft, on the ground and in the air. That can mean that existing airport infrastructure can support more airport activity. However, this will not happen immediately. It may be several years before communities experience increased airport activity.

AIRPORTS PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENEFIT

Airports are a significant contributor to local economies. In 2013 the 485 commercial airports across the U.S. supported 9.6 million jobs totaling $358 billion in payroll.¹ From grounds crews to concessionaires, airport activity provides jobs for your neighbors and friends.

NEXTGEN SUPPORTS ENVIRONMENTALLY HEALTHY GROWTH

One major concern with airport activity is its environmental impact. With NextGen, airport takeoffs and landings follow more precise flight tracks. Continuous descent reduces nitrous oxide emissions. Along with better management of airplanes on the ground, this means less fuel burned and lower exposure to noise from gate to gate.

A WORK IN PROGRESS

In order to make the entire system more environmentally positive, some individuals and communities will notice increased noise as air traffic is concentrated along a narrower path. Our airport will work closely with the FAA as they develop NextGen procedures for our airport to maximize the environmental benefit and minimize negative impacts.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit www.faa.gov/nextgen/ to learn more.

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