ANAC Update

September 6, 2017
Milton still holds the top spot despite runway closures earlier in the year and a recent surge by Medford.

- Through July of this year, Milton residents have already filed 15,552 noise complaints, accounting for 44% of the total number of noise complaints filed this year, and 71% of all the noise complaints that Milton residents filed last year.

- The number of complaints filed by Milton would be higher but for the recent “closure” of 4R for repairs.

![Pie charts showing number of noise complaints filed in Milton and other cities and towns.](source: Massport)
The ten cities and towns most-affected by Boston Logan airplane noise (as measured by number of noise complaints) are as follows:

- Milton
- Medford
- Somerville
- Hull
- Arlington
- Cambridge
- Belmont
- South Boston
- Lynn
- Roslindale

Medford has been rocketing up the charts due to the runway closures earlier this year, and Roslindale recently replaced Winthrop in the Top 10 rankings.

In terms of complaints filed, Milton has the greatest airplane noise burden of any town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

**MILTON HAS FILED MORE NOISE COMPLAINTS THAN THE NEXT NINE MOST-AFFECTED MUNICIPALITIES – COMBINED**

Top 10 Cities and Towns by Number of Noise Complaints – January 1, 2012 to July 31, 2017

*Total Number of Complaints*

![Bar chart showing noise complaints for different cities and towns.](chart.png)

Source: Massport
Milton has already filed more than 29 times as many noise complaints as its neighbors this year.

Given this uneven distribution, it is highly unlikely that Milton will receive support from its neighbors regarding airplane traffic redistribution.

This dynamic, and the imbalance around it, should have been foreseeable by Massport when the CACs were created.

The skies around Milton are demonstrably quieter than the skies over Milton.

Source: Massport
Milton usually has more callers than any other community in the Commonwealth, including communities that are many times our population size.

- The ten cities and towns most-affected by Boston Logan airplane noise in 2017 (as measured by number of callers) are as follows:
  - Medford
  - Milton
  - Somerville
  - Cambridge
  - Hull
  - Jamaica Plain
  - Arlington
  - Roslindale
  - Everett
  - South End

- The shift in position for Medford is directly attributable to the 4R closure, as their number of callers exploded from 57 in April to 393 in May.

- Additionally, a dramatic increase in the number of callers from Everett has pushed Belmont out of the Top 10.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

1. As follow up to the requests made in the Board's 11/9/15 letter to the FAA, Massport, and the president of the Logan CAC, again request a face-to-face meeting with the FAA and/or Massport – and continue to do so on a monthly basis – until such a meeting takes place to address our deep concerns over the inherent flaws in the BLANS process.

2. Request a meeting with Governor Baker’s office to discuss Massport, BLANS, and the negative impact that overall runway use has on Milton.

3. Follow up with Congressman Lynch and others regarding the output and deliverables from the December 3, 2015 meeting at Milton High School.

4. Ask Congressman Lynch’s office to request that the Institute of Medicine (IOM) form a study committee that will synthesize all current scientific information on the health effects of airplane and other traffic pollution on adults and children. This synthesis should include evidence on the health effects of sleep disturbance and deprivation as well the effects of air and noise pollution. The goal is to define persistent exposure to low-flying jets as a public health problem, much like was eventually done for second hand smoke.

5. Engage a lobbyist to work on behalf of Milton to raise awareness of the ongoing negative impact of the FAA’s NextGen program.

6. Review the August 2, 2002 Record of Decision (ROD) to assess whether the ROD requires adherence to PRAS goals and reporting.

1. Write to the airlines that operate flights over Milton – either alone, or with Massport – to ask them to install vortex generators on the A320 series aircraft to reduce airplane noise.
ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

8. Examine whether there are any extraordinary circumstances that would have required deeper environmental examination or consideration under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

9. Provide feedback to our Congressmen and Senators on including noise abatement and air quality provisions in the FAA Reauthorization Bill.

10. Speak with the newly-elected Town Moderator to inquire whether ANAC could present for 5 minutes at the upcoming Town Meeting to further inform our citizens.

11. Review and comment upon Senator Warren’s recent legislation to outline the changes that should be made to fully protect Milton residents.

12. Move as many elements as possible in the current MIT study from Block 2 to Block 1.

13. Join N.O.I.S.E.

14. Work with the Board of Health to increase awareness about the impact of airplane noise and air pollution.

15. Acquire noise monitors that can deployed about the town to independently measure noise levels and durations.

These additional four recommendations reinforce and extend the initial seven.

- Recommendations in green are already being acted upon.