



Dear [Cambridge Elected Official],

I am writing to express the City of Cambridge's deep frustration at the increasing amount of noise generated over Cambridge by aircraft flights. A majority of these are airplanes that take off and land at Logan International Airport, particularly from runway 33L. The problem is exacerbated by the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) emphasis on its Next Gen program, which emphasizes efficiency of flights over noise abatement, and the resulting runway 33L RNAV (electronic waypoint routing) implemented in 2013. Cambridge, along with other communities, has recently requested that FAA reconsider this procedure. We received an unsatisfactory reply (attached) that seemed to shift responsibility to the Massachusetts Port Authority, which has in the past pointed Cambridge to the FAA for noise complaints.

Cambridge and other neighboring communities have endured an increasing number of flights over our communities in the last several years, furthered by the improved economy and accompanying demand for more flights. Cambridge has long participated in an on-going noise study to find ways to reduce noise for all communities surrounding Logan. In 2012, the FAA proposed its own RNAV flight path for runway 33L after several routes suggested by the Logan Community Advisory Committee (CAC) were rejected by FAA for various technical reasons.

During the abbreviated environmental review for the RNAV in 2012-13, Cambridge submitted comments expressing fear that the new procedure would concentrate flights in north and west Cambridge. Since that time, we have heard from many residents, both individually and at a public meeting, that the RNAV has generated unacceptable levels of new plane noise for these neighborhoods. We have also heard from our neighbors in Arlington, Belmont and Watertown that noise complaints in those towns are at very high levels as a result of the new procedure.

The City of Cambridge endorsed a motion at the January 15, 2015 meeting of the Logan CAC, brought forward by the communities of Arlington, Belmont and Watertown as follows:

“That the FAA re-examine Runway 33L RNAV SID, implemented in June of 2013, in light of the significant increase in noise complaints and negative feedback from communities since implementation and that alternatives or modifications be considered.”

This motion was approved by the CAC by a near-unanimous vote and has since been ignored by Massport and FAA. I ask that you seriously consider ways to address this request on the state (Massport) and federal (FAA appropriation) levels to make noise mitigation a serious consideration for both agencies.

Please contact Bill Deignan in the Cambridge Community Development Department, our Logan CAC Representative, at wdeignan@cambridgema.gov or by telephone at 617-349-4632 if you have any questions. I look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

Richard C. Rossi
City Manager