



**MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR BREANNA LUNGO-KOEHN**

October 14, 2022

Via Electronic Delivery

Senator Elizabeth Warren
2400 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Senator Edward Markey
975 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Representative Katherine Clark
157 Pleasant Street, #4
Malden, MA 02148

RE: Request to Demand the FAA disperse flight traffic over our cities

Dear Congresswomen Clark, Senator Markey and Senator Warren:

Since I have taken office here in Medford, a constant, almost daily complaint I hear from residents across our City is the abundance of airplane noise over homes, businesses, parks and green spaces. As you are no doubt aware, finding a compromise and providing some relief for residents has been a top priority of mine. I am writing today asking for an update on the status of my several requests seeking a resolution that maintains efficient air travel operations and also provides an equitable and sustainable future for the people of Medford who are dealing with this.

Of course, it is expected that we cannot be free of such issues due to our close proximity to Logan International Airport and the fact that the airport's longest runway, 33L/15R, points directly at Medford. Growing accustomed to the constant roar of jet engines has been a lived experience for generations of residents here.

As I've written in previous communications with this delegation, in 2013, with the implementation of updates to NextGen, there were significant changes in geolocation of flight paths, resulting in immediate, profound and unprecedented changes in the sonic landscape of Medford. We went from being one of a group of non-line-of-sight communities exposed to jet departure noise, to being the exclusive catchment area for all jet departures en route to the primary GPS waypoint (known as "TEKKK"), as well as arrivals on runway 15R.

This pervasive annoyance has now evolved into a growing crisis.

To make things exponentially worse, the TEKK Waypoint is situated directly over our largest elementary/middle school complex, resulting in ear rattling noise for some of our youngest residents, their families, caregivers, school staff and neighbors. With planes turning at TEKK, and therefore using one of the four branches, aircrafts are now blanketing the skies above our City. This area is now inundated with low-altitude noise, at all hours, greatly affecting the neighborhood's quality of life and leaving little recourse for any sort of solution.

In addition to the abundant use of runway 33L/15R—the longest runway at Logan—there have also been other factors that have greatly contributed to the sustained rise in noise. A substantial increase of 26 percent in overall operations at Logan for the six-year period beginning in 2013, coupled with the addition of a 2019 hub by Delta Airlines, has compounded the issues in Medford. There has also been a dramatic expansion of international travel which result in many more flights operating during late-night hours.

I could reiterate the percent increase in these flights or the significant reduction in our “sleep window” but I know you are all well aware of these quality-of-life issues. The bottom line is that there needs to be a coordinated and thoughtful approach to solving this problem. Block 2 of the MIT study has provided effective, straightforward recommendations to begin to alleviate this burden and the FAA should endeavor to implement some of the recommendations with a haste befitting the urgency of the situation--which cannot happen without your pressure and support.

Our federal partners must leverage their significant resources and technology solutions at their disposal to design a safe, efficient departure procedure for 33L that also disperses departure times which will dilute the concentration of noise and air pollution. Our local advocates and partners are steadfast on this and we urge you to demand that the FAA recognize and address the growing inequities caused by the NextGen flight path concentration that have had such a dramatic impact on Medford and many other communities.

I appreciate your continued commitment to seeking a solution and for working with us to improve the lives of our residents.

Sincerely,



Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn