

Friday, March 29, 2024

LMT Airport Advisory Meeting

Attendees

- Rich Preston, Suzanne Blundi, Peter K, Joanne Guineven, Judy Hoechner (phone), Brendan Monaghan, Joe Menard
- Rich provided overview for benefit of new attendees from public.
- Judy's Remarks
 - Several permits have been submitted by TTN
 - September '23 - Terminal permit. Approved by FAA
 - January '24 - RPZ to remove trees, houses, etc for purpose of obstacle removal. Uncertain whether this is happening on property containing PFOS/PFAS.
 - Action required - public comment on these issues needed.
 - Can LMT Environmental Advisory Council provide input?
 - No permits have been granted.
 - In a transition report from Executive Dan Benson, Mercer County called the on-going projects an expansion of the terminal with the goal of having planes fly longer distances to more destinations. They stated it was their goal to extend the runway to accommodate larger planes. All of this is a complete contradiction to their statements in the Environmental Assessment submitted to the FAA in which they stated the terminal "replacement" would not affect airport traffic numbers.
 - The end result if Mercer County and TTN push this through is there will be greater volume by larger aircraft utilizing the runway. Quality of life for us in Pa will be dramatically altered. Aside from safety and health issues (air quality/drinking water contamination) this may lead to diminished property values and decreased tax base in LMT.
 - Sen. Casey's office responded to request for help. While appreciative of the reply, the group suggest the issues presented require full participation from both US

Senators, Gov. Shapiro, the Bucks County Commissioners and possibly all senior national and local pols who represent constituents (on both sides of the river) who source their drinking water from the Delaware.

- The group has offered and strongly suggests we meet with Secretary of Transportation, Buttigieg to outline our concerns.
- Trenton Times recently posted story on TTN and Mercer County plans. In article it was noted that TTN is indeed expanding runway when in past they denied there would be any expansion. This is deceitful and FAA has not called them on this point.
- TTN Firehouse Move - apparently underway, the firehouse at the airport is presently being constructed on land which may be containing PFOS/PFAS. Mercer County officials have suggested the public trusts them and when these chemicals are unearthed, they will deal with issue. Reports indicate they are not testing for contaminants as they build this new ARFF (Air Rescue Fire Fighters) center.
- Con. Fitzpatrick's office
 - Kyle Melander of Fitzpatrick's office has sent numerous requests to Pa DEP offices to ask for their position on the TTN issue and the environmental impact on Pennsylvania citizens. Our US Congressman's office has yet to receive a reply (a reply was received after this meeting).
- Letter Campaigns
 - Letters and emails are recognized by politicians and political appointees if they are genuine. Talking points are essential but merely taking a form letter and signing it are ineffective and usually ignored by those who receive them.
 - Any politician who represents constituents who are concerned about the health and safety concerns represented by this airport expansion should be contacted.
 - The ask in these letters is to get the pols involved, draw attention to the fact that the FAA has approved parts of the expansion at the airport and the plans have changed from what TTN/Mercer officials have said in the past.

- Contacts - Meeting attendee asked for listing of groups where information on the TTN issue could be found. Here are several.

- BRRAM - Bucks Residents for Responsible Airport Management

<http://brram.org/>

- TTS - Trenton threatened Skies

<http://trentonthreatenedskies.com/>