



Fly Friendly Zone (FFZ) E-Mail Update March 2010

Dear Falcon Neighbors and Tenants,

We have committed to keep you posted as we continue to seek implementation of task force recommendations. The last update provided a bulleted listing of efforts underway or completed and related to the following areas:

- Seeking Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) assistance and cooperation
- Confirming commitment from training academy/schools re: Fly Friendly patterns and night flights
- Expediting Airport improvements to facilitate task force recommendations
- Getting the word out – locally, regionally and nationally about the Fly Friendly Program

We hope you agree that there is a significant body of work underway by the City, Falcon tenants, pilots, the FAA, and others. In some cases, progress has been swift. In other areas, it is evident that completion will be more gradual. While the City plans to 'keep at it,' we also know that this process is one of changing habits/culture and will continue to require a good dose of patience by all of us. If you missed the last e-mail update or any others, you may review them at:

http://www.mesaaz.gov/falcon_field/ffz.aspx.

During the last several weeks, and in addition to other ongoing efforts, one of the City's main priorities has been to gain access to the FAA's flight tracking data. Our goal is to use the data for education, information-sharing and in helping to target communications about the task force recommendations at Falcon Field. For example, the FAA tower at Falcon has indicated that (weather and safety permitting), they are working with the flight training academy/schools to shift as many of the training-related operations to the north runway. This effort not only assists with one of the task force recommendations, but also responds to a safety-related consideration of separating the training-related air traffic from the faster, higher-performance business and corporate aircraft. However, we must all keep in mind that wind direction, weather patterns and aircraft separation will always dictate which runways will be used. In the last few months, the City has heard from residents and others that they have noticed a difference in the training-related traffic patterns occurring more to the north and northeast. Others have told us that they believe nothing has changed. Having access to this flight tracking information will be one way to document and demonstrate what is changing ... or not changing at Falcon. Based on that assessment, we can better target our communications and continue to emphasize the importance of the task force recommendations or determine alternative courses, as reasonable.

Gaining access to the FAA's flight tracking data is a process that involves several steps:

- 1) Issuing a request for proposals to identify a contractor to provide the technology needed to receive FAA data and to provide it to the Airport in user-friendly queries and reports (completed);
- 2) Signing a contract with the most responsive bidder (underway);
- 3) Receiving an approved "Memorandum of Agreement" between the City and the FAA to allow our preferred contractor access to the FAA flight tracking data (underway); timeline for completion dependent on FAA reviews (estimated at 8-12 mos.); and
- 4) Equipment installation and City staff training on generating queries and reports. (2-4 weeks following Memorandum of Agreement completion)

The City will continue working with the FAA to seek their approvals as quickly as possible; however, we also need to remain reasonable and realistic.

In the meantime, the City will work with task force members in the coming months to review what is being completed at Falcon and to discuss evaluation tools available. More information about these efforts will be forthcoming later this spring.

The City also would like to express its thanks to those users and tenants at Falcon Field who are adhering to the Fly Friendly Program and task force recommendations. Your willingness and desire to be a good neighbor is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to stay informed about how we are seeking that "reasonable" balance between being a good neighbor and keeping our Airport strong and thriving. If you are interested in reviewing the task force recommendations, they may be found on the City's website at http://www.mesaaz.gov/falcon_field/pdf/ffztaskforce/8-20recommendations.pdf

Please feel free to share this update with anyone else who you believe would be interested. If you are not on our distribution list and want to be added, please complete this comment form at <http://apps.mesaaz.gov/falconcomments/>

Thank you!