



Fly Friendly Zone (FFZ) E-Mail Update **November/December 2009**

Dear Falcon Neighbors and Tenants,

The City, the FAA, airport tenants and pilots and others are actively working toward implementing the recommendations made by the Falcon Field Ad-Hoc Task Force. This process is one of education and in some cases, changing routines. It will also require a good dose of patience. As such, we hope the changes in process will strengthen with time, become more apparent and eventually set the foundation of a new “culture” at Falcon Field. We appreciate very much the interest and involvement of all who have brought us to this point. Here is a review of work (related to the task force recommendations) that has been completed, is underway or is in process:

Seeking Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Assistance and Cooperation

- Monthly meetings with FAA Falcon Tower Chief and CAE/Sabena (ongoing since March)
- Councilmember Higgins Falcon Field Tower tour and meeting with Tower Chief (October)
- City Manager discussion with FAA Phoenix Tracon (October). Follow-up meeting requested.
- FAA Phoenix Tracon meeting with Airport Director and Tower Chief (October)
- FAA issuance of facility directive to use runways 4R and 4L (to north and northeast) as calm wind runways (March)
- Tower directing training operations to the north runway and non-training and corporate traffic to the southern runway to the fullest extent possible, safety permitting (Ongoing)
- FAA commits to consider raising altitudes on GPS approaches to the non-directional beacon (NDB) for training operations between 9:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m. (November)
- Researching options to include fly friendly reminders in FAA pilot broadcasts after tower hours. (November and ongoing)

Confirming Commitment from Training Academy/Schools re: Fly Friendly Patterns and Night Flights

- Letter received from CAE/Sabena to document their support and commitment to follow recommendations. (November)
- City staff presented at September Arizona Flight Training Working Group meeting and will host next meeting at Falcon (ongoing)
- Individual meetings with Valley flight schools to be scheduled (within next six months and annually thereafter)
- Added night-time air traffic recordings monitoring; communications with flight schools, as needed. (September and ongoing)
- Seeking upgrade to night-time traffic recording equipment to record flight information 24x7. (December)

Expediting Airport Improvements to Facilitate Task Force Recommendations

- Master Plan -- City Council approved an update in November. Note: required by the FAA in order to request and receive federal funding; also plan supports several of the capital-related recommendations made by the task force. (November approval; implementation as funding available)
- 4R run-up area expansion-- under construction. (Pending completion in December)
- North runway shoulder area improvements – City completed design and requested funding from the FAA (November) for construction in the 2010/11 grant cycle. (Awaiting FAA response)
- Automated surface operating system (ASOS)—FAA has identified existing equipment for Falcon Field. (FAA reports installation in 2010)

Getting the Word Out – Locally, Regionally and Nationally

- City staff and Mayor met with Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) regional and national representatives. As a result, AOPA submitted a national newsletter article. (November)
- The City continues to research aircraft tracking systems and will publish a Request for Qualification. (RFP tentatively planned for release in December)
- Updated “Public Airport Disclosure Map” published by Arizona Department of Real Estate. Note: This map is prepared per FAA rules and is meant to be a resource to indicate the primary area of Falcon-related aircraft operations. In other words, it shows where airplanes might fly around the airport. Contrary to some representations, the map does not establish or designate flight patterns or determine where airplanes must fly. (November)
- City conducted a meeting with helicopter operators at Falcon to discuss and reinforce the Fly Friendly procedures. (October with meetings planned every six months)
- Noise Abatement Program Pilot Guide being updated to incorporate task force recommendations. (tentatively planned for January completion)
- Fly Friendly reminders added to airport invoices (December).
- City attends monthly tenant meetings to reinforce fly friendly messages and focus (ongoing).
- Pilots’ guides, the task force recommendations, and Fly Friendly hand-out information are available in the Falcon Field terminal building and at airport business establishments (ongoing).
- City attending quarterly Phoenix Airspace Users Work Group (PAUWG) meetings and will continue to express the importance of complying with the task force recommendations and compliance with the noise abatement procedures. (ongoing)
- City soliciting input from tenants regarding ways to provide positive reinforcement to airport users who comply with the noise abatement procedures. (ongoing)

Thank you for taking the time to read about the actions we are pursuing in order to seek 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/> We are planning to send out another e-mail update in early 2010. Thank you!