Study Overview

Dane County Regional Airport (MSN) is undertaking a Noise Compatibility Planning Study in accordance with Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulation Part 150 (14 CFR Part 150 or Part 150). The purpose of the Study is to develop an accurate Noise Exposure Map (NEM) that reflects current and future airport operations, to communicate noise levels to the surrounding communities, and to collaboratively develop noise abatement, mitigation, and/or management measures through a Noise Compatibility Program (NCP). The NEM and NCP prepared under this Study will be subject to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) acceptance and approval, respectively.

Part 150 describes a formal process for airport operators to address aircraft noise in terms of land use compatibility. The regulation establishes thresholds for aircraft noise exposure for specific land use categories. Part 150 studies are voluntary and allow airports to apply for federal funding to implement their noise program including FAA-approved measures recommended to reduce or eliminate incompatible land use. The study is expected to be completed in 2024.

Study Phases Timeline

Public Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholders and those interested in land use compatibility planning have an ongoing opportunity to learn about the Study and provide feedback. This opportunity is occurring through various mechanisms, including a Technical Advisory Committee, a project website, project newsletters, public draft documents, public open houses, public comment periods, and a public hearing.

Public Open House 2

You’re invited to receive updates on the Study’s progress and provide feedback by attending the upcoming open house.

When: Monday, November 14, 6–8 pm
Where: Dane County Regional Airport lobby between Terminal Doors 1 & 2
Draft NEM Update

As part of the ongoing Part 150 Study, the noise exposure from MSN aircraft operations has been assessed following the FAA-prescribed Part 150 process, resulting in draft aircraft noise exposure contours depicting the existing condition (2022) and a five-year forecast condition (2027) overlaid on an updated land use map. The draft 2027 Future Condition NEM is provided below, which includes the 65, 70, and 75 decibel (dB) noise exposure contours using the FAA-required Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) metric. According to Part 150 regulations, all land uses outside of the 65 DNL contour are compatible.

The land use analysis of the draft 2027 NEM resulted in the identification of 1,250 residential units and three noise-sensitive parcels as potentially incompatible with noise from MSN aircraft operations. The noise-sensitive parcels identified include Madison Area Technical College, Claudi’s Kids Inc Day Care Center, and Ridgeway Church.