

Recommendations for Consideration by the CWG on North-flow Departures

Vianair/ABCx2 facilitated several design team meetings with the North of Airport Committee and procedure design experts from Vianair/ABCx2.

Initial discussions included a review of the design philosophy adopted by the Community Working Group (CWG) and key concerns expressed by the community. These community issues as they relate to the existing flight procedures and noise impacts served as the basis for discussions about modifications to existing procedures and the development of new procedures. Key goals included reducing concentration of operations (and the unfair burden to any one community), avoiding dense residential areas and overflying “compatible” areas when able, and increasing altitudes. The North of Airport Committee greatly appreciated the technical support from Vianair/ABCx2 in presenting design options, identifying constraints, and evaluating the impacts and benefits. The following recommendation was developed from this work.

Use of NADP-1

The North of Airport Committee asked Vianair/ABCx2 to reevaluate the NADP-1 vs. NADP-2 analysis considering the overall benefit to all communities affected by this study and the overall effect of aircraft noise regionally. Due to criteria and other operational factors, there was very little that could be done with the lateral path of aircraft departing DCA. It was determined that the NADP-1 climb profile would provide a benefit to communities within 10 nautical miles (10NM) of the airport without having a negative impact on communities further out. Analysis shows that there are benefits to having departing aircraft utilize this profile.

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The CWG recommends that MWAA and FAA add NADP-1 as the preferred noise abatement climb profile for Runway 1 departures to the NOISE section of the Airport/Facility Directory for DCA. Additionally, the CWG recommends this and other recommended noise abatement measures, be addressed through periodic, direct engagement with the air carriers operating at DCA to ensure airline awareness and encourage participation.