

2020 StART Federal Policy Working Group Federal Policy Advocacy Plan

Issue	Topic	Goal	Update
65 DNL evaluation and alternative metrics	FAA Reauthorization Implementation	Encourage timely release of the "noise annoyance survey" and relevant accompanying policy guidance	In April 2020, the FAA submitted a report to Congress in response to Sections 173 and 188 of the FAA Reauthorization Act: <a href="https://www.faa.gov/about/plans_reports/congress/media/Day-Night_Average_Sound_Levels_COMPLETED_report_w_letters.pdf">https://www.faa.gov/about/plans_reports/congress/media/Day-Night_Average_Sound_Levels_COMPLETED_report_w_letters.pdf</a> . The report concludes that the DNL continues to be the recommended metric. However, members of Congress, including Representatives Jayapal and Smith, sent a letter to the FAA deeming this report insufficient.  The FAA released the "noise annoyance survey" in January 2021.
Overflight noise/human health study	FAA Reauthorization Implementation	Help shape the scope and implementation of the study	In 2019, the FAA funded the Air Transportation Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment to study the health impacts of noise from overflights
Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program	FAA Reauthorization Implementation	Help shape the scope of the grant program and secure funding for an innovative local pilot for noise or other environmental impact mitigation	Congress passed its FY21 appropriations legislation with House language that "directs the Administrator to utilize available funds to implement the Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program and to conduct a series of studies and reports on aircraft noise in accordance with the Airport Noise and Environmental Streamlining subtitle of the FAA Reauthorization Act"
The Future of Aircraft: Supersonic, Electric and Urban Air Mobility	FAA Reauthorization Implementation	Ensure that noise standards for supersonic aircraft meet or exceed commercial aircraft noise standards. Continue to support federal investments and policies that drive cleaner aircraft, such as electric jets and electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft (eVTOL), while ensuring that these new planes do not increase noise impacts.	In June 2020, the Port submitted a comment letter to the federal rulemaking process underway regarding supersonic aircraft noise standards
Air Traffic Noise and Pollution Expert Consensus Act	Legislation	Advocate for passage	No update at this time
Protecting Airport Communities from Particle Emissions Act	Legislation	Advocate for passage	Last year, the US House of Representatives-passed HR 2, the Moving Forward Act, which includes this legislation as an amendment. In 2021, Congress is likely to propose this legislation as part of a new infrastructure bill to be considered as part of President Biden's first 100 days.
Secondary Insulation for "Failed" Packages	Legislation	Advocate for passage	US Representative Adam Smith is currently finalizing this legislation for introduction. In addition, Congress passed its FY21 appropriations legislation with House language that included direction to the FAA to "consider residences that were mitigated prior to 1993 with sound insulation as 'unmitigated' if an airport can verify that the residences continue to fall within the latest day-night average sound level (DNL) 65 decibel (dB) contour, and have an interior noise level of DNL 45 dB or higher."
Noise Program Funding	Legislation	Significantly increase funding for noise insulation of eligible buildings near SEA	The US House of Representatives-passed HR 2, the Moving Forward Act, which includes a set aside of 5% of airport improvement grants for airport emission reduction projects, aviation noise mitigation and other airport projects that reduce the adverse effects of airport operations on the environment and surrounding communities (increased from 4.5% thanks to an amendment from Representative Jayapal). In 2021, Congress is likely to propose this legislation as part of a new infrastructure bill to be considered as part of President Biden's first 100 days.
Sustainable Aviation Fuels Funding and Other Alternative Energy Investments	Legislation	Significantly increase funding for deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) for airplanes, as well as for other low-/zero-carbon alternative fuels for ground transportation vehicles, such as natural gas and electricity	The Port has joined the national SAF Coalition in support of an SAF-specific blender's tax credit as a way to increase fuel availability and affordability

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Aircraft Modernization and Environmental Performance Incentives	Legislation	Investigate steps that could be taken—including those currently underway in Europe—to incentivize environmental performance of aircraft, including upgrading fleets to more modern airplanes	The EU has tied relief for the aviation industry to environmental initiatives such as SAF development, replacing older aircraft, and upgrading airport facilities. The Port will develop a one-pager on these efforts to share with federal policymakers for consideration.
WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region Study	Other	Request FAA formal explanation of interpretation of the study, and how they are including it in its policymaking	The FAA responded via email to US Representative Smith that they do not consider this study to be valid
GAO Study of Community Noise Impacts	Other	Request Congressional letter asking GAO to include "single site" airports and metroplexes in its analysis	In June 2020, the GAO reached out to SEA staff to begin its study of this issue at SEA. SEA staff have connected them to airport communities and provided them with requested noise complaint data.
High Speed Surface Transportation Investments	Other	Support federal funding for innovative high speed surface transportation options	In 2021, Congress is likely to consider a new infrastructure bill as part of President Biden's first 100 days.
Late-Night Noise Limitation Program	StART AN Working Group Initiatives	Build awareness of, and support for, this effort from the Washington Congressional delegation	Ongoing
Runway Use Plan Agreement	StART AN Working Group Initiatives	Build awareness of, and support for, this effort from the Washington Congressional delegation	Ongoing
34R Glide Slope	StART AN Working Group Initiatives	Build awareness of, and support for, this effort from the Washington Congressional delegation; get its help in identifying federal funding for implementation	Ongoing
Ground Noise Analysis	StART AN Working Group Initiatives	Build awareness of, and support for, this effort (currently on hold during the pandemic) from the Washington Congressional delegation	Ongoing
Noise Abatement Departure Profiles Study	StART AN Working Group Initiatives	Build awareness of, and support for, this effort (currently on hold) from the Washington Congressional delegation	Ongoing