

What's Happening in ANE Airport News?

Blaine Banner

July 30, 2009

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) held it's "Informational Meetings" about Anoka County Blaine Airport (ANE) Wednesday and Thursday nights (7/29, 7/30) at the Schwan Center in Blaine. The presentation mostly relayed history and the current situation at the ANE airport with questions at the end. Very little was available about what the future would hold. I asked about the future and did not get much of an answer except a definition of what Minor I and Minor II airports are from Dennis Probst the MAC's executive director of planning and development (more on this at a latter time). Perhaps the most interesting portion of the PR show was when Scott Skramstad the MAC's Noise Program Coordinator got up to talk about the MAC Noise complaint website www.macnoise.com. Here you can lodge a complaint on line. There are also some new features which allow anyone to view individual flight paths of aircraft to and from ANE at least 5 days old with an interactive program. The website has a feature called "Flight tracker". Here you can click on each flight path and obtain more information such as the type of aircraft and noise level. Soon this information will be available within 24 hours. It will never be presented in real time do to security concerns. There is a Google maps feature which also shows the altitude profile of each flight. I went to the sight and could not yet find ANE flight data. Also when I asked Skramstad he would not say what percentage of flights would be included in the program. We will know more when it is up and running and we use this tool for a while and see for ourselves. You can submit a noise complaint online at info@Macnoise.com. For those who would rather submit complaints by phone the Mac Noise complaint phone number is 612-726-9411.

Skramstad wanted everyone to know that "Most complaints will not change the way the airport operates". This maybe true to a degree but the MAC has a noise complaint line for a reason. History shows even the most totalitarian governments want to know how people react to policy. Despite what they say your voice of concern matters to elected and appointed officials.

On another note; to date Mounds View, Lexington, Circle Pines, Lino Lakes and Centerville have all passed resolutions opposed to runway expansion at ANE. After promising it citizens to pass a resolution opposing Airport expansion at a City council meeting in June Blaine, the city with Airport in its boundaries, has decided not to pass a resolution. The argument is that with its comprehensive plan sans an airport expansion is a stronger statement than a resolution. But a comp plan can be amended and is voted on as a whole and thus the lines of accountability can be more obscured. A city Resolution shows each members vote specifically on the issue of runway expansion. Perhaps this is more accountability than most city Blaine City officials want.

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Co-Chair

Concerned Citizens of the North Metro