

REPORT

Office of the Mayor

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council

Date: February 13, 2023

From: Denise A Tambellini Manager
Intergovernmental and Community
Relations

File:

Item #: 2023-100

Subject: NAV Canada Proposed Airspace Modernization Changes for
Vancouver International Airport (YVR)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council provide feedback on the NAV Canada proposed Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project, in collaboration with Vancouver International Airport (YVR) including the proposed changes to the Flight Path.

PURPOSE

NAV CANADA has completed a public consultation for the proposed Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project, in collaboration with Vancouver International Airport (YVR). The purpose of this report is to provide Council an opportunity for feedback on the proposed changes. This report will be supplemented by a presentation to Council from NAV Canada staff.

BACKGROUND

NAV CANADA is proposing changes to approach procedures at YVR including the addition of new satellite-based procedures, known as Required Navigation Performance Authorization Required (RNP AR), and changes to existing arrival routes and procedures. RNP AR is designed to provide aircraft with shorter, more direct routes on approach to YVR and is supported by a new International Civil Aviation Organization separation standard. This change allows an aircraft's flight management system and

satellite positioning to fly a precise three-dimensional path, which is safe, efficient, and predictable.

Public consultation was completed on February 3, 2023. Council was sent background information with an opportunity to submit feedback in January 2023.

The proposed changes to the flight path plan is included for information (attachment 1).

ANALYSIS

NAV CANADA is proposing changes to flight path procedures at YVR and changes to existing arrival routes and procedures. Shorter, more direct routes on approach to YVR is anticipated to result in significant positive environmental impact with decreased use of fuel required to land. The change in flight path will also bring the domestic aircraft flight path to follow the Fraser River in front of New Westminster as aircraft approaches Lulu Island and lands at YVR. This new approach will be at a similar elevation as was previously used currently for aircraft with multiple approach patterns.

An initial scan identifies possible areas for further investigation:

1. It appears, from the maps provided, that there may be noise impact along the river in New Westminster indicating a noise impact of between 55 and 60 dB(A), as smaller domestic planes use the consistent route along the river. As there is not a comparison with the existing aircraft noise along the river, the change on impact due to noise is unknown;
2. With the increased traffic over the Fraser River and the burning of jet fuel in one consistent location, the impact on the river may need to be assessed for increased pollution and the impacts on humans and wildlife, bird migration and noise impacts to local wildlife; and
3. The increased air traffic along the river may have impacts to tall buildings with respect to increased noise affecting livability of those living in higher units, especially with the increased number of high-rises along the Fraser River in New Westminster; and
4. With the change in the flight path, there may be potential implications to building approvals for high rise buildings in the downtown, or there may be special requirements for lighting and the like.

As this project impacts many cities, NAV Canada is available to receive feedback and suggestions as the project moves ahead.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

A change in the flight path is expected to result in a significant positive environmental impact with decreased use of fuel required by aircraft. The further impact to the Fraser River and the cities along the river is unknown.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implication with this report.

OPTIONS

1. **That** Council provide feedback on the NAV Canada proposed Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project, in collaboration with Vancouver International Airport (YVR) including the proposed changes to the Flight Path.
2. That Council provide alternative direction.

Staff recommend option 1.

CONCLUSION

NAV CANADA has completed a public consultation for the proposed Vancouver Airspace Modernization Project, in collaboration with Vancouver International Airport (YVR). The purpose of this report is to provide Council an opportunity for feedback on the proposed changes. This report will be supplemented by a presentation to Council from NAV Canada staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: NAV Canada: Changes to Communities North and Northeast of YVR

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Denise A. Tambellini, Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager

This report was reviewed by:
Jackie Teed Acting Director Climate Action, Planning and Development

This report was approved by:
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer