

**Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee Meeting #13:  
Public Comments, September 24, 2022**

**Josie:**

*I just want to say that I am in favor to keep the Whiteman Airport open. There is no need to do a re-envisioning. I don't understand what possessed, whoever initiated this process, and I don't appreciate that because it's going to take a lot of resources away from the surrounding communities, especially Lake View Terrace. I know the person that is going to benefit from all of this is not going to provide us with resources that we need. I think this is a matter of money and somebody being benefited from this process. Again, I'm in favor of keeping Whiteman Airport open. Thank you.*

**Travis:**

*I was looking at the diagram that he put out for the noise abatement. Is there a way we can actually help out instead of spending 20 to 30 million dollars on this noise abatement to maybe keep it in left-hand turns instead of right-hand turns coming out of the airport, which would put all the noise over the airport at that point I think. That's one of my questions. And the second one, he was saying something about he didn't understand at the end of the runway why there was buildings there. And at one time there was no buildings there. At the end of the runway there was vacant land and somehow or another that got built on. Did they know why or...*

**Paul Maselbas:**

*I'll interject at this time. We're not able to answer questions directly from the public, but I'll advise you, Mr. Marge, we are making note of any questions that come from you or any of the speakers and we'll be preparing answers to those questions, and we'll be putting them on the website.*

**Travis:**

*Okay. Sorry about that. I didn't know.*

**Paul Maselbas:**

*No problem, sir.*

**Travis:**

*That's the end of my questions and that's it for me.*

**Paul Maselbas:**

*Thank you.*

**Juan:**

*I was a part these meetings from the beginning, but then life happened. I got a house and a baby. So, this call counts for three people, me and my girlfriend and my baby. Couple points.*

*First point yesterday, politician and former real estate agent, Monica Rodriguez, posted on her Instagram that Pacoima, she's had enough of Pacoima being traumatized by the murderous planes and pollution of Pacoima. But yet a couple years ago she made this beautiful mural that showcases the beauty of and history of Pacoima. And what does she have painted on it? The flight tower, the big airport tower, and I think one or two airplanes as well in the mural. So, which is it a murderous death zone or is it part of Pacoima landmark history. Number two. In the beginning we all agreed upon listening to the community, having the community's input and deciding what to do with this airport.*

*And after, I think I went to attended one of those meetings, open houses, and I think the overall result was, overwhelming result was that people wanted it open. So today when they were asked about what are about having other open houses, all of a sudden you get crickets and you get excuses, oh no, no, blah, blah blah. It's like, dude, the community has spoken already. What else do you need to hear? Point number three. The noise thing, 335 units. I did a quick Google search so I don't know how accurate it is, but it said there's about, there's a little over 17,000 residential units in Pacoima. So, 335 is roughly a little under 2%. It's very minimal as far as noise that's being affected. And he also presented the way that we can remedy that noise pollution through the grants.*

**Shellie:**

*Yes, this is Shellie. For the most part, pilots are all about safety. We check our airplanes before we take off. We make sure our engine is running well. I mean, most car, car drivers don't do all that. Pilots in general do not fly just to tick people off and to make noise. We fly in or out of certain airports and there are signs that are posted that say for instance, please avoid flying over certain schools during class time and other airports say, Please fly quiet over this hospital or this school. And most pilots happily abide by these voluntary restrictions.*

*Restricting pilots completely increases the possibility of safety issues. For instance, is someone flying by and something's wrong with their airplane, instead of landing at our airport, they're going to try to get to somewhere else and then land in the middle of a neighborhood. We as pilots have to practice doing after dark takeoffs and landings. During summer hours, it doesn't get dark until after nine o'clock. Do you want us to not be practicing? Do you want us to not abide by what the FAA requires of us? It's a lose situation. If we do some kind of voluntary thing, that might work. I don't know. Okay. Thank you very much.*

**Andy:**

*Thank you very much for allowing me to speak. I just have a couple of items. I'm a friend of the airport and the United States will be experiencing a pilot shortage. Whiteman does offer the opportunity for pilot education through their flying schools there and Glendale Community College and to that point, one of the other local airports, a Santa Monica airport has kids in Planes Day. And we've had pretty large crowds at those events, and I'll tell you, when you take a child, especially in the case of Whiteman, perhaps a child who is disadvantaged financially and put them in an airplane, you have the potential of creating a pilot in the future. Because all of them, almost every one of them that went into the pilot seat, their eyes lit up. It was a wonderful thing to see. And I feel that if we do close the airport, we will be losing out on an*

*incredible resource that is sort of an oasis of education in this community. And I thank you for having me.*

**Elisa:**

*I want to start off by thanking you for this presentation and everyone that asks questions. But everyone is talking about the noise and the pollution that the airport does. But what about the air freshener company that's right across the street from apartments and homes? No one's talking about that. Our community sometimes smells like grape strawberries between 10 in the morning and five in the afternoon. That's when kids are at school because there's a school nearby there. No one's saying anything about that. No one is saying also about the welding company that's right next door to the airport that also causes pollution. And we're asking the airport, what are you guys doing for the community? When are we going to ask Costco and Best Buy? What are they doing for the community? What events are they doing? They have a big parking lot now our streets get destroyed also why, because of their semis.*

*And another thing, what about the Metro? How many people has it killed? No one ever said anything about when the Metro did not stop for the accident after the police department asked them not to go through. Another thing, we just have brand new two pot shops, one on Venice in San Fernando Road and went on Paxton in San Fernando Road. What is that doing to our children? Why are we trying to take a good opportunity and take it away from our children that they can get good paying jobs and be pilots working the airport? Now all, most of us hopefully have gone on trips on planes, so it's kind of being hypocrite saying we can go on a plane and fly around other communities, but not mine. That's not right. We need to work together and not take experience away from children. Thank you.*

**Matthew:**

*Good evening everyone. Matthew, a local pilot Whiteman for many years now. Tonight's noise study results were most intriguing. We've learned that the airport's noise effect off airport is very minor reaching just barely across San Fernando Road. And the average noise is about the same as a conversation with the mailman. That's not a big source of noise pollution, it's certainly nothing compared to San Fernando Road and all these other thoroughfares. Noise pollution now it's quite obvious is just a political talking point about the airport, not a legitimate complaint really. Beyond that, all this chatter about the Brown Act and memorandums of understanding it's very nice in all that, but let's remember that the Brown Act is put in place to defend the public's right to freedom of speech and freedom of information. It's there to keep everyone involved in the process and able to be informed and participating in the process.*

*These complaints about the Brown Act and all that participation that it ensures are really nonsensical and I see Mr. Arias here is come through on the camera to chuckle at that. I guess that's funny. I know that with this memorandum of understanding, we did have the guiding principles that talk about open-mindedness, which two CAC members who know they are, Mr. Arias and Ms. Veronica Padilla, took part in an anti-airport event back in January calling to shut down the airport. I'd love to hear them explain how open-minded that is. I still haven't gotten an answer. So, it's open-mindedness is a big thing and communication is two ways. If you're not willing to listen, you're not open minded.*

**Jennifer:**

*I wanted to comment on some of the things other people said and I think we can agree that Whiteman Airport offers benefits to some people. They mention that they work with Glendale Community College and that students from Santa Monica come and enjoy it, but this airport has willfully neglected the community. All these comments also about everything around here, this is not, this conversation's not about those things. They can file complaints if they've trouble with those. But they at least have some direct benefit, especially employment. This airport has willfully neglected. I was in high school, I reached out several times to learn about the programs they had, and people were either very unwilling to help me or they had no idea. When I showed up, they had nothing that they could give me about information either verbally or in paper.*

*Back in 2009 and 2010, we also complained about the fact that they advertised the community event only to within the airport, their tavern. So, let's be clear that this airport has never been for the community. It does not care about the community. The people from the airport are critical of us, and borderline racist classes. And it's unfair to say that we can't complain about our community that we live in.*

**X4267:**

*Quiero comentar que cierren el aeropuerto. Para mí no trae ningún beneficio. Una escuela puede ser beneficioso.*

*My comment is to shut down the airport. For me, it does not provide a benefit. A school could be beneficial.*

**Judy:**

*Mi nombre es Judi. Soy de Pacoima y estoy en contra del aeropuerto Whiteman. Los aviones pasan arriba de mi casa muy temprano. Estoy en contra del plomo que arrojan los aviones. Tengo un hijo de 10 años y desde los dos años sufre de alergias. Quiero un parque donde está el aeropuerto. Gracias.*

*I am from Pacoima, and I am against the Whiteman Airport. Planes fly over my home early in the morning. I am against the lead that planes expel. I have a 10-year-old son, and he has suffered from allergies since he was 2. I want a park where the airport is located. Thank you.*

**Jose:**

*Buenos noches. He estado viviendo en Pacoima por 20 años. El aeropuerto no es beneficioso para los residentes, pero si para los pudientes dueños de los aviones. Los niños están sin oportunidades, pero si sufren la contaminación. Quiero un parque donde está el aeropuerto.*

*Good evening. I have been living in Pacoima for the last 20 years. The airport is not beneficial for residents, but it is for the well-off plane owners. Children are without opportunities, yet they suffer from pollution. I don't think it's beneficial for the community. I want a park where the airport is.*

**Melissa:**

*Hi, my name is Melissa. I'm calling on behalf of Pacoima Beautiful. And I want to demand the ban of the sale and use of leaded fuel for single engine airplanes in private aviation at Whiteman Airport. Every plane that takes off and lands at Whiteman Airport, even if it does not*

*crash, poses a significant threat to community member's health and wellbeing and recreational airplane emissions that are used in the planes at Whiteman Airport are the number one source of airborne lead emissions contributing to the health issues such as kidney damage, brain damage, and pregnancy concerns. I think that we should ban the sale and use of flooded fuel at Wideman airport and eventually call for the shutdown and shut it down. I yield my time. Thank you.*

**Cal:**

*Hi, my name's Cal. I'm with Pacoima Beautiful. Firstly, I just wanted to say that per earlier comments, it's important that we focus on Whiteman and its safety and environmental effects on the community rather than the operation of other large businesses like Costco. Because the last time I checked Costco and Best Buy weren't responsible for the several plane crashes within the last three years. I also wanted to say it seems like there was a lot of technical jargon related to the noise study, which seems like a continuous issue with some of these CAC meetings that is seeking to beat around the bush using unnecessary technical terminology. Additionally, if there is a compliance standard with respect to compatibility to land uses, why was it only upon the request of the community and it's concern that a study was conducted? It's voluntary assessment has larger implications regarding the industry and the airport's attitude toward the value and respect to the community. Whiteman Airport needs to be shut down. Thanks.*

**Anna Caren:**

*My name is Anna Caren, and I'm a community member who's grown up with Whiteman Airport in my neighborhood. And I want to see LA County accountable for the impacts it's had on the community. The burden continues to be on the community to demand mitigation measures from the airport and today's meeting and this CAC process shows the lack of accountability that the airport has to make amends for its negative impacts on our quality of life. Why did it take up until now to start studying the impacts of noise pollution? And if the airport is receiving federal funding, why hasn't it been invested in the community? Pacoima's within 11 miles of three different airports and that's unheard of. The airport does not operate in a vacuum and this study does not take into accounting accumulative impact of the multiple sources of pollution that we face.*

*From the train, the freeways, the fire department, we were only presented with barriers to any solution. So, it looks like the only real solution is to remove the airport and to limit its function so that we can improve our local air quality, reduced noise pollution, and remove the risk of constant accident. We see that the county has not been accountable to any of their motions from the 2020 accident and has not compensated any community members that have been impacted. And that's why we need to re-envisioning process to actually see what this space can be instead of an airport. Thank you.*

**Teodora:**

*Hi everyone, my name is Teodora. I was born and raised in Pacoima in the San Fernando Valley. And I'm here to talk upon to continue advocate for the closure of Whiteman Airport. Since the formation of the community advisory committee, we saw an increase of accidents and lack of*

*regard from pilots of the resting hours in our community and our community members. There continues to be flights that come in and out of the airport and hours where we should be resting, and we continue to face an alarming amount of accidents with no compensation for the physical damages caused by the airport in November of 2020. We're here at the Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee meeting to call on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to take our community serious and shut down Whiteman Airport and to prioritize the public safety and health of Pacoima residents living near the flight path.*

*Pacoima stakeholders and others like Pacoima Beautiful came together to bring an amazing Plaza Pacoima that used to be a brown site and now creates and generates jobs in our community. And I also asked for the CAC to recommend a continued push for us to re envision what our community can look like without Whiteman Airport and can possibly generate jobs like Plaza Pacoima does now. I also want to advocate very similar to Melissa on the ban of sale and use of medic fuel for single engine airplanes and private aviation at Whiteman Airport. Blood toxicity can lead to anemia, weakness, kidney, brain damage, high blood pressure and death. And our youth and elders and future generations do not deserve to grow up in the community where lead can cross that barrier of impact on our unborn children and damage their nervous system and affect behavior. Lead exposure in any quantity and at any age can push individuals at higher risk for severe illness and our community deserves better.*

**James:**

*Yes, this is James. I'd like to respond to the noise that they've been complaining about. I don't think the noise from the airplanes is really a serious problem because these are not jets. These are not heavy-duty travel 747s that are coming in. So, the noise is minimal there. That area is surrounded by a lot of first responders, so we've got a lot of crime in that area, so we got a lot of police officers that are flipping the sirens, and we have a lot of ambulances that need to be called because of all the shootings that are going on in that area. So, they're throwing off sirens. We also have the noise that's coming from the trains, and they have a lot of noise in that area. But I think the main noise problem is coming from the police department and the fire department, but those, they have to put on those sirens to protect the public.*

*So, it's just a part of living in that area. And also, unfortunately, there's a lot of crime. Just recently on Sutter, they had a guy that shot up a car and I have no idea where he came from. Shot up a car, the girl was able to drive to the fire department and right in the middle of Van Nuys Boulevard she survived. Her boyfriend was full of lead, he was gone. It is a high crime area, and we really need to start concentrating on making that area safer. And also, we need to concentrate on stopping a lot of these drugs that are coming into our community because just recently we had a girl that just got indicted for.*

**Brandon:**

*Hello, I'm Brandon. I'd like to put in my 2 cents here. I actually am a private pilot that got my license from Whiteman Airport through Glendale Community College and the youth program, The Aviation Explorers Post 747. I know some pilots spoke about the youth programs and the things for the community and things as such before, but I kind of wanted to prove that it's real. So yeah, I got my license from there. I'm currently a student president of the Aviation Explorer*

*Post 747. And in regards to the complaints for lack of benefits to the community, I know it hasn't been popular as much, but we're really trying to promote the Young Eagles Day, which is where we take kids flying for free every fourth Saturday and help create new pilots. I'm a first generation born here. Both of my parents are from Mexico. I'm the first person in my family to go to college and actually be able to get a career and that's due to Whiteman Airport.*

*I'm currently studying for my instrument rating and will continue to do so. And Whiteman Airport is a major reason that I'm able to have a career and pursue something greater than my parents did. So just wanted to throw that out there and it's not just a detriment to the community. It's also can be very, very beneficial. Thank you.*

**Jim:**

*I'm Jim. I'm a pilot at Whiteman. I would just like to encourage the airport and the county to initiate the Part 150 Study on the noise mitigation. I think that it would be beneficial to the community, certainly as a pilot. I don't like the idea of disturbing the neighbors, but I also have the need to operate my aircraft out of the airport. It was a little surprising to me the number of houses around the airport that are above 65 decibels. I think that that survey and the ability to get soundproofing on those houses will make a big difference for the people who live there. And then following that, it would also identify whether a curfew would be necessary. If so, I would recommend a voluntary curfew be approached.*

*Pilots do try to fly quietly, and many times it's a case of just having knowledge about how big the problem is. I spend a lot of time at the airport. I don't see a huge number of airplanes flying after 10 o'clock when I'm out there later at night. But I'm not out there at two in the morning either. And so having an idea of how big that problem is would help and again, pilots are willing to cooperate with sound mitigation efforts and I would hope that the county would move forward with the Part 150 Study. Thank you.*