

## Re-Envisioning Whiteman Airport: A Community-driven Process

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### *Overview of Public Comments Received To-date (June 2022)*

The Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport process has received approximately 1,600 public comments to date. These comments are available for review at the links on the [website](#). They are organized by events (including the CAC meetings, Open Houses and Town Hall) and points of engagement (like the project website, surveys and email).

The following is a general overview and summary of the comments received so far (please note this overview will updated as needed as more comments are received):

1. A wide range of comments spoke of community values, local assets and points of pride, as well as challenges, needs, and issues – for both the community and Airport. While the relationship between the Airport and the community is the focus of this planning process, broader community issues have also been raised like homelessness, traffic and street activities, policing and substance abuse, and cleanliness.
2. Comments suggest the relationship between Airport and the surrounding communities could be stronger. Established relationships, regular outreach, and connection points have been identified as being missing. The community and the Airport need to communicate and collaborate on community concerns, challenges and impacts, information sharing, as well as mutual opportunities, benefits and partnership-building.
3. Diverse perspectives have been expressed, including the desire to see the Airport kept open or closed (both permanently and temporarily). Commenters also seek to make improvements that would be of benefit for both the Airport and community regardless of the longer-term plan for the Airport. Commenters also want to learn more about the requirements involved and the ripple effects of either outcome.
4. The comments reveal that emergency services at and adjacent to the Airport, like LA County Fire, are of great importance to Pacoima and surrounding communities, as well as the entire region. There are concerns, as well as requests for clarification, about how such emergency services would be impacted if the Airport closed, as well as the effect to the region.
5. Commenters shared that local youth are facing a number of significant needs and challenges, including education, safety, mental and physical health, social wellbeing, availability of employment and career opportunities, among others.
  - a. Many perspectives were also shared about how best the Airport can help address these needs and availability of opportunities, from closing the airport to expanding aviation education and training programs there.

- b. There seems to be an overall limited awareness about existing youth aviation programs at the Airport, as well as suggestions for more effective and community-connected promotion of these programs and resources.
- 6. A wide range of perspectives and comments have been expressed regarding the contributors of pollution in the area, which source contributes most significantly to noise and air quality issues, and how community health is impacted by the Airport, train, industry, and roadway systems.
- 7. There is significant interest in seeing improvements made at the Airport and in the community. There is also the desire to see where improvements can be made to benefit both the Airport and the community at the same time.  
Suggestions for improvement and changes included:
  - a. Mix of new uses and community amenities that could be:
    - i. incorporated with the operational Airport
    - ii. developed in place of the Airport
  - b. Desired development along with or in place of the Airport included:
    - i. public spaces/parks
    - ii. uses geared towards youth activities and engagement
    - iii. small local businesses, among others.
  - c. Addressing environmental concerns from air quality, noise, and pollution through:
    - i. curfews
    - ii. limiting number and schedule of flights
    - iii. sound insulating homes
    - iv. fuel alternatives, among others.
- 8. Other key topics have included questions about and input on:
  - a. Airport operations,
  - b. Airport finances and economic impact,
  - c. Safety responsibilities and requirements and accident protocols,
  - d. Understanding what the airport's role is compared to pilots, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and others,
  - e. Timeline and FAA role in airport closure,
  - f. The Community Advisory Committee and overall Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport process