

**Re-envisioning Whiteman Airport Community Advisory Committee Meeting:
Public Comments, June 23, 2022**

Matthew:

Hi, good evening everyone. I'm Matthew, a local pilot, who's long familiar with Whiteman. I want to thank the CAC and community members who took the time to attend last month's meeting to listen to the community. Thank you. It was a warm crowd that day. And I spoke to many people at length. I only left when they were pulling the lights and all that down. The community turned out that day. And the affirmation from them was obvious. The majority stands with the airport and wants it to stay, as does County Fire, as we know. Now, of course, there were opponents of the airport who also attended and disappointingly, Pacoima Beautiful staff repeated in their comments, the false claim of 85 accidents at Whiteman. There have not been 85 accidents at Whiteman. Their count includes such hiccups as flat tires and all sorts of other penny, minor, things that are silly really.

And these numbers that they're trying to spread, the 85 accidents, they are nowhere close to the truth. I wish Pacoima Beautiful would stop repeating this misinformation like this. The community deserves the truth. As a matter of dignity and respect, they deserve to be told what is actually going on. Now, the panel has begun to discuss mitigation efforts. And to that, I say, let's get real progress rolling. Why don't we pursue the 2011 proposal for safety zones at each end of the runway? The groundwork for that has already been laid years ago. And we have much of the preparation on paper written into County plans. Now, Pacoima Beautiful has been on record as opposing those safety measures at the time, in 2011, 2012 era. They opposed those safety measures, which were set to be in place around 2019. And would've included the areas to each end of the runway where the crash of November 2020 mishap and the mishap in January with the Metrolink train.

Both of those incidents occurred inside zones in the immediate area of where those zones were supposed to be. So clearly, they would be of value to have. And I would hope that Pacoima Beautiful would support those safety measures, now having seen that. The Pacoima community and the community at large does not support closure. So, let's support the community and advocate for improvements rather than the closure they don't want. Let's get Whiteman those safety zones. We should have had them before, let's have them. Now on a final note, I do have to say it is a bit disappointing for Ms. Padilla to be not attending the Saturday open house. I really wish you would. You'd get to see the community in-person just as you'd like. Thank you and have a good evening.

X7391 (Robert):

Yes, I am Robert. I have attended a number of your meetings in the past. And I am sorry that I could not be online and have to do this by phone, but in the last couple of weeks or week, I have submitted two formal recommendations for improvements to the airport's safety. I heard no mention of those tonight, although I did come into the conversation a little bit late. And I was disturbed by some language that was exchanged by members of the CAC that gave the assumption that at the end of the grant assurances period, there would be a plan for the closure

of the airport. I think it's premature to make that observation. And I think it's an unfortunate observation because the airport's extremely valuable not only to the public safety community, but to the aviation community as well.

One of the things that Whiteman Airport is really distinguished in is teaching young people to fly aircraft. And does any of you who read the newspaper know, there is a profound shortage of trained pilots in the United States for commercial aviation and I'm sure that someone on the CAC travels and can appreciate the necessity for pilots. One of the problems that airlines are having right now is pilot availabilities. And I'd like also to address the issue of accidents. And I don't think my comment will be redundant of what the other gentleman said.

I did a research paper on Whiteman Airport very early on in the discussion of what was to happen with the airport. And in my analysis, I went back and looked at the NTSB's records of accidents dating from 2000 to 2021. And during that time, there were a total of 11 accidents reported by the NTSB. There have subsequently been, I believe, one additional accident. And that was the aircraft that went down on the rails. And the reality is that the airport is not unsafe. The FAA and the NTSB are people who would not hesitate to comment if the airport was unsafe. And if that is guidance for the CAC's drive to want to close the airport, I think it's... (Time up)

Teodora:

Hi, I'm Teodora. I am a community organizer with Pacoima Beautiful, and also grew up in Pacoima in the San Fernando Valley. I first want to thank the board for all your time and dedication to this process and want to advocate for the continued shutdown of Whiteman Airport. Growing up in Pacoima, I never saw festivals or saw celebrations or access to the airport and hearing today that there is going to be an anniversary celebration of the airport, to be honest, it's confusing as a community member. I'm happy to see that their service is provided and their Whiteman Airport is expanding their knowledge on the community to expand outreach efforts. But I also want to just remind folks that this process and also myself through these meetings is that we're prioritizing the health of the community. And of course, as a member in the community, prioritizing our social determinants of health.

And for folks who may not know what social determinants of health are economics ability, education, health and care, our built environment, and social and community spaces. And so with social determinants of health, often you'll see health inequities, which are caused by unequal distribution of power. And this is actually supported by Michael Marmot, who wrote about closing the gap in a generation of health equity. And there's a lot of unequal distribution of access to this airport from the community specifically. And what's recommended to help close this gap of access is improving the daily living conditions and tackling inequity of power and really understanding the problem.

As a community member, I think that the problem is that we have been poisoned since my upbringing in the area of San Fernando Valley by air pollution and closing the Whiteman Airport would really help alleviate not even just noise pollution, but air pollution in the community. I really want to advocate to support and consider adding a recommendation of supporting the 30-day moratorium on private aviation that was called last month by Congressman Tony Cárdenas. And as well as of course continue the conversation of mitigation windows and

installing noise-canceling windows, as well as putting a flight curfew, an actual plan for that, and ultimately, trying to find a way to really vision the shutdown of the airport. And thank you so much for all your time.

James:

Hi, this is James. I think the airport is just an asset to the community as far as safety is concerned. I would like to know Matthew mentioned about Pacoima Beautiful turning down the safety recommendations that they had. And I wondered if Pacoima Beautiful did any outreach on that or are they making decisions for all of the community without having any community input because I'd never heard about it. And if they did, I'd like to know how they did it. And I'm looking forward to the event that's coming up at the airport. I think is going to be great.

And as far as the pollution goes, we need to talk about the pollution because you have a lot of industry in that area that surrounds those homes, and they admit a lot of pollution. So, we definitely need to talk about the health issues and where they're coming from, because I think they're coming from a lot of the factories that are surrounding that area, that are outside of the airport because the airport is considered open space. And I don't believe that it admits the pollution that they are talking about. It'd be a good thing to look into and get some information on that. Thank you.

Josie:

Thank you very much. I just want to say that every time I hear the people talking about pollution, which James just said, yes, it is right, but it's not just airport. Also, all the people that moved into Pacoima, they knew there was an airport there. And if they moved in, not knowing there was an airport, it's on them. Not that because of that, not because they want the airport shut down, the airport was there before they were there. If you didn't know, I'm sorry, then you need to move out. I can say if Pacoima Airport is an asset to all the communities around the area, whether it's [inaudible] and all the surrounding communities.

I can say is the people they're very uneducated and whoever is voting, they just reading a statement that someone gave to them. A lot of people did. I know for that for a fact. And I wish that when we do it in-person, I will ask, I would want to ask these people, do they really know all the assets that the Whiteman Airport provides to us? And are they willing to shut it down without knowing. I think the best way to educate them [lost connection]. Okay. So back to what I was saying, that if they were aware that some of the lives will be lost, we didn't have Whiteman Airport to assist us in case of a catastrophe. Thank you.