



# Aviation System: Proposed Policy Direction

For confirmation June 26, 2013

## **Adequate aviation capacity supports economic competitiveness**

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The overall objective for the regional aviation system is to connect the region to the rest of the nation and the world, thereby promoting the region's economic competitiveness. The regional aviation system is anticipated to be stable with no airports added or removed over the next 30 years. The Metropolitan Council supports airport facilities investment to keep pace with market needs and maintain the region's economic vitality and works together with other regional aviation partners to:

- Plan for adequate terminal and runway capacity at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport
- Maintain, improve and preserve our system of reliever airports.
- Monitor changes within the industry to ensure that adequate capacity is available in the years ahead.

## **Review of airport long-term comprehensive plans**

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The Metropolitan Council reviews the individual long-term comprehensive plan for each airport in the regional system for consistency with the Council's regional policy. Airport long-term comprehensive plans are updated every five years to inform the Council's update of the regional aviation system plan and surrounding communities' comprehensive plans.

## **Compatible land uses in and around airports**

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A thriving regional aviation system is an economic asset to the region. To protect the regional aviation system and address local concerns about neighboring airports, the Metropolitan Council works with local governments to ensure that compatible land uses develop in and around airports. The Council's roles are to:

- Serve as a liaison between local governments and the Metropolitan Airports Commission.
- Provide technical assistance to help local governments plan their transition to more aviation-compatible land uses when operational decisions create new conflicts between aviation and existing land uses.

***Additional detail about aviation policy will be developed and adopted in the Transportation Policy Plan as well as discussed with future conversations about regional economic competitiveness.***