

Flying Cloud 2040 Long Term Comprehensive Plan

Transportation Committee



August 2025

metro council.org

Met Council's Role in Aviation



Minnesota Statute 473.165 & 473.611

- Not federally mandated, state statute tasks the Council to plan for the regional aviation system
 - Prepare regional aviation plan
 - Ensuring aviation included and considered in local comprehensive plans
- State statute requires regional airports to produce and update Long Term Comprehensive Plans
 - Met Council reviews and approves airport comprehensive plans (MAC airports) or community comprehensive plans with expanded aviation element (South St Paul and Forest Lake)
- The Plan's public comment period gave Council staff the opportunity to review and comment before going to committees (TAC, TAB, etc.) for formal review & consistency determination (technical comments included)

Flying Cloud Airport 2040 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan ⁽¹⁾



Long Term Comprehensive Plans

- Required under the aviation planning process
- 20-Year planning document
- Regularly updated as scheduled in the TPP
 - Previous Flying Cloud Airport (FCM) LTCP completed in 2010 – update process began in 2021 but was delayed due to additional FAA review
- Used to identify needed projects, define operational parameters, and assess environmental and financial requirements
- Consistent with Thrive MSP 2040
 - FCM 2040 LTCP was developed under Thrive – future LTCPs will be reviewed for consistency with Imagine 2050
- A basic input to update of the aviation system plan and used in local plan reviews
 - Incorporating FCM 2040 LTCP into 2050 Aviation System Plan Update

Flying Cloud Airport 2040 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan ⁽²⁾



Airport Existing Conditions

- Airport Classifications
 - Federal Classification: National Reliever
 - State Classification: Key General Aviation
 - Regional Classification: Minor
- Airport Role: Primary regional reliever to MSP Airport
- Primary Use: General aviation and business jet reliever
- Size: 543 acres
- Based Aircraft: 333 (2021)
- Annual Operations (baseline):
 - 2021: 133,217 (second highest in region behind MSP)
- Runway Length(s): 2,690 ft to 5,000 ft
- Instrument Landing System: Yes
- Air Traffic Control: Yes (part time)

Flying Cloud Airport 2040 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan ⁽³⁾

Flying Cloud 2040 LTCP Goals



Enhance airport safety



Preserve and, if possible, improve operational capabilities for the current family of aircraft using the airport



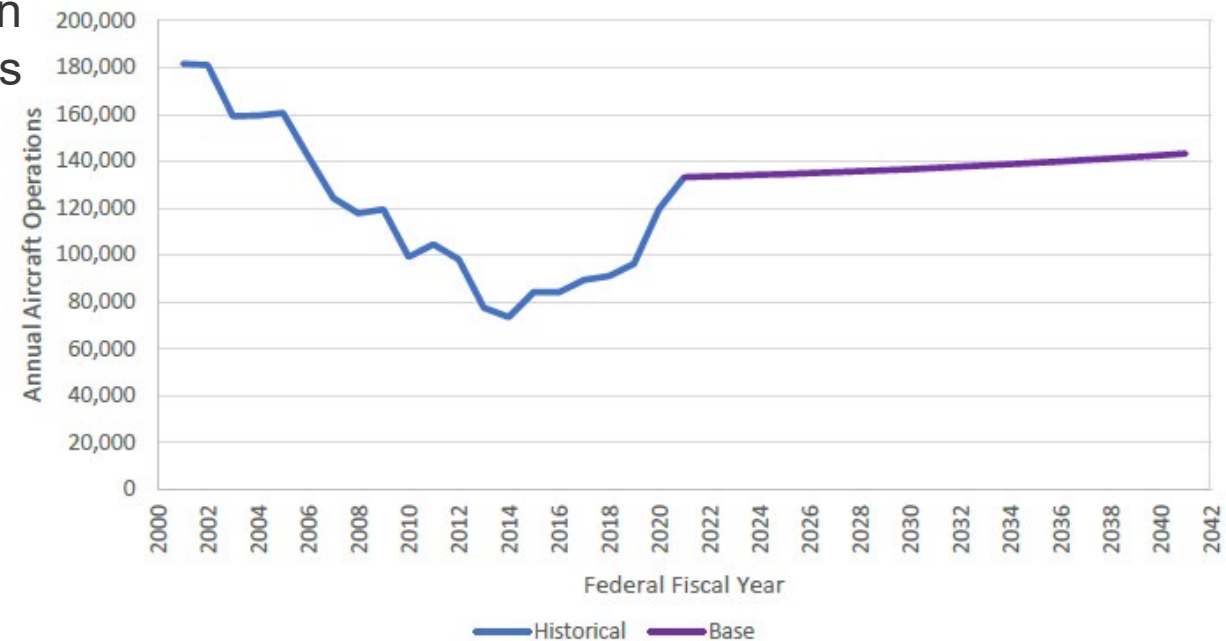
Promote financial sustainability of the MAC Reliever Airport system by exploring revenue opportunities for aeronautical and non-aeronautical development

Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP: Activity Forecasts

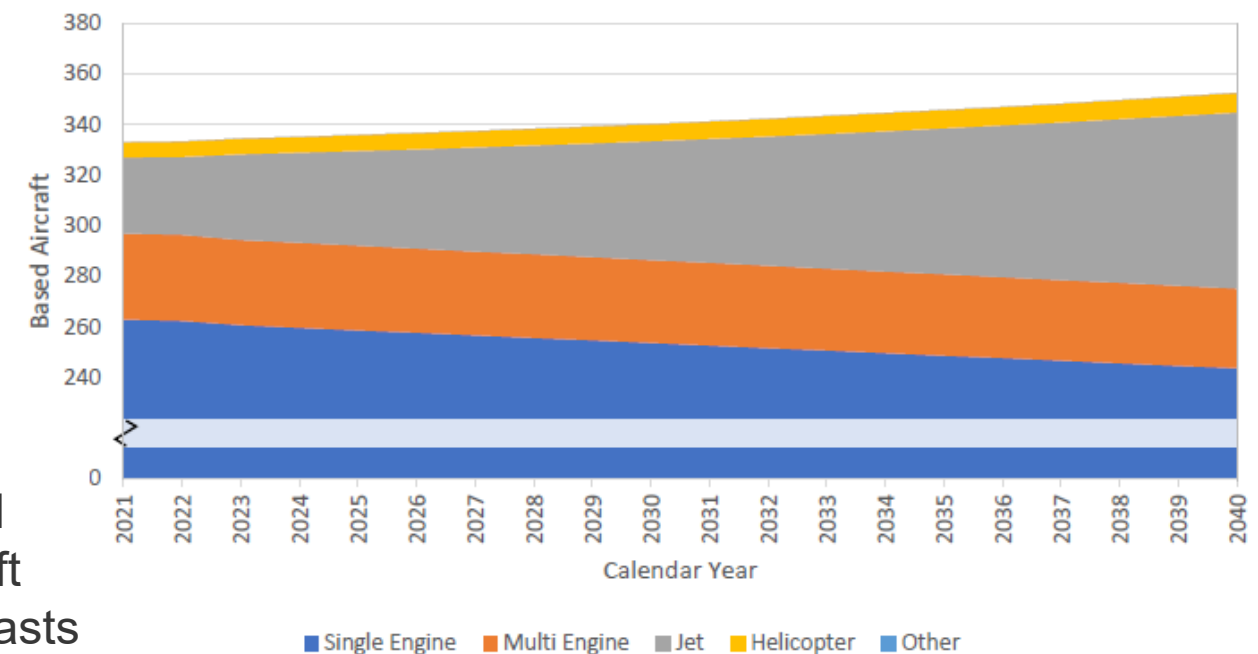
Forecasts

- Activity forecasts major component of LTCPs – dictate future facility needs
 - Reliever airport forecasts include projected aircraft based at facility
- 2040 Forecasts
 - Operations: 143,298 (7% growth through planning period)
 - Based Aircraft: 354 (6% growth)
 - Forecast details:
 - Piston aircraft activity to see minor growth
 - FCM projected to see the highest share of business and general aviation jet activity in the region
 - 45% of regional jet operations by 2040
 - Expected to lead to a large need for jet storage at the airport

Operation
Forecasts

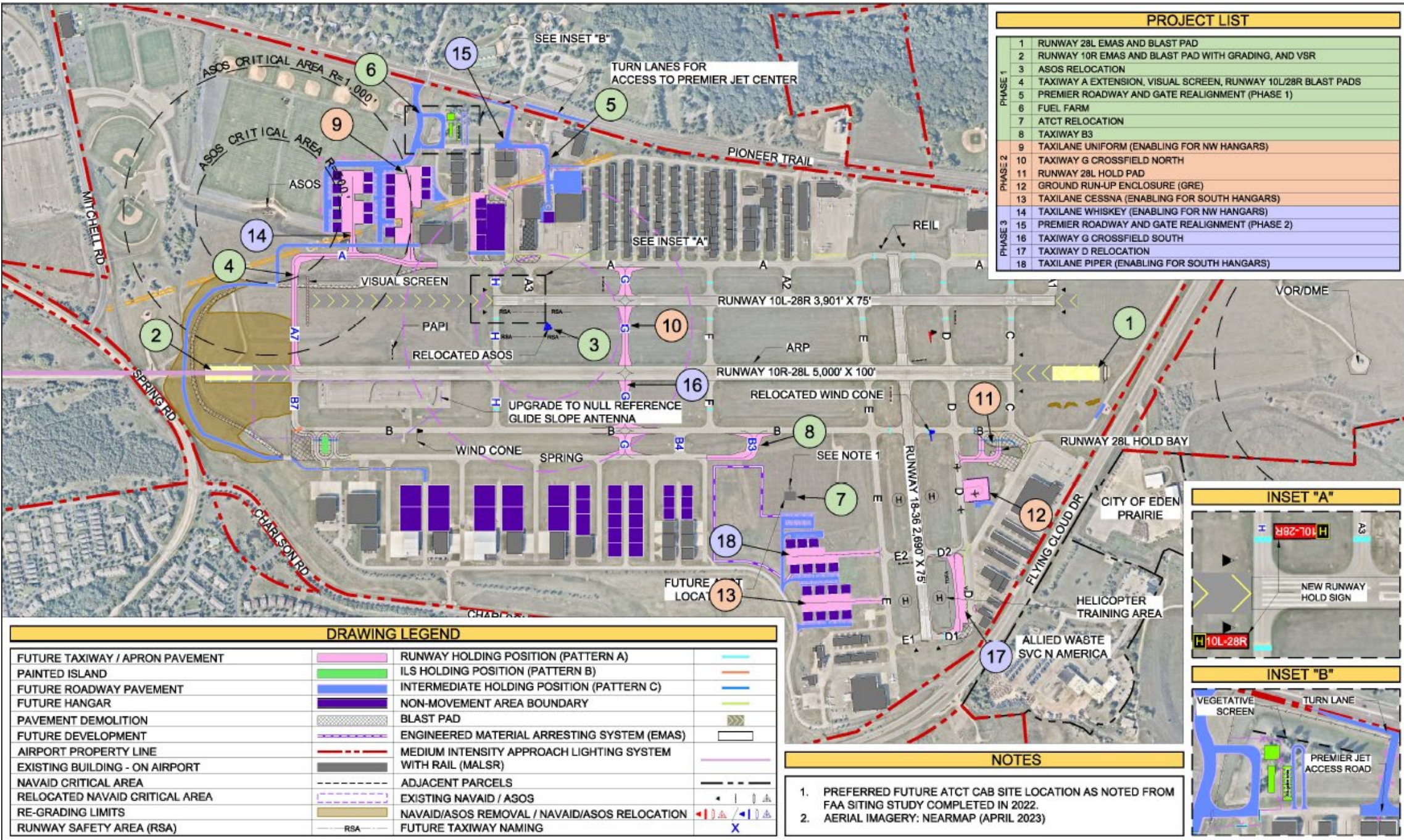


Based
Aircraft
Forecasts



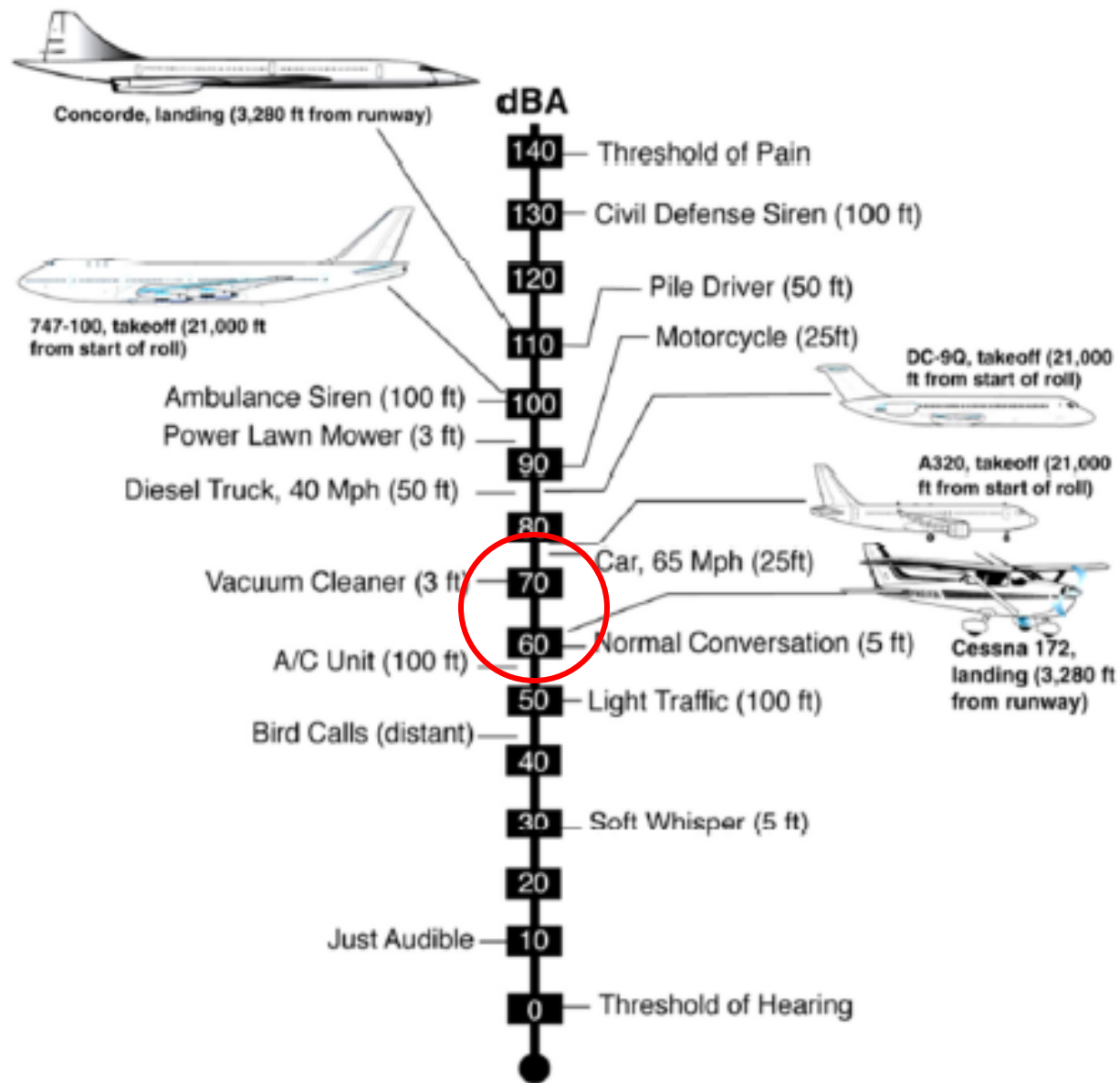
Preferred Alternative

Total capital costs for preferred alternative: **\$134,571,109** (current dollars)



Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP: Noise Considerations

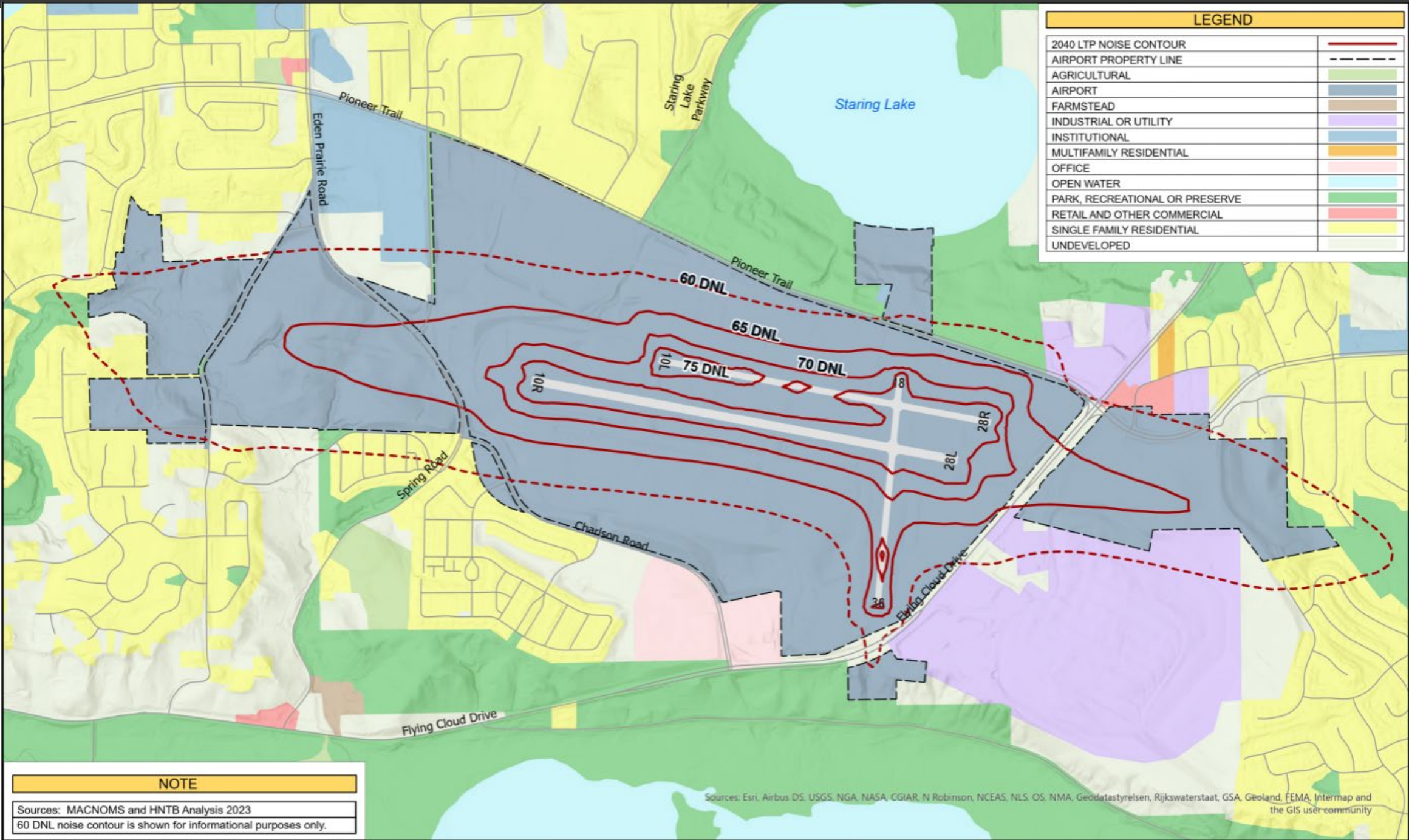
Exhibit 5-2: Sound Levels of Typical Noise Sources



Aircraft Noise Impacts

- Noise impacts are a major component of environmental considerations
- MAC, following FAA guidance, creates noise contours of impacts in LTCP to surrounding communities from aircraft operations
- Noise impacts are measured by Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL)
 - The main metric to measure land use compatibility for land surrounding airports
 - Measure reflects a person's cumulative exposure to sound over a 24-hour period
 - The Council has compatibility guidelines for what is considered prohibitive sound impacts for residential development - [link](#)

Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP: Noise Impacts and Land Use



Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP: Engagement

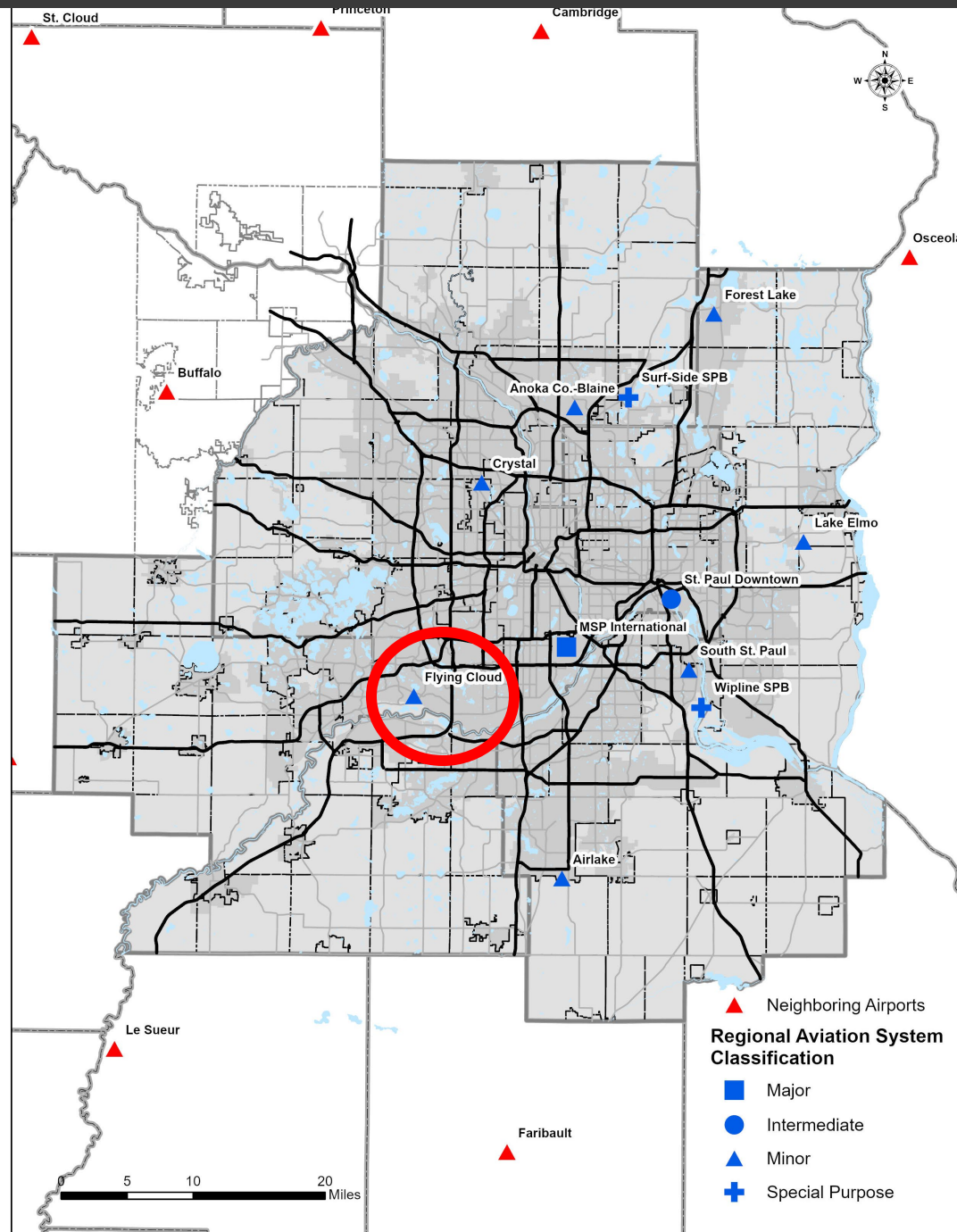


14 total public meetings held to date

Engagement meetings to date held from 2021 to 2025

- MAC Planning, Development & Environment Committee: 3 meetings
- Stakeholder Advisory Panel: 5 meetings
- Discover Flying Cloud Public Events: 4 meetings
- Flying Cloud Airport Advisory Committee: 2 meetings
- 45-day Public Comment period: February 19th – April 5th 2025
 - Significant outreach conducted for public meetings and comment period
 - 22 total comments received
 - 4 around facilities
 - 1 around communications
 - 2 around environmental considerations
 - 15 around aircraft noise
 - Met Council staff provided technical advisory comments during public comment period

Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP: Regional Policy



Relationship to Regional Policy

- LTCP's are used as a basic input to the Council plans and policies
- Relationship to Transportation Policy Plan
 - FCM is classified as a Minor Airport in the system – no change
 - No significant airside improvements that would change the role of the airport; Certain projects may require coordination with other jurisdictions to mitigate potential impacts – not regional in nature
 - The LTCP addresses required elements from Aviation System Plan
- Relationship to Regional Development Guide (Thrive 2040)
 - Policy direction is to create consistent, compatible, and coordinated local comp plans
 - Prosperity Outcome - Advancing this outcome is to plan and invest in infrastructure, amenities and quality of life for regional economic competitiveness

Flying Cloud Airport 2040 LTCP: Looking Forward

Stakeholder Input	Final Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP) Meeting: January 28, 2025
Public Meeting	MAC hosted final Discover Flying Cloud public meeting: March 4 (4:30PM – 6:30PM)
FAA ALP Review	MAC submitted proposed projects to the FAA via a draft Airport Layout Plan (ALP)
Public Comment	45-day Public comment period on the LTP report held from February 19 th through April 5 th
Incorporate Feedback	Comments are addressed; Changes are made as required (June 2nd MAC Planning, Development Environment Committee staff report)

Next Steps

Met Council Review	Metropolitan Council reviews and provides consistency review determination – <u>through August</u>
Project Funding	MAC determines project funding from available funding sources
Environmental	MAC completes NEPA environmental review process based on project requirements (tentatively to begin in 2027)
Construction	Design and Construction to advance

Requested Action

Recommended Motion:

That the Metropolitan Council find that the Final Draft Flying Cloud Airport (FCM) 2040 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan (LTCP) has a multi-city impact as well as conforms to the Met Council systems and is consistent with Met Council policies.





Thank you

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