Public comments and questions related to DVRPC Board action items

October 22, 2020

Public comments on non-agenda items

From: Sue Herman
County: N/A
Zip Code: N/A
Date Received: 10/20/2020

Comment/Question:
Dear DVRPC Board Chairman Squilla, DVRPC Board Members, and Executive Director Seymour,

We respectfully request acknowledgement that you received this email.

Attached is a 10/19/20 letter from Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS) to you.

RE: Irresponsible oversight of Trenton-Mercer Airport's unchecked large-scale expansion will cause an irreversible Public Health & Financial Crisis; Residents in Mercer Co. (NJ) & Bucks Co. (PA) are Outraged by DVRPC's Dismissive Response to Our Concerns.

Sincerely,
Susan Herman
President, RRTS

Response: Thank you for your comment. Your original comment was forwarded to the DVRPC Board. A more detailed response is included with the public comment you made at the DVRPC Board meeting on 10/22. Please see below.
Public comments on agenda and non-agenda items received at the DVRPC Board Meeting held on October 22, 2020

Rev. Glen Benson, Delaware County

Rev. Benson referenced concerns with his home and property, which are adjacent to I-95 in the City of Chester, and which he has brought up at several DVRPC Board meetings since June 2018. PennDOT and their consultant are working with Rev. Benson to set up vibration monitoring at his house. He is also working with PennDOT maintenance on regularly mowing the PennDOT lot next to his property. Rev. Benson thanked the Board for their attention to this situation. He asked that the DVRPC Board continue to monitor the situation because he thinks DVRPC’s attention to his concerns have encouraged PennDOT to respond to his concerns.

Response -- Sent October 28, 2020:

Thank you for making public comments at DVRPC’s Board meeting on 10/22. We hope your concerns continue to be addressed by PennDOT.

Sue Herman, Bucks County

I am Susan Herman, president of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (a.k.a. RRTS; P.O. Box 285, Newtown, PA 18940).

On behalf of RRTS and residents of Mercer County (NJ) and Bucks County (PA), I am reading RRTS’s October 19, 2020 letter that was addressed to the DVRPC Board and Mr. Seymour into the public record.* We will email our Public Comment to you and attach our October 19, 2020 letter to it. We ask that our ENTIRE attached 10/19/20 letter and ENTIRE 10/22/20 Public Comment become part of the public record for the 10/22/20 DVRPC Board meeting. We ask that they NOT be summarized.

As you know, residents in Mercer County (NJ) and Bucks County (PA) have dire concerns regarding the continued reckless & unchecked expansion of Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN). For decades TTN has disingenuously engaged in segmented expansion projects to avoid a thorough and rigorous study of the effects of expansion on public health, environmental impact, and the well-being and property values of nearby residents.

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE, we ask the DVRPC Board and Executive Director to formally write to our Federal Senators Bob Menendez (NJ), Cory Booker (NJ), Pat Toomey (PA), and Bob Casey (PA) and implore them to take the
urgently-needed steps listed in Exhibit II of our 10/19/20 letter.

WE NEED YOU TO DO THIS TO AVERT:

● …the release of poisonous contaminants into surrounding tributaries & the Delaware River, including PFAS, VOC’s and mercury known to be present at the Naval Air Warfare Center.

● …serious health ailments due to severe deterioration of our already poor air quality and noise.

● …an expected decrease of up to 30% in home values with increased commercial flight volume. The higher your home value, the greater your loss.

We ask you to go to [www.trentonthreatenedskies.com](http://www.trentonthreatenedskies.com) and view the videos titled “Trenton Airport Threatens YOUR Drinking Water!” and “How the Trenton-Mercer Airport Expansion Impacts YOU!” We urge you to click on the “Resources” link to find a wealth of information. The videos can also be viewed on youtube.

RESIDENTS ARE OUTRAGED BY DVRPC’S DISMISSIVE RESPONSE TO RRTS’s PUBLIC COMMENT MADE AT THE 9/24/20 BOARD MEETING

DVRPC’s October 7, 2020 email from Alison Hastings (Associate Director, DVRPC Communications & Engagement) to Susan Herman (president, RRTS) titled Response to your public comment at DVRPC’s 9/24 Board meeting is unacceptable to citizens.

Our grievances include:

● The DVRPC shows no willingness to advocate for citizens beyond its November 4, 2019 correspondence to the FAA. This correspondence was lip service.
• The DVRPC claims that it has not recommended that TTN become a “booming airport”, yet that is exactly how DVRPC characterizes and touts TTN on page 43 of DVRPC’s publication titled: [resilience] 2014 WEEKLY PLANNER/ FY2013 ANNUAL REPORT. See Exhibit V of our 10/19/20 letter.

• The DVRPC states, “A summary of your public comment, the supporting materials you submitted, and this response will be published to DVRPC’s website as part of the record for the 9/24 Board meeting”. We can assure you that residents are not satisfied with the materials we presented being buried in the 9/24/20 DVRPC Board Meeting Minutes on your website.

The materials we submitted were well-founded written testimonies by PA politicians up the line through the Congressional level, NJ/ PA grassroots groups, & individuals that were formally submitted for the:

(a) 7/30/20 NJ Clean Air Council Public Hearing RE: Past, Present, and Future: Air Quality Around Our Ports and Airports, &

(b) PA Dept. of Environmental Protection 2020 Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report

We expect and demand that the DVRPC Board and Executive Director review these testimonies and the impending dire negative impacts to our region’s air, water, other natural resources, communities and property values and TAKE BOLD STEPS TO STOP THE UNCHECKED EXPANSION OF TTN BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

We respectfully request that you respond to our 10/19/20 letter and today's [10/22/20] Public Comment in writing by November 12, 2020 and inform us as to what actions you will take to avert the impending Public Health & Financial Crisis.

Thank you.
RE: Irresponsible oversight of Trenton-Mercer Airport’s unchecked large-scale expansion will cause an irreversible Public Health & Financial Crisis;

- Residents in Mercer Co. (NJ) & Bucks Co. (PA) are Outraged by DVRPC’s Dismissive Response to Our Concerns

**Response -- Sent October 28, 2020:**

Thank you for making public comments at DVRPC’s Board meeting on 10/22 as well as sending materials via email to DVRPC’s Board members on 10/19 and 10/22. Upon review, it appears that the two attachments (one in each email) are exactly the same at 29 pages in total. To that end, we are including only one copy of the attachment in the Public Comments document.

Your full comments were shared with all Board members and included in the Public Comments Document associated with the September Board meeting and published to the DVRPC website on 10/7/2020. Please see: https://www.dvrpc.org/Committees/BOARD/Comments/2020-09.pdf. Sometimes the PDF only displays the first page if it’s a large file. Please download the file and open to see the full document - 167 pages in total.

Second, we cannot honor your request that the DVRPC Board and the Executive Director write to the four U.S. Senators representing the region. DVRPC is not an advocacy organization, but instead is advisory in nature. DVRPC Board members from Mercer County, Bucks County and NJDOT have been made aware of your comments. In addition, DVRPC staff sent a letter to the FAA supporting “the continued examination and consideration of the environmental and social impacts created by changes in the facility operations” and “follow the review process required by law” and “find common ground for appropriate mitigation strategies that allow for continued success of the TTN and the preservation of the quality-of-life our region’s residents have come to expect.” A copy of that letter is also included in the Public Comment document.

You reference DVRPC’s FY2013 Annual Report and remarks about TTN becoming a “booming airport.” The Annual Report is a promotional document and not a planning or policy document. It is not adopted by the DVRPC Board. In the future we will be more aware of using subjective adjectives. Much of the accompanying text in that section includes facts about TTN’s operations and facility upgrade.

DVRPC staff work at the direction of the Board, and bring their professional training and
judgement to advise on transportation planning projects and selected land use, environmental, and economic development activities. Where we have the most responsibility is working with local elected officials to prioritize transportation needs and then align available and applicable federal transportation funds, but does not include FAA capital funding.

We commend you for bringing forth these issues and your continued advocacy. Thank you for your comments.
R.R.T.S.
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
P.O. Box 285
Newtown, PA 18940
RRTSbuckspa5@gmail.com

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Board Members
C/O Mark Squilla, Chair
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
FEDEX, SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Mr. Barry Seymour
Executive Director, DVRPC
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
FEDEX, SIGNATURE REQUIRED

October 19, 2020

RE: Irresponsible oversight of Trenton-Mercer Airport’s unchecked large-scale expansion will cause an irreversible Public Health & Financial Crisis;

- Residents in Mercer Co. (NJ) & Bucks Co. (PA) are Outraged by DVRPC’s Dismissive Response to Our Concerns

Dear Chairman Squilla, DVRPC Board Members, and Mr. Seymour,

As you know, residents in Mercer County (NJ) and Bucks County (PA) have dire concerns regarding the continued reckless & unchecked expansion of Trenton-Mercer Airport. (See our recent communications to DVRPC in Exhibit I, page 7/29). For decades Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN) has disingenuously engaged in segmented expansion projects to avoid a thorough and rigorous study of the effects of expansion on public health, environmental impact, and the well-being and property values of nearby residents.

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE: Our “ASKS” of the DVRPC Board and Executive Director

Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions Inc. (RRTS) and Mercer County & Bucks County residents implore the DVRPC Board and Executive Director to formally write to our Federal Senators Bob Menendez (NJ), Cory Booker (NJ), Pat
Toomey (PA), and Bob Casey (PA) and implore them to take the urgently-needed steps listed in Exhibit II on page 21.

WE NEED YOU TO DO THIS TO AVOID:

- **...the release of poisonous contaminants into surrounding tributaries & the Delaware River, including PFAS, VOC's and mercury known to be present at the Naval Air Warfare Center.**

  The Delaware River is a primary source of residential drinking water for millions of people. PFAS contamination of drinking water is linked to harming children's neurological development, kidney cancer, testicular cancer, and harming the body's immune system.

- **...serious health ailments due to severe deterioration of our already poor air quality and noise.**

  Health data links aviation emissions and noise to heart attacks, asthma, pregnancy complications, learning, behavioral and psychiatric issues. The dangerous, invisible, microscopic exhaust particles travel up to ten (10) miles outside the flight path. Even if residents cannot see the planes, they are at risk.

- **...an expected decrease of up to 30% in home values with increased commercial flight volume.**

  The higher your home value, the greater your loss.

We ask you to go to [www.trentonthreatenedskies.com](http://www.trentonthreatenedskies.com) and view the videos titled "Trenton Airport Threatens YOUR Drinking Water!" and "How the Trenton-Mercer Airport Expansion Impacts YOU!" We urge you to click on the "Resources" link to find a wealth of information. The videos can also be viewed on youtube.
RESIDENTS ARE OUTRAGED BY DVRPC'S DISMISSIVE RESPONSE TO RRTS'S PUBLIC COMMENT MADE AT THE 9/24/20 BOARD MEETING

Exhibit III on page 22/29 is an October 7, 2020 email from Alison Hastings (Associate Director, DVRPC Communications & Engagement) to Susan Herman (president, RRTS) titled Response to your public comment at DVRPC's 9/24 Board meeting. This response is unacceptable to citizens.

Our grievances include:

- The DVRPC shows no willingness to advocate for citizens beyond its November 4, 2019 correspondence to the FAA. This correspondence was lip service. The FAA is part of the problem, repeatedly demonstrating that its self-interested agenda does not include genuinely protecting the communities impacted by airport operations. In fact, communities throughout our nation are reeling from the devastating negative impacts caused by airport expansions/increased airport operations. (See Exhibit IV on page 34/29. 2/21/20 Buchalter article titled Quiet Skies Congressional Caucus Gets Brush Off from FAA.)

- The DVRPC states, "...The Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP) is the documentation of these findings and our most recent RASP was published in July of 2014. In that document, DVRPC did not make a recommendation that TTN become a 'booming airport'. In addition, the RASP recognizes TTN by its Federal statutory classification as a Nonhub Commercial Service airport and has never recommended its consideration for planning purposes or otherwise as any other facility classification."

The DVRPC’s unspoken plan and support for TTN to be a “booming airport” is blatantly obvious on page 43 of DVRPC’s publication titled [resilience] 2014 WEEKLY PLANNER/ FY2013 ANNUAL REPORT (see Exhibit V on page 26/29.) Here, TTN is characterized and touted as a “booming airport”. Also see Exhibit VI on page 49/29 which lists troublesome quotes and findings in DVRPC’s July 2014 Regional Aviation System Plan that support our premise.

- The DVRPC states, “A summary of your public comment, the supporting materials you submitted, and this response will be published to DVRPC's website as part of the record for the 9/24 Board meeting”. We can assure you that residents are not satisfied with the materials we
presented being buried in the 9/24/20 DVRPC Board Meeting Minutes on your website.

The materials presented were well-founded written testimonies by PA politicians up the line through the Congressional level, NJ/PA grassroots groups, and individuals. These testimonies were formally submitted for the:

(a) 7/30/20 NJ Clean Air Council Public Hearing RE: Past, Present, and Future: Air Quality Around Our Ports and Airports, and

(b) PA Dept. of Environmental Protection 2020 Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report

We expect and demand that the DVRPC Board and Executive Director review these testimonies and the impending dire negative impacts to our region’s air, water, other natural resources, communities and property values and TAKE BOLD STEPS TO STOP THE UNCHECKED EXPANSION OF TTN BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

While the dismissive response from the DVRPC was not a surprise - as this is business as usual for the DVRPC - we want you to know that we expect and demand more from our Metropolitan Planning Organization. We hope that the following quote from PA Congressman Fitzpatrick’s October 2, 2020 written comment submission to TTN RE: Public Comment Regarding Trenton Mercer Airport Passenger Facility Charge Proposal will motivate you to write to our Federal Senators and engage their help:

“…The Taxiway D2 Project is a clear example of how TTN has chosen to segment the proposed projects in an effort to reduce the level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis required from an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In a previous letter to DOT, I presented the agency with documentation from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense showing 23 wells above the PFOS/PFOA EPA LHA near TTN with readings in the range of 178 – 27, 800 PPT. In a response letter I received on May 11, 2020, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) acknowledged the NJDEP is actively working to remediate the area surrounding the Naval Air Warfare Center. Considering the health risks associated with PFOS/PFOA exposure, it is critical for the proposed project to receive an environmental assessment to the highest standard.
At a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged everything from government budgets to business revenues, we collectively need to account for budget shortfalls. The PFC proposal may only add further financial strain to the local constituency to continue a project that also has seen a budgetary loss due to the pandemic. As a member of the Aviation Subcommittee and the House Coronavirus Taskforce, I remain concerned about the government spending going toward the proposed project and would encourage both TTN and FAA to delay construction...*

Chairman Squilla, DVRPC Board Members, and Mr. Seymour: we respectfully request that you respond to our communication in writing by November 12, 2020 and inform us as to what actions you will take to avert the impending Public Health & Financial Crisis.

Very truly yours,

Susan Herman

President
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.*

*Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS) is a non-profit organization founded in August, 2001. Its purpose is to engage in public awareness as to traffic issues in the Central Bucks County area. RRTS focuses on issues related to transportation, infrastructure and the impact of transportation-related decisions on regional populations. In the case of Trenton-Mercer Airport, the affected regional populations are in Mercer County, New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

CC: All individuals/groups will receive this letter via email. Those asterisked will also receive it via Certified Mail, Return Receipt or the equivalent

**FEDERAL LEVEL:**
U.S. Senator Bob Menendez (NJ)*
U.S. Senator Cory Booker (NJ)*
U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (PA)*
U.S. Senator Bob Casey (PA)*
Congresswoman Bonnie Watson-Coleman (NJ)*
Congressman Tom Malinowski (NJ)*
Congressman Chris Smith (NJ)*
Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (PA)*
Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus
STATE LEVEL:
Governor Phil Murphy (NJ)*
Governor Tom Wolf (PA)*
PA Attorney General Josh Shapiro*
Senator Shirley Turner (D15-NJ)*
Senator Linda Greenstein (D14-NJ)*
Senator Christopher Bateman (D16-NJ)*
Senator Steve Santarsiero (PA)*
State Representative Perry Warren (PA)*
Commissioner Catherine McCabe (NJ DEP)*
Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti (NJ DOT)*
Secretary Patrick McDonnell (PA DEP)*
Secretary Yassmin Gramian (PA DOT)*

COUNTY LEVEL:
Bucks County Commissioners (PA): Ellis-Marseglia (chair)*, Harvie*, DiGirolamo*

MUNICIPAL LEVEL:
Members of Councils/ Boards of Supervisors (PA):
Lower Makefield Twp. Board of Supervisors: Weiss* (chair), Grenier*, Lewis*, Blundi*,
McCarty*
Yardley Borough Council: ( c/o pres.).Bria*
Sue Simon, District Director for Congressman Fitzpatrick*
Kyle Melander, Director of Constituent Services for Congressman Fitzpatrick
Ruth Foster (Director, NJ DEP, Office of Permit Coordination & Environmental Review)*
Rose Wuenschel
Shannon Sticker
Dan Fagan
Ryan Bevitz
Evan Stone; Executive Director, Bucks County Planning Commission*
Lower Makefield Township (LMT) Manager, Kurt Ferguson*
LMT Solicitor, David Truelove*
LMT Trenton-Mercer Airport Review Panel
Bucks Residents for Responsible Airport Management (BRRAM President, Holly Bussey)
Trenton Threatened Skies
Mercer Quiet Skies
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.
DVRPC Board Members
John Ward, DVRPC Deputy Executive Director*
Patty Elksis, DVRPC Director of Planning*
William Penn Foundation*
Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin*
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary*
Buxmont Coalition for Safe Water
Watershed Institute*
Bucks County Association of REALTORS Inc.*
Greater Mercer County Association of Realtors Inc.*
Dear Mercer County Freeholder Chairman Koontz & Freeholders Melker, Walter, Frisby, Colavita, Cimino and Cannon,

Freeholder Koontz: 1) As usual, please acknowledge receipt of this email.

2) We respectfully ask that you include this email & all attachments in the public record for tonight's (10/15/20) Formal Freeholder Meeting.

"Susan Herman's Public Comment on Behalf of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. prepared for the October 15, 2020 Formal Meeting of the Mercer County Freeholders

(to be made during the first public comment period, prior to the Board voting on RESOLUTION 54).

Good evening. I am Susan Herman, president of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (a.k.a. RRTS, P.O. Box 285, Newtown, PA 18940)

As you know, we are worried about the continued reckless, unchecked expansion of Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN). It will not only likely cause irreparable harm to the residents, businesses & communities of Mercer County (NJ) and Bucks County (PA), but also make the pending Department of Environment Protection hearings on the environmental impact of TTN impossible and a travesty of the law. It is critical that the Freeholder Board take the unprecedented step to stop the construction project and prevent any further damage to the community.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?ik=13ce20a0e6&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-a%3A2014-11-13T0307069230985270&simplemsg=a%3A2014-780063...
County (PA), but the likely PFAS poisoning of the Delaware River will cause irreparable harm to the millions of people who get their drinking water from the Delaware River.

PFAS contamination of drinking water is linked with harming children's neurological development, kidney cancer, testicular cancer, and harm to the body's immune system. U.S. Senators Bob Menendez (NJ) and Bob Casey (PA) are amongst nineteen (19) senators who are asking the U.S. Department of Health whether the potential connection between PFAS exposure and COVID-19 is being thoroughly examined.

Emerging health data links aviation emissions and noise to heart attacks, asthma, pregnancy complications, learning, behavioral and psychiatric issues. Our home values can be expected to decrease up to 30% with increased commercial flight volume. Heavy metals and jet soot exhaust will put our local food at risk for contamination. Toxic emissions from planes flying below 900 feet are endangering visitors and wildlife at Mercer Meadows and Rosedale Park. The dangerous, invisible, microscopic exhaust particles travel up to 10 miles outside the flight path. Even if residents cannot see the planes, they are at risk. Unregulated airplane exhaust impacts on our air quality have been seriously underestimated.

The vulnerable NJ communities of Ewing Twp. and the City of Trenton have been, and will continue to be, the hardest hit.

WE IMPLORE YOU TO OPPOSE RESOLUTION 54, WHICH IS A $3,050,528.00 GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA) TO CONSTRUCT THE TAXIWAY "D" to "G" CONNECTOR.

This project will be a critical, irreversible step toward TTN's plan to construct parallel taxiways, a plan that they have been accomplishing "under the radar" over time. Dual parallel taxiways allow one-way flow, which allows for a dramatic increase in airport operations. They have split taxiway projects into numerous smaller taxiway "repair" projects, so as to avoid doing the appropriate environmental assessment. Repairs are accomplished with a CATEX (categorical exclusion), requiring a much less rigorous assessment.

If the Taxiway "D" to "G" Connector is built, we will lose the ability to prevent the exponential, large-scale expansion of TTN and it will become the eastern HUB that is obviously desired by many New Jersey officials and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). The DVRPC's unspoken plan and support for TTN to be a "booming airport" is blatantly evident on page 43 of DVRPC's publication titled [resilience] 2014 WEEKLY PLANNER/ FY2013 ANNUAL REPORT. (See Attachment 1. While the words "BOOMING AIRPORTS" that are located to the right of "city of trenton" are hard to read, the full document can be downloaded from DVRPC's website.)

We implore you to read the attached formal written comments that speak to the Public Health & Financial Crisis that will occur if you approve RESOLUTION 54. These comments were recently submitted to TTN [during the public comment period for TTN Project Title: Construct Taxiway D2 (Design & Construction) – Impose & Use; PFC Notice of Intent 21-08-C-00 TTN] by PA Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, PA State Senator Steve Santarsiero, and the grass roots groups Trenton Threatened Skies, Inc. (TTS), Bucks Residents for Responsible Airport Management (BRRAM), and Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS). The comments include:

ATTACHMENTS 2 & 3: comment from TTS.

These highlight the continued misrepresentation of the RESOLUTION 54 project, and other taxiway projects, by the FAA & TTN.

ATTACHMENT 4: comment from PA Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick and PA State Senator Steve Santarsiero

ATTACHMENT 5: comment from BRRAM.

ATTACHMENT 6: comment from RRTS.

RRTS's comment contains written testimony submitted by many PA politicians, NJ/PA grass roots groups, & individuals regarding the:

(a) 7/30/20 NJ Clean Air Council Public Hearing RE: Past, Present, and Future: Air Quality Around Our Ports and Airports; and

(b) PA DEP 2020 Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report
budgetary loss due to the pandemic. As a member of the Aviation Subcommittee and the House Coronavirus Taskforce, I remain concerned about the government spending going toward the proposed project and would encourage both TTN and FAA to delay construction."

The residents of Mercer County (NJ) and Bucks County (PA) implore the Freeholder Board to take the time to read the attached well-founded comments. **We implore you to have the courage & compassion to vote “NO” to RESOLUTION 54 before you propel the citizenry into a Health & Financial Crisis from which there will be no return.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment."
URGENT re TTN: RRTS public comment at 10/13/20 Mercer Co. Freeholder Agenda Meeting
11 messages

susan herman <susanherman@gmail.com> Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 11:43 AM

To: nnmeker@mercercounty.org, lwalter@mercercounty.org, sfirsky@mercercounty.org, pcolavita@mercercounty.org, jclimino@mercercounty.org, acannon@mercercounty.org, "Koontz, Andrew"<akoontz@mercercounty.org>
Cc: Sue Simon <sue.simon@mail.house.gov>, kyle.melander <kyle.melander@mail.house.gov>, "Santarsiero, Senator Steve" <Steve.santarsiero@passenate.com>, rose.wuenschel <Rosemary.wuenschel@passenate.com>, "Rep. Perry Warren" <RepPerryWarren@pahouse.gov>, yiran bevitz <rbevitz@pahouse.gov>, connieeliasmaremma@buckscountycourt.org, CommDiGiovlano@buckscountycourt.org, Fredric K Weiss <fwweiss@lmt.org>, "Daniel R. Grenier" <dgrenier@lmt.org>, John Lewis <jlewism@lmt.org>, Suzanne Blundi <sblundi@lmt.org>, James mccartney <jmccartney@lmt.org>, "David J. Truelove" <dtruelove@hillwallack.com>, David brir <dbria@yardleyboro.com>, "Kurt M. Ferguson" <kurt@lmt.org>, Trenton Threatened Skies <trentonthreatenedskies@gmail.com>, Breadrm@gmail.com, bseymour@drpc.org, grants@williampenfoundation.org, Joanne@buxmontwater.org, Hopecountywater.org, info@thewatershed.org, susan herman <susanherman@gmail.com>, nnmeker@mercercounty.org, lwalter@mercercounty.org, sfirsky@mercercounty.org, pcolavita@mercercounty.org, jclimino@mercercounty.org, acannon@mercercounty.org, "Koontz, Andrew"<akoontz@mercercounty.org>

Subject: TTN: Trenton-Raritan Transit Study

Dear Freeholder Chairman Koontz & Freeholders Melker, Walter, Frisby, Colavita, Cimino and Cannon,

Freeholder Koontz: As usual, please acknowledge receipt of this email.

We respectfully ask that you include this email, containing the public comment we made at the 10/13/20 Freeholder Agenda Meeting, in the public record for the 10/13/20 Meeting.

"Susan Herman's Public Comment on Behalf of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. at the October 13, 2020 Agenda Meeting of the Mercer County Freeholders"

Good evening, I'm Susan Herman, president of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (a.k.a. RRTS, P.O. Box 285, Newtown, PA 18940)

Dear Freeholders Koontz, Cimino, Walter, Cannon, Frisby, Colavita and Melker,

As you know, we are worried about the continued reckless, unchecked expansion of Trenton-Merchant Airport (TTN). It will not only cause irreparable harm to the residents, businesses & communities of Mercer County (NJ) and Bucks County (PA), but the likely poisoning of the Delaware River will cause irreparable harm to the millions of people who get their drinking water from the Delaware.

The hardest hit have been, and will continue to be, the vulnerable NJ communities of Ewing Twp. & the City of Trenton.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=13ce20a0e9&view=pt&search=all&permth=thread-a%3Ar-32416157992456889867&simpl=msg-a%3Ar-857471

1/22
WE IMPORE YOU TO OPPOSE RESOLUTION 54, WHICH IS A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) FOR THE TAXIWAY D TO G CONNECTOR.

Dual parallel taxiways allow one-way flow which allows for a dramatic increase in airport operations. The airport has split taxiway projects into numerous smaller taxiway "repair" projects, so as to avoid doing the appropriate environmental assessment. Repairs are accomplished with a CATEX (categorical exclusion), requiring a much less rigorous assessment.

TTN's continued irresponsible actions are resulting in the demise of our natural resources, healthy communities, quality of life and home values.

We agree with Freeholder Walter’s assessment this evening, that justifying this project as a safety measure is bogus. We all know that the FAA has a self-interested agenda that does not include GENUINELY protecting the communities impacted by airport operations. The FAA is like the fox guarding the hen house. Communities throughout our nation are reeling from the devastation that runway airport expansions/ increased airport operations have thrust upon them.

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT TO SANCTION?

If you care about the health, safety, and welfare of your constituents and the health, safety and welfare of affected Bucks County (PA) municipalities and the millions of people who get their residential drinking water from the Delaware River, we implore you to vote NO on RESOLUTION 54 at the Formal Freeholder Meeting to be held on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020 @ 6PM.

Even though you have discussed this project before - and supported parts of it - NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO SAY NO TO IT, AND PROTECT MILLIONS OF CITIZENS WHO, LITERALLY, ARE AT YOUR MERCY.

We will submit this public comment in an email to Freeholder Koontz & the Freeholder Board and ask that the email become part of the public record for the 10/13/20 Freeholder Agenda Meeting.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Susan Herman, President
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

Mail Delivery Subsystem  
<mailer-daemon@googlemail.com>
To: rrtsbucks6@gmail.com

Wed, Oct 14, 2020 at 11:42 AM

Message blocked

Your message to jbarr@septa.org has been blocked. See technical details below for more information.

The response from the remote server was:
550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. AS(201806281)

Final-Recipient: rfc822; jbarr@septa.org
Action: failed
Status: 5.4.1
Remote-MTA: dns; septa-org.mail.protection.outlook.com. (104.47.36.36, the server for the domain septa.org.)
Dear DVRPC Board Members,

As you know, we are worried about the continued reckless, unchecked expansion of Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN). It will not only likely cause irreparable harm to the residents, businesses & communities of Mercer County (NJ) and Bucks County (PA), but the likely poisoning of the Delaware River will cause irreparable harm to the millions of people who get their drinking water from the Delaware. (The hardest hit have been, and will continue to be, the vulnerable NJ communities of Ewing Twp. & the City of Trenton.)

Now TTN is asking the FAA for permission to tax travelers (PFC/PFF) to raise money to build another taxiway connector. Their ultimate plan, which they are on the way to accomplishing, is dual parallel taxiways.

Dual parallel taxiways allow one-way flow which allows for a dramatic increase in airport operations. They have split taxiway projects into numerous smaller taxiway "repair" projects, so as to avoid doing the appropriate environmental assessment. Repairs are accomplished with a CATEX (categorical exclusion), requiring a much less rigorous assessment.

TTN's continued irresponsible actions are resulting in the demise of our natural resources, healthy communities, quality of life and home values.

WE IMPOSE THE DVRPC BOARD TO READ THE ATTACHED FORMAL WRITTEN COMMENTS (summarized below)

RE: TTN Project Title: Construct Taxiway D2 (Design & Construction)-Impose & Use: PFC Notice of Intent 21-88-C-00 TTN

The comment period for this project ends TODAY. Oct. 5, and comments are to be mailed to TTN's Manager,
Ms. Melinda Montgomery. It is inconsiderate & unconscionable that in today's COVID-19 environment, TTN did not provide an email alternative for comment submission.

**SUMMARY OF ATTACHED WRITTEN COMMENTS:**
- The first two (2) comments are from Trenton Threatened Skies, Inc. (TTS). These highlight the continued misrepresentation of this project (& other taxiway projects) by the FAA & TTN.
- The 3rd comment is from PA State Senator Steve Santarsiero.
- The 4th comment is from Bucks Residents for Responsible Airport Management (BRRAM).
- The 5th comment is from Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS). This contains written testimony submitted by many PA politicians, NJ/PA grassroots groups & individuals regarding the:
  (a) 7/30/20 NJ Clean Air Council Public Hearing RE: Past, Present, and Future: Air Quality Around Our Ports and Airports; and
  (b) PA DEP 2020 Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Report

At the 9/24/20 DVRPC Board meeting, RRTS IMPLORED THE DVRPC BOARD to vigorously and formally require the DVRPC to re-examine its plans to make TTN a "booming airport" and re-prioritize the importance of clean water and clean air to the region as the primary goals.

Today, once again, we implore the DVRPC Board to do this, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

Sincerely,
Susan Herman, President
Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

---

5 attachments
- TTS to TTN re PFF 092920.pdf 3193K
- TTS Questions re PFF of TTN Montgomery 092920.pdf 72K
- Santarsiero letter. Taxiway D2 Project.pdf 2850K
- BRRAM response to Additional runway and expansion oct 2020.pdf 97K
- TaxiwayD2PrjctCmnt.PDF 5283K

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Message blocked
Your message to kcastagnola@southjerseyport.com has been blocked. See technical details below for more information.

The response from the remote server was:
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=13ce20a0e9&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-a%3Ar9215209730729281743&simpt=msg-a%3Ar91356457...
Dear DVRPC Board Members,

We respectfully request that you acknowledge receipt of this email.

Attached please find Public Comment made by Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RTTS) at this morning's 9/24/20 DVRPC Board Meeting.

We implore the DVRPC Board to vigorously and formally require the DVRPC to re-examine its plans to make TTN a "booming airport" and re-prioritize the importance of clean water to the region as one of the primary goals.

The first attachment below is RTS's Public Comment made during the 9/24/20 meeting. The other attachments are referenced in our Public Comment.

Thank you for your attention to this serious public health issue.

Sincerely,

Susan Herman
President, RTTS

073020 NJ Clean Air Council Public Hearing Test...
Your message to DEBrown@septa.org has been blocked. See technical details below for more information.

The response from the remote server was:

550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. AS(201806281) [BL2NAM02FT045.eop-nam02.prod.protection.outlook.com]

Final-Recipient: rfc822; DEBrown@septa.org
Action: failed
Status: 5.4.1
Remote-MTA: dns; septa-org.mail.protection.outlook.com. (104.47.38.36, the server for the domain septa.org)
Diagnostic-Code: smtp; 550 5.4.1 Recipient address rejected: Access denied. AS(201806281) [BL2NAM02FT045.eop-nam02.prod.protection.outlook.com]
Last-Attempt-Date: Thu, 24 Sep 2020 08:12:29 -0700 (PDT)

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: susan.herman@rutbuckspsa5@gmail.com
To: Andrew.Simpson@philagov, (B)Gorden@njtransit.com, Brian.Leckie@dot.nj.gov, Cheryl.Goldman@dot.nj.gov, Christopher.Puchalsky@philagov, CommHarvie@buckscounty.org, DEBrown@septa.org, Daniel@dan.kelly@nj.gov, David.Caulfield@dep.nj.gov, Donna.Zucchetti@dot.nj.gov, Elizabeth.Sample@dep.nj.gov, Eugene.Porochniak@dot.nj.gov, JHolley@septa.org, Jennifer.Croak@dot.gov, John.Wolick@camdencounty.com, Kelley.Yemen@philagov, MZOCHOWSKI@mercercounty.org, MaddenK@co.delaware.pa.us, Mayor@ci.camden.nj.us, Melanie.Willoughby@nss.nj.gov, Mike.Russ@ddot.state.nj.us, PAWebmanager@hud.gov, Richard.Brown@nss.nj.gov, Rudy.Rodas@nj.gov, Stephen.Fowler@dot.nj.gov, "Stone, Evan"<estone@buckscounty.org>, TSteinzeit@septa.org, abobott@trenton.nj.us, abockis@saul.com, ahartzel@eamp.com, akpayne@buckscounty.org, alicia.nolan@pa.gov, alifurman@pa.gov, andrew.ivechevich@camdencounty.com, arendswor@ddot.state.nj.us, anmiller@ci.camden.nj.us, anne.kelly@philagov, b_holcomb@dpa.org, barry.ableman@sos.state.nj.us, bdiesel@trenton.nj.us, bdonovan@chesco.org, bcoast@gregory.epa.gov, bheigel@ptumpke.com, bhugles@mercercounty.org, bfaddfen@septa.org, boleyary@chesco.org, bproska@traffick.com, brandon.r.porich@hud.gov, brian.goodson@dot.nj.gov, brownclark@co.delaware.pa.us, bstyche@septa.org, cgreenwood@ceccounil.org, ckastrakakes@gmtma.org, commission@dep.nj.gov, cgreigosch@buckscounty.org, crombonin@trenton.nj.us, curt@montcopa.org, cthomas@co.burlington.nj.us, daniel.kelly@nj.gov, darin.gattil@philagov, david.kantor@philagov, diane.saccett@dot.nj.gov, donna.rendro@sos.nj.gov, dscience@co.gloucester.nj.us, eamith@philagov, edwillia@ci.camden.nj.us, elanor.shohet@philagov, equinn@chesco.org, eric.powders@dot.nj.gov, eroe@chesco.org, evizzoa@ceccounil.org, fhwell13@gmail.com, fmvw@fmvwco.com, gburrin@admable.com, gfallat@mercercounty.org, hasting@co.delaware.pa.us, hill@co.delaware.pa.us, hsimmons@co.gloucester.nj.us, jacob.green@dpa.org, james.vari@ddot.state.nj.us, jbarr@septa.org, jdeviss@ptumpke.com, jrinkie@dpa.org, jeannette.bruker@philagov, jhuston@co.gloucester.nj.us, jim.lewisa@dor.state.nj.us, jkeller@pottstown.org, jkorus@pa.gov, jmocca@pa.gov, jneal@chester.org, john.haak@philagov, jroman@larsodesigngroup.com, jthompson@bor.org, jurmonton@ci.camden.nj.us, jwilkes@trenton.nj.us, kmcarfarne@dpa.org, kbeica@camdencounty.com, kcastagnola@southjerseyport.com, keith.lynch@dor.state.nj.us, keithkilmon@dot.gov, kelmarsh@verizon.net, kseels@dor.state.nj.us, lbellmonte@pa.gov, lfloyd@mercercounty.org, iguarni@pa.gov, isl.feinberg@verizon.net, millan@njtransit.com, lonc@camdencounty.com, loutan.remai@epa.gov, lriceberry@septa.org, lthompson@njtransit.com, lyoun@philaport.com, mark.squill@philagov, martine.decamp@philagov, mcsafe27@yahoo.com, medmond@montcopa.org, michael.a.carroll@philagov, michelle.webb@philagov, mkilchen@chesco.org, mkobr@trenton.nj.us, mlawson@mercercounty.org, mmoscowitz@chesco.org, molitz@philagov, monica.esr@ddot.state.nj.us, mruppert@ddot.state.nj.us, msbennett@ddot.state.nj.us, msheffer@co.delaware.pa.us, shenpaul@philagov, stephen.mazza@nj.gov, sulapa@bandyopadhyay@dot.gov, tbianco@co.gloucester.nj.us, terry.garcia@trenton.nj.us, timothy.head@dot.gov, timothy.liddak@dot.gov, tomcskocz@ddot.state.nj.us, tsegler@co.gloucester.nj.us, 
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=13ce20a0e9&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-a%3Ar1391660055302605578&imp=#msg-a%3Ar13933125...
Dear Mr. Ward,

Please confirm that you got this email.

Attached is the public comment read into the public record this morning at the 7/7/20 Regional Technical Committee (RTC) meeting, on behalf of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS).

We look forward to receiving the RTC's written response to our questions and concerns.

As indicated in the comments we made, please include this email and the attached comments in the public record for the July 7, 2020 RTC meeting.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Susan Herman
President; Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

[File attachment: RRTS Airport 070720 DVRPC RTC public comment.pdf]
Dear Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission Board members,

Attached - in the Forwarded email - is Public Comment that I read into the public record at the 10/24/19 meeting of the DVRPC Board. I read these comments on behalf of Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS).

New Jersey & Pennsylvania residents are alarmed about the FAA's recent approval of the EA for the Runway Protection Zone & Obstruction Mitigation Project for Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN). This project is the first phase of MAJOR UNCHECKED EXPANSION at TTN. There's a short window of time in which this project can be appealed. Appeals must be filed by mid-November.

The concluding paragraph in our Public Comment states,

"The unchecked major expansion of the Trenton-Mercer Airport IS NOT ACCEPTABLE to area residents affected by the airport's operation. See the Trenton Threatened Skies website at www.trentonthreatenedskies.com. We implore you to urge the Airport Authority to look at the impacts of the two (2) imminent expansion projects, plus the current level of operation AS A WHOLE and urge them to conduct a Cumulative & Expansive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that truly measures the impacts that THE WHOLE will have on affected New Jersey & Pennsylvania communities. We implore you to do this before it results in irreparable damage to the people and environment in two (2) states."

Some of you were present at the 10/24/19 meeting. We respectfully request that all of you read our Public Comment as soon as possible and apprise us as to what you can do to help us. The next scheduled DVRPC Board meeting isn't until December 4, 2019.

We respectfully request that you schedule a Special Meeting, if need be, so that you can take action - or assist others in taking action - to appeal the...
EA for the Runway Protection Zone & Obstruction Mitigation Project BEFORE the mid-November deadline. We also ask you to implore the Airport Authority to do a Cumulative & Expansive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that truly measures the impacts that “THE WHOLE”- as described above -will have on affected New Jersey & Pennsylvania communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Herman
President, Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Susan Herman <suherman54@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 27, 2019 at 9:37 PM
Subject: AIRPORT DISASTER: RRTS implores DVRPC Board to help

To: Sue Simon <sue.simon@mail.house.gov>, kyle melander <kyle.melander@mail.house.gov>, Santarsiero, Senator
Steve <steve.santarsiero@pasenate.com>, Rose Wuenschel <Rosemary.wuenschel@pasenate.com>, Rep. Perry
Warren <RepWarren@pahouse.net>, ryan bevitz <bevitz@pahouse.net>, <comm.loughery@buckscounty.org>,
<nrobinson@buckscounty.org>, Ellis-Marzeglia, Diane M. <dmellismarzeglia@buckscounty.org>,
<adschreiber@buckscounty.org>, <estone@buckscounty.org>, Daniel R. Grenier <dgrenier@lmt.org>, Fredric K Weiss
<fwweiss@lmt.org>, <jlewis@lmt.org>, Kristin Tyler <ktyler@lmt.org>, Kurt M.
Ferguson <kurtf@lmt.org>, David J. Truelove <dtruelove@hillwallack.com>, Richard Preston <rpreston57@gmail.com>,
Holly Bussey <suholly@yahoo.com>, Dan O'Brien <Dan.Obrien@pasenate.com>, Fagan, Dan
<dan.fagan@pasenate.com>, David Bria <dbria@yardleyboro.com>, Susan Herman <suherman54@gmail.com>,
<joemenard@comcast.net>, Peter Kakoyiannis <petroko@gmail.com>, Joanne Guiniven <joanne986@verizon.net>,
Brendan Monaghan <brendan_01@mac.com>, Robert D. White <hwyptl@gmail.com>,
<Kmcdermott@boroughofnewtown.com>, <philo@newtownpa.gov>, <debbiesmithmb@outlook.com>,
<astrouse@middletownbucks.org>, <ttosti@middletownbucks.org>, <ctthompson@yardleyboro.com>,
<bmars@yardleyboro.com>, <info@attorneygeneral.gov>, Ken Coluzzi <kenc@lmt.org>, Trenton Threatened Skies
<trentonthreatenedskies@gmail.com>, <eb.harvie@fallstwp.com>, <dennis@newtownpa.gov>,
<johnr@newtownpa.gov>, <tchino08@comcast.net>, Suzanna McGee <mgeesuzz444@gmail.com>, BRRAM
<Donald.wilcox@comcast.net>

All,

Here’s an update regarding recent actions:

1) RRTS gave Public Comment at the 10/24/19 meeting of the DVRPC Board.

Our Public Comment is attached. Also attached is RRTS’s 9/30/19 letter which contains DVRPC’s July 2014
document 2040 Regional Airport System Plan (RASP) on pages 22/96 – 73/96. (Both the 9/30/19 letter and
the July 2014 DVRPC document were referenced in our Public Comment.)

In our Public Comment we state, “The unchecked major expansion of the Trenton-Mercer Airport IS NOT
ACCEPTABLE to area residents affected by the airport’s operation. See the Trenton Threatened Skies website
at www.trentonthreatenedskies.com. We implore you to urge the Airport Authority to look at the impacts
of the two (2) imminent expansion projects plus the current level of operation AS A WHOLE and urge them
to conduct a Cumulative & Expansive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that truly measures the impacts
that THE WHOLE will have on affected New Jersey & Pennsylvania communities. We implore you to do this
before it results in irreparable damage to the people and environment in two (2) states.”

2) RRTS is escalating its efforts to educate the public about (a) the end- goal intention for Trenton-
Mercer Airport and (b) the potential public health & environmental crisis that looms before us. We’re
preparing educational pieces for:
- The Bucks County Board of Realtors, as well as, for individual realtors
- School Boards, Principals and PTA Presidents of schools within 10 miles of a flight path

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=13ce20a0e9&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1648727066372529452&sigmpf=f%3A16487270663... 2/4
See these telling quotes in the DVRPC's *2040 Regional Airport System Plan (RASP)* on pages 22/96 -73/96 of RRTS's 9/30/19 letter (attached):

- On page 55/96, there's a section titled “Trenton-Mercer (TTN), New Jersey” and the first sentence of the second paragraph states, “The airport is marketing itself as an alternative to PHL [Philadelphia International Airport] and EWR [Newark's Liberty International Airport], offering less hassle”.
- Page 27/96 is the “Executive Summary” which states this half way down the page, “Therefore, the objectives for the 2040 RASP took these factors into account, and the following priorities were agreed upon by the RASP subcommittee: 1. Expand commercial air service capacity within the region...3. Sustain and improve infrastructure to attract more users...This report is being prepared with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ...”
- Page 28/96 states this in the first paragraph, “Aviation’ to most people in the region will likely be associated with Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), the 11th busiest airport in the world (in terms of aircraft operations), but the Delaware Valley is also served by two other commercial service airports, Trenton-Mercer (TTN) and Wilmington (ILG)....”
- Page 29/96 is “Figure 1: Regional Airport System Map”. TTN has the same icon as Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and Wilmington (ILG).
- Halfway down page 30/96 it states, “One specific economic aid for the region comes with the availability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection facilities at the region’s airports. All three commercial service airports – PHL, TTN, and ILG- have these facilities.”
- On page 32/96, it states this in the third paragraph, “Commercial service airports serve scheduled service airlines, corporate aviation, and in the case of ILG and TTN, some military operations.”

3) At the 10/22/19 agenda meeting of the Mercer County Board of Freeholders, passionate NJ grass roots groups/ citizens gave Public Comment expressing the need to appeal the EA for the Runway Protection Zone & Obstruction Mitigation Project (the first phase of imminent MAJOR unchecked expansion of the airport, that was just approved by the FAA & is being disingenuously marketed as a “safety” measure.).

Speakers got applause from the packed room, demonstrating that citizens are with them on the issue and that they can move voters. The petition on the Trenton Threatened Skies website (www.trentonthreatenedskies.com) now has 649 signatures on it. Five hundred of these signatures were obtained during the past week, once residents realized the Runway Protection Zone & Obstruction Mitigation Project was passed. Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes was present. The formal Freeholder meeting immediately followed.

RRTS also gave Public Comment at the 10/22/19 agenda meeting of the Mercer County Board of Freeholders.

Our Public Comment is attached. In it we state, “You, the Mercer County Board of Freeholders, are part of the Airport Authority. You have the power to vote NO on the Runway Protection Zone & Obstruction Mitigation Project and to vote NO on the proposed Master Plan. We IMPLORE YOU TO VOTE NO ON THESE TWO (2) PROJECTS TONIGHT TO AVOID A POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS.” Again, the audience applauded.

4) To see what other towns are doing, click on below link for article titled *"North Hempstead plans to sue FAA".*


We respectfully request that you pass this communication on to the other members of your Boards/Commissions/Councils, where applicable. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Susan Herman  
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?ik=13ce20a0e9&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A164872706372529452&impl=f%3A16487270663...
President, Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc.

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Sue Herman

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Sue Herman

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Sue Herman

3 attachments

- RRTS Airport 102419 DVRPC Board Meeting speakers copy FINAL.pdf
  550K
- RRTS Airport.TTN residents worry about irreparable harm 093019.pdf
  5898K
- RRTS Airport 102219 Mercer Co. Freeholder mtng commentR1.pdf
  410K
EXHIBIT II

RRTS, Mercer County residents, and Bucks County residents implore the DVRPC Board and Executive Director to formally write U.S. Senators Menendez, Booker, Toomey and Casey and implore them to take the following urgently-needed steps:

1) Stop the project's funding until an environmental impact statement (EIS) is developed and assessed considering the projected capacity of the airport, not the unrealistically low 1% growth rate. An EIS must take into account the cumulative impact of past and present projects since their last environmental analysis in 2006 by the FAA. The impact to both sides of the river should be included in the EIS. The budget pressure can be applied at county, state and federal levels based on the combination of funding sources the airport authority is using.

2) Write to the FAA and DoT to support Congressman Fitzpatrick's assertion to the FAA that the airport is segmenting projects to avoid a realistic environmental analysis. The DoT and FAA have dismissed his concerns despite the obvious truth that these projects will all contribute to a dramatic increase in airport traffic growth if they are carried out.

3) Hold the FAA accountable for its refusal to consider the congressional mandate in the FAA reauthorization act of 2018, Pub. L. 115254, § 188 requiring the FAA to develop alternative metrics to the 24-hour day/night average noise levels.

4) Sign on as co-sponsor of US Senate Bill 2506: Air Traffic Noise and Pollution Expert Consensus Act of 2019-2020 to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into appropriate arrangements with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to provide for a report on the health impacts of air traffic noise and pollution.

5) Force the airport to carry out a CFR 14 Part 150 analysis for developing noise mitigation procedures which safely accommodate flights and protect the health and well-being of area residents.

6) Force the airport to provide transparency on their budget and provide a return on investment analysis incorporating the project's impact on home values and municipal budgets. Force the airport to detail how the enormous debt burden will be managed in light of the downturn in the travel industry.

7) Pressure the NJ DEP to review the environmental consequences of the combined projects during their permitting process.
Response to your public comment at DVRPC's 9/24 Board meeting.

Alison Hastings <ahaastings@dvrpc.org>  
To: susan herman <rrtsbuckspe5@gmail.com>  
Cc: Barry Seymour <bseymour@dvrpc.org>

Wed, Oct 7, 2020 at 12:46 PM

Dear Ms. Herman,

Thank you for making public comments at DVRPC’s Board meeting on 9/24 as well as sending materials via email to DVRPC’s Board members on 9/24 and 10/5.

DVRPC recognizes the concerns of the region’s residents as it relates to the planned improvements at Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN). As we emphasized in our November 4, 2019 correspondence to the FAA, we strongly support the continued examination and consideration of the environmental and societal impacts created by any changes in facility operations on residents of both Mercer County, NJ and neighboring Bucks County, PA, in accordance with established guidelines.

DVRPC’s aviation planning work and products do not dictate plans for individual airport expansions but instead serve to document individual facility plans and system needs in an effort to better inform other investments that benefit the regional aviation system, with a primary focus on general aviation activities. The Regional Aviation System Plan (RASP) is the documentation of these findings and in our most recent RASP published in July of 2014. In that document, DVRPC did not make a recommendation that TTN become a “booming airport”. In addition, the RASP recognizes TTN by its Federal statutory classification as a Nonhub Commercial Service airport and has never recommended its consideration for planning purposes or otherwise as any other facility classification.

The 2040 RASP documents only one recommendation directly related to the commercial service activity at TTN by stating “to increase the utilization of secondary commercial service airports, it is important to offer good ground transportation links to provide better access and reduce adjacent road congestion.” This recommendation was further expanded for TTN to include: “establish a direct bus link between the airport terminal and the Trenton Transit Center.”

DVRPC is scheduled to update the RASP this fiscal year with a planned update to be published in the Fall of 2022.

A summary of your public comment, the supporting materials you submitted, and this response will be published to DVRPC’s website as part of the record for the 9/24 Board meeting.

Best regards,

Alison

Working from Home; available at 856-278-9122

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1?k=13ce20a0e9&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1679912316370598100&pli=mmsg-f%3A16799123163... 1/2
On Thu, Sep 24, 2020 at 11:12 AM susan herman <rrtsbuckspa5@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear DVRPC Board Members,

We respectfully request that you acknowledge receipt of this email.

Attached please find Public Comment made by Residents for Regional Traffic Solutions, Inc. (RRTS) at this morning's 9/24/20 DVRPC Board Meeting.

We implore the DVRPC Board to vigorously and formally require the DVRPC to re-examine its plans to make TTN a "booming airport" and re-prioritize the importance of clean water to the region as one of the primary goals.

The first attachment below is RRTS's Public Comment made during the 9/24/20 meeting. The other attachments are referenced in our Public Comment.

Thank you for your attention to this serious public health issue.

Sincerely,

Susan Herman
President, RRTS

073020 NJ Clean Air Council Public Hearing Test...
February 21, 2020

Quiet Skies Congressional Caucus Gets Brush Off from FAA

Barbara Lichman, PhD

Buchalter

Many communities rely on Congressional representation to establish lines of communication with the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") because communication with federal agencies in general and FAA particularly is difficult for the public at large. That reliance may have been overly optimistic as can be seen in a response from FAA ("Response") to a letter from Congressperson Eleanor Holmes Norton representing the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus ("Caucus"). In the Response, the new Administrator of the FAA betrays a substantial misunderstanding of the agency's role in its interaction with both airports and the public.

The Caucus was established principally to articulate to the FAA the interests of noise and air quality impacted communities throughout the nation. While the examples used by the Caucus in its letter are substantially oriented toward East Coast concerns, the issues overlap with those of other communities, including the impacts of NextGen, the reorganization of arrival and departure paths at airports based on new technology, which has consolidated flight paths over previously unimpacted communities in the name of "safety" and "efficiency."

The FAA's misunderstanding becomes obvious on the first page of its Response, where FAA takes the position that it is powerless to influence the factors that are the primary cause of airport noise, such as numbers of people that want to fly, and goods that must be delivered by air, thus necessitating more air traffic. While that may be true with respect to demand for air travel, it is patently untrue with respect to supply.

Specifically, FAA claims, among other things, that it "does not determine how many runways an airport builds." Nothing could be further from reality. While the airport may propose various airfield configurations, it is FAA that ultimately decides between them. In fact, Congress has mandated that "[t]he owner or operator [of an airport] will not make or allow any alteration in
the airport or any of its facilities if the alteration does not comply with the plan the Secretary approves and the Secretary is of the opinion that the alteration may affect adversely the safety, utility or efficiency of the airport.” 49 U.S.C. § 47107(a)(16)(C) [emphasis added]. Moreover, if the airport operator acts contrary to FAA mandates, the agency may require rehabilitation at the sponsor’s sole expense and require the airport sponsor to “bear all costs of relocating the property or its replacement to a site acceptable to the Secretary and of restoring the property or its replacement to the level of safety, utility, efficiency, and cost of operation that existed before the alteration was made…” 49 U.S.C. § 47107(a)(16)(D). Clearly, therefore, it is totally within FAA’s wheelhouse to determine not only the acceptable number of runways but also their location on the airport property.

This is important because the Secretary has linked the number and configuration of runways to “the number of people who want to fly.” According to FAA, increases in the number, or separation between, runways leads directly to increases in the capacity of airports. “Capacity” is defined as “the throughput rate, i.e. the maximum number of operations that can take place in an hour,” FAA Advisory Circular 150/5060-5, Airport Capacity and Delay. Thus, it is clear that FAA’s preemptive authority over the number and location of airport facilities, including runways, is at least partially determinative of the number of passengers that are able to fly, a direct link to the supply of aircraft and their operations, to satisfy those demands, and the consequent impacts on surrounding communities.

This is but a single exemplar of the fact that FAA’s response to the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus is not different from its responses to local communities in general, i.e., short on facts and misleading as to governing law. While it contains long descriptions of the problems with such critical issues as “flight path dispersal,” see page 7, the Response is notably short on solutions. Stay tuned for Quiet Skies Caucus comments on FAA’s response.

Source: Aviation & Airport Development Law News

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**LATEST POSTS**


- **Buchalter COVID-19 Client Alert: FHFA to Extend GSE Covid-Related Origination Processing Flexibility Until August 31**

- **Buchalter Client Alert: Draft General Permit for Winery Wastewater Discharge Released for Comment**

https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/quiet-skies-congressional-caucus-gets-64672/
Our freight and aviation systems are crucial to the long-term viability of the region and provide significant economic benefits.

DVRPC has conducted the Aircraft Operations Counting Program for all non-towered regional airports since 1986. Funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), this program provides seasonal and annual take-off and landing totals as well as based aircraft counts. Last year, the Commission completed counts at 16 airports. In addition, work began on the 2040 Regional Airport Systems Plan, which will be completed in spring 2014.

To learn more about aviation planning, visit WWW.DVRPC.ORG/AVIATION.

Focusing on freight, DVRPC launched the PhillyFreightFinder — a freight mapping and data platform. It highlights our region’s extraordinary freight network, denoting major freight routes, such as highways, rivers, and rail lines; and key hubs of employment and goods movement, like ports and freight centers. To view the interactive application, visit WWW.DVRPC.ORG/WEBMAPS/PHILLYFREIGHTFINDER.

For more information on freight activities at DVRPC, visit WWW.DVRPC.ORG/FREIGHT.
BOOMING AIRPORTS

The Trenton-Mercer Airport is the second busiest airport in the DVRPC region, with 76,717 operations in 2012. The airport recently completed a multi-million dollar facility upgrade which includes runway safety improvements, additional parking, and passenger terminal enhancements.
Disturbing quotes in DVRPC's July 2014 document titled 2040 Regional Airport System Plan (RASP)

See the following disturbing quotes from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's (DVRPC's) July 2014 document titled 2040 Regional Airport System Plan (RASP). This document can be found on pages 22/96–73/96 of RRTS’s 9/30/19 letter (attached).

- On page 55/96, there’s a section titled “Trenton-Mercer (TTN), New Jersey” and the first sentence of the second paragraph states, “The airport is marketing itself as an alternative to PHL [Philadelphia International Airport] and EWR [Newark’s Liberty International Airport], offering less hassle.”

- Page 77/96 is the “Executive Summary” which states this half way down the page, “Therefore, the objectives for the 2040 RASP took these factors into account, and the following priorities were agreed upon by the RASP subcommittee: 1. Expand commercial air service capacity within the region...3. Sustain and improve infrastructure to attract more users...This report is being prepared with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ...”

- Page 28/96 states this in the first paragraph, “‘Aviation’ to most people in the region will likely be associated with Philadelphia International Airport (PHL), the 11th busiest airport in the world (in terms of aircraft operations), but the Delaware Valley is also served by two other commercial service airports, Trenton-Mercer (TTN) and Wilmington (ILG).”

- Page 29/96 is “Figure 1: Regional Airport System Map”. TTN has the same icon as Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and Wilmington (ILG).

- Halfway down page 30/96 it states, “One specific economic aid for the region comes with the availability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection facilities at the region’s airports. All three commercial service airports – PHL, TTN, and ILG- have these facilities.”

- On page 32/96, it states this in the third paragraph, “Commercial service airports serve scheduled service airlines, corporate aviation, and in the case of ILG and TTN, some military operations.”
November 4, 2019

Ms. Jennifer Solomon
Eastern Region Regional Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Eastern Region
159-30 Rockaway Blvd.
Jamaica, NY 11434-4848

Dear Regional Administrator Solomon:

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Greater Philadelphia Region, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), which includes a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey, works with stakeholders to approve and advance Federal transportation infrastructure investment in the region and ensure that the communities we serve are represented in the planning process. As the region’s MPO, we prepare and update both a Long-Range Plan, and a Regional Airport System Plan. We also maintain an active Regional Aviation Committee, which enable representatives of our region’s aviation interests to interact and work together toward common interests.

The Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN), one of only two commercial service airports in our region, has recently seen resurgence in operations returning the airport to levels of activity not experienced in over a decade. The continued success of this facility and the opportunities that it provides to our regional economy and residents is crucial. The FAA recently approved TTN’s updated Airport Layout Plan that identifies a series of improvements including the development of a replacement terminal facility.

As TTN continues to advance their improvement plans for the facility, residents of both Mercer County, NJ and neighboring Bucks County, PA have expressed concerns about potential environmental and social impacts created by any changes in facility operations. We strongly support the continued examination and consideration of these impacts and potential mitigation strategies, in accordance with the FAA guidelines.
Jennifer Solomon
November 4, 2019
Page 2 of 2

We hope that through the review process required by law for airport improvement projects that the airport and community can find common ground for appropriate mitigation strategies that allow for continued success of the TTN and the preservation of the quality-of-life our region’s residents have come to expect.

Sincerely

Barry Seymour
Executive Director

cc. Hon. Diane Ellis-Marseglia, Bucks County Commissioner
Hon. Valerie Arkoosh, Montgomery County Commissioner
Leslie Floyd, Mercer County Planning Director