



Boulder Municipal Airport Community Conversation One-on-One Interview Summary

This interview summary is a high-level overview of the perspectives, comments and recommendations the project team heard and documented in our one-on-one interviews. This summary is a snapshot of feedback to consider as part of the project. As a member of the CWG, you are encouraged to consider perspectives that may differ from your own and be prepared to discuss your lived experiences and perspectives at the first CWG meeting.

- Understand what options the city will and will not consider
 - Close the airport
 - Repurpose the airport
 - Improve airport facilities and community relations
- Further restrictions beyond today's voluntary noise procedures
 - Engage congressional delegations given similar themed proposed legislation
 - Enhance flight tracking software capabilities
 - Update rules, regulations, and leasing policies to incentivize compliance with the noise program
- Noise abatement procedures are stricter at Boulder than most airports
 - Is the noise of a plane louder than other environmental factors? (cars, lawn mowers etc)
- Airport noise impacts the wildlife and environment surrounding Boulder
- Greater citizen involvement and accountability through restructured governance
 - Citizen board with biannual updates to City Council
 - Airport expenses better delineated in the transportation budget
 - Provide web-based real time flight data
- Remove leaded fuel from BDU
 - Concern about flight traffic over schools and recreation areas
 - Residents have reported finding lead in the soil in their homes
 - Impact on overall air quality
- Enhance safety, reduce risks, implement a Traffic Management Program for use of runways:
 - Introduce traffic pattern modifications
 - Evaluate touch and go activity
 - Enforcement for individuals/companies who deactivate collision avoidance systems
- Update Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures at the airport
 - Technical Noise Committee made up of airport tenants to address community complaints and buy-in



- Improve signage at the airport to educate departing pilots on noise abatement procedures
- Communicate to the public the steps the group is taking to address noise complaints
- Landing fees for non-based aircraft to recoup facility operation and maintenance expenses:
 - Implement technology solutions
- Implement rules, regulations, and leasing policies for tenant accountability
 - Tenants need to understand long term plan for airport
- Airport repurposing or alternative uses, or access restrictions:
 - Economic benefit and cost of having an airport versus other potential uses requires additional study, outside of the scope of this process.
- Reduce from two to one runway:
 - Only allow FAA compliant runways
- Prioritize new technology at Boulder airport
 - Electric aircraft
 - Self-launching gliders
 - Urban air mobility
- FAA Rules and regulations
 - FAA does not enforce liability insurance rules
- Improve community involvement and perception
 - Community movie nights
 - Open a restaurant or café
 - Airport supports crucial environmental research, brings grant funding to Boulder
 - Airport operations support innovation
 - Share ways tenants are improving and abiding by Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures
 - Pilots and tenants need to be good neighbors, but community members should strive to understand the role of the airport
- Increase investment in the airport
 - Change lease structure so business can invest in new hangars and facilities
 - Update building code to enable tenants to develop hangars without facility requirements of storage units
 - Support the development of new hangars
 - Improve FBO facilities to improve reputation and service
- Training facilities are crucial to the industry
 - New pilot training support nationwide aviation
 - Youth outreach provides access to those who might not otherwise



- Training operations are the cornerstone of some airport tenant's businesses
- Tow planes and glider operations
 - Safety concerns about gliders sharing airspace with motorized aircraft
 - Tow planes are noisy and tend to fly over residences
- Privacy and retaliation
 - Tenants concerned that citizens have access to their personal information through noise complaints
 - Citizens are concerned with pilots and airport users retaliating against them
- Airport closure will endanger scientific research based at Boulder
 - Some research operations are deeply tied to the airport and cannot easily move
 - Even if the operation moved to a different airport, all research is calibrated for Boulder – aircrafts may come back and fly over for calibration flights
 - Boulder is a hub for scientific research and innovation and research, these operations support it
 - Research operations receiving federal grants have strict internal noise abatement procedures
- BDU needs to be a better neighbor
 - Some pilots and users live in neighborhood adjacent to the airport
 - Adhering to voluntary noise abatement procedures is important some users and pilots
- There are land use and city planning conflicts
 - Density is increasing in areas around the airport, increasing the numbers of people impacted by the airport
 - Schools were approved to operate near the airport and are impacted by noise and other environmental factors
 - The city has affordable housing goals to meet
- Housing is a pressing issue in the city
 - Growth in areas around the airport is increasing the numbers of individuals impacted
 - Affordable housing is needed in Boulder and the airport site is an interesting opportunity for meeting those needs
- Inflammatory individuals worsen complaints and relations
 - "Noise crusaders" who would like to see the airport close
 - A handful of cities file repeated complaints
 - Quiet skies group organize online to file complaints
 - One tenant has been identified as a root cause of the problems by several people at the airport