Boulder Municipal Airport Community Conversation: San Lazaro and Vista Village Bilingual Community Meetings

Meeting 2 Summary
August 22, 2023 and August 29, 2023

Table of Contents

Boulder Municipal Airport Community Conversation

Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of the bilingual community meetings was to share updates on the Airport Community Conversation project, share the four long-term scenarios that have been developed, and share the list of near-term action items. The purpose was to seek feedback on these community-informed items.

The intention was to collaborate with both Spanish speaking and English speaking community members at Vista Village and San Lazaro, two manufactured home communities that are located adjacent to the Boulder Municipal Airport. They city's Communications and Engagement Department and the Transportation and Mobility Department worked to provide an inclusive environment by providing simultaneous interpretation services, a bilingual facilitator, childcare services, and collaboration with community leads.

San Lazaro and Vista Village Meeting Details

Meeting information

- Vista Village: August 22, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00pm
  - 34 adult attendees + children
  - English first presentation with Spanish interpretation
- San Lazaro: August 29, 2023, 6:00 – 8:00pm
  - 50 adult attendees + children
  - Spanish first presentation with English interpretation

Project Team Attendees and Support

- Angela Maria Ortiz Roa (City of Boulder)
- Manuela Sifuentes (City of Boulder)
- Allison Moore-Farrell (City of Boulder)
- John Kinney (City of Boulder)
- Dylan Swanson (City of Boulder)
- Leticia Abajo Torrijos (Consultant)
- Danielle Furuichi (Consultant)

Meeting Notifications

- Bilingual flyers distributed at Vista Village and San Lazaro
- Bilingual email invite to residents
- Verbal and email invitations from Community Connectors, Community Leaders and partners

Meeting Notes

Long-Term Scenario and Near-Term Action Item Feedback

- Scenario 1
    - Concern expressed about the low number of people that currently use the airport (approximately 200 people).
- Scenario 2
    - Concern about need for expanded airport when multiple general aviation airports are already nearby.
    - Concern about noise increases.
- Scenario 3
    - If this scenario is chosen, please work to make the new community resources free or affordable for nearby neighborhoods.
    - Concern about noise increases.
- Scenario 4
    - Concern about vehicle traffic on Airport Road or Independence Road if land uses change.
    - Concern about displacement if land uses change.
    - If this scenario is chosen, please work to make the new community resources free or affordable for nearby neighborhoods.
- Near-Term Action Items Feedback
    - Limit the days/hours that pilots fly.
    - Reduce the noise from aircraft.
    - Transition away from using lead fuel.

Meeting Questions

- Does funding from the airport come from the city's general fund?
    - No.
- What days and hours is the airport open?
    - The airport is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Can the city limit the days/hours that pilots fly? Specifically, can they avoid flying on Sunday mornings?
    - No, the city cannot restrict flying hours. However, the city can inform pilots of days/hours that are very impactful on the neighboring communities.
- How necessary is the airport?
    - The airport provides business, private, and recreational services and sometimes serves as a location for emergency aviation services.
- Can an airport tour for Vista Village and San Lazaro be organized?
    - City staff will work with Vista Village and San Lazaro on a future bilingual airport tour.
- Will there be more flights in any of the scenarios?
    - Scenario 2 and 3 may lead to increased flights.
- If there are more flights, will the community benefit?
    - There would likely be both advantages and disadvantages for each scenario, including the scenarios that could lead to more flights.
- Who responds to noise, pollution, and safety issues?
    - Airport city staff respond to these issues.
- What businesses are at the airport?
    - Current businesses at the airport include flight schools, scientific research, aircraft maintenance, and others.
- How will the growth of the airport impact Vista Village and San Lazaro?
    - There would likely be both advantages and disadvantages for each scenario.
- How important is Boulder Airport given that there are multiple general aviation airports nearby? (Rocky Mountain Metropolitan, Longmont, Erie, etc)
    - The Boulder airport serves the needs of the local aviation community.
- Would the airport move elsewhere?
    - No, that was not an idea widely raised by community members.
- If housing were to replace the airport, who would that housing be built for? Would it be affordable housing?
    - Future housing in Boulder is intended to be mixed income – this would include affordable housing and market rate housing.
- Would there be increased vehicle traffic along Airport Road if Scenarios 3 or 4 were chosen?
    - With an increase in activity and a variety of land uses, there would likely be more vehicle traffic.

Noise Complaints

To file airport-related noise complaints, please call (303) 441-4000. This number will take you to a voicemail in English. We are working on additional languages. You may leave a message in English or Spanish. When calling, please provide:

- The date and time of the incident

- If known, the direction of the aircraft (for example: to or away from the airport)

You can find additional information about airport noise complaints on this webpage: https://bouldercolorado.gov/services/aircraft-noise

Next Steps

The project team will bring the community's feedback on the long-term scenarios and the near-term action items to City Council in early 2024. The team will ask for Council's direction on how to move forward.

For more information, please visit the City of Boulder Airport Community Conversation website:

English: https://bouldercolorado.gov/projects/airport-community-conversation

Spanish: https://bouldercolorado.gov/es/projects/airport-community-conversation

If you have additional comments or questions, please contact:

Allison Moore-Farrell, Project Manager

moorefarrella@bouldercolorado.gov

John Kinney, Airport Manager

kinneyj@bouldercolorado.gov

You may send your email or message in your preferred language (English or Spanish) and we will ensure that it is translated.

Thank you!