

Memorandum

To: Sean Scanlon, Tweed Airport

Date: March 15, 2021

From: Ron Gautreau, FHI Studio

Subject: **Tweed Airport Master Plan Update
Public Meeting #4
Summary of March 10, 2021 meeting**

The fourth, and final, public meeting for the Tweed-New Haven Airport (HVN or the Airport) Airport Master Plan Update (AMPU) was conducted from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM on March 10, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19. The Public Meeting was attended by members of the community along with several members of the project team and HVN staff.

Sean Scanlon, Executive Director of Tweed-New Haven Airport, welcomed attendees and stated that although this is the final public meeting for the AMPU the dialogue will continue during the subsequent phases of the process. Mr. Scanlon stated that the goal of the meeting is to provide information on what is in the final version of the AMPU and receive feedback from the public. Mr. Scanlon introduced Ryan Walsh with FHI Studio as moderator for the meeting. Mr. Walsh went over the general organization of the virtual meeting and the logistics of interacting with Zoom. Mr. Walsh then introduced Jeff Wood, with McFarland Johnson (MJ).

Mr. Wood presented the status of the master plan process. He then introduced the key issues and goals: 1) Runway 2-20 length, 2) terminal area improvements, and 3) future of Runway 14-32. The recommended runway and taxiway preferred alternative and recommended terminal alternative was presented followed by the recommended general aviation alternative and landside alternatives. An overview of the ALP sheet set was then discussed. Mr. Wood presented the existing and proposed obstruction overview. Ms. Kate Larson (HMMH) then provided a discussion on noise including the day/night average (DNL) model, aircraft noise modeling, modeled runway use, and existing and proposed DNL noise contours. Mr. Wood then presented the next steps and steps after the AMPU including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Lastly, Mr. Wood discussed how comments and questions on the AMPU can be submitted and that the presentation can be viewed on the AMPU website.

Mr. Wood then invited members of the public to ask questions or share comments related to the presentation. A summary of these questions and comments posed are provided below:

- Save the Sound New Haven commented that the entire area is marshland and is in the floodplain. Can the environmental impact studies that have been done be described and how does the proposed infrastructure be adapted for sea level rise in the long term? Mr. Scanlon responded that the questions, as well as other topics, will be addressed in the NEPA phase of the project.
- A community member asked how much of the funding will come from tax dollars as well as how much will Yale invest? Mr. Scanlon responded that the runway itself will primarily be funded by the FAA and the terminal will most likely be funded by a private investor.

- An East Haven resident and member of the East Haven Economic Development Commission asked what is the projected airport terminal passenger capacity? Mr. Wood responded that the terminal sizing is based on the forecasted number of enplanements. The resident stated that there could be up to 300 passengers per hour from two planes. The member also had a question regarding the runway length that Mr. Wood responded to. The member stated that he has doubts about the validity of the post-covid forecasted numbers. Mr. Scanlon responded that there is no doubt that projected numbers have been impacted by covid, but he believes the numbers presented in the AMPU are valid.
- A community member asked if there is information on the number of aircraft taking off daily and the travel path of the aircraft? Mr. Wood displayed the slide with the approved forecasts and went over the anticipated usage. He stated that the aircraft travel paths would be relatively similar to the current travel paths.
- A community member asked a question about the process. Specifically, based on the input of community members are there going to be revisions to part three of the AMPU? Mr. Wood responded that the forecasts have been approved and there is no reason to go back and change the forecasts. He also said that the approved forecasts are in line with the FAA on the topic.
- A community member stated that on some previous slides Bradley was placed where Brainard is which may raise questions about the accuracy of the numbers. Mr. Scanlon responded that the public feedback is taken very seriously. The process for the AMPU is signed off by the FAA. Mr. Wood also responded that the figure where the airport locations were not depicted correctly will be revised. Laura Canham (MJ) added that the FAA reviews the forecast numbers and if there isn't sufficient demand, they will not fund the project.
- A community member asked will the construction of the new terminal require mowing new areas. Mr. Wood responded that the new improvements were kept within currently mowed areas that would be converted to pavement so he anticipates that there would be less total area mowed.
- A community member asked if there is information on noise along the shoreline in Branford (where they live), and will there be an increase in small jets? Ms. Larson responded that noise is modeled away from the airport along the flight path. When the DNL is about 50 dB the community noise takes over and it is difficult to predict the aircraft noise where it is drowned out by other sounds. Ms. Larson also stated that number of jets is anticipated to go from 8 per day to approximately 11 per day.
- A community member quoted Mr. Scanlon from the New Haven Register that Tweed won't be successful unless New Haven is successful. They suggested that the tax burden of Tweed should be spread over Branford and Guilford. Mr. Scanlon responded that everything he said in the New Haven Register article is still true. He also stated that New Haven would like to see the annual subsidy to the Airport gone. Mr. Scanlon stated he believes that the Airport can be financially independent.
- A community member asked what is the timeline for the next steps outlined? Mr. Wood responded that early approvals on the AMPU would be completed by early summer, that the

Environmental Assessment (EA) will kick off fairly quickly after that. Mr. Wood also stated that there is new rule that EA's must be completed within a year.

- A community member asked what the red and blue areas on the noise contours represent. Their home is at the end of Dodge Avenue. Ms. Larson responded that according to federal regulations homes that are inside the 65 dB contour are required to have noise abatement measures installed. Mr. Scanlon also provided a summary of the status of the noise mitigation program that was paused due to covid. Mr. Scanlon stated that Tweed supports "block rounding" so that neighbors that are close to, but not within, the 65 dB noise contour are also eligible for the noise mitigation measures. Mr. Wood added that noise and air quality will be further studied in the EA.
- A community member thanked Mr. Scanlon for the financial data he sent them. The community member questioned the projections considering COVID. They also pointed out that there are current traffic issues at I-95, Exit 52 and local roadways to the airport. They asked what are the benefits to East Haven? Mr. Scanlon responded that traffic and economic issues will be studied as part of the EA. Mr. Wood responded that the AMPU was primarily focused on what is happening "inside the fence" while the EA will also look at things "outside the fence".
- A community member asked how many minutes does each person get to comment? Mr. Walsh responded that there is no limit and that the team is there to listen to and answer the community members questions as long as they wish.
- A community member asked if the Airport owns the land where the terminal is to be built? Mr. Scanlon responded that the City of New Haven owns the land.
- A community member requested that Mr. Scanlon clarify what the East Haven Mayor said about the terminal plan. Mr. Scanlon responded that the East Haven Mayor always speaks his mind to him, and he respects his opinion but did not provide the specifics of his conversations with the East Haven Mayor.
- A community member asked how will the emissions from the jets be addressed as well as the lead in the fuel for piston aircraft? Mr. Wood responded that air quality is one of the topics that will be addressed in the EA.
- A community member asked do you have a number for 2020. Mr. Wood assumed that the question was about the number of enplanements. Mr. Wood stated that they will email the commentor the answer. Subsequently, Ms. Canham responded with the enplanement numbers, which are about 11,400 enplanements compared to the 13,000 that were forecast assuming a full year of flights had occurred.
- A community member stated that they hope to see an expanded Tweed in the coming years. Mr. Scanlon responded that he believes in the New Haven region and the success of the Airport is important to New Haven's success.
- Another commentor stated "let's make Tweed happen".
- Another commentor asked what additional upgrades will be needed in surrounding neighborhoods such as glide scope indicators, air navigation and obstruction lighting. Mr. Wood

responded that trees are always a concern. The longer-term plan calls for additional navigation lighting on the south side of the neighborhood.

- A community member asked how many hours a year is the Airport closed during a bad weather event? How many times have scheduled planes not been able to land? Mr. Scanlon responded that they strive to be open all the time. Mr. Wood responded that he does not know the exact number. Mr. Scanlon responded that the overarching issue is to be able to have planes that can travel farther which will require a longer runway. Mr. Wood also responded that the runway extension will allow for non-stop flights to Florida.
- A community member asked whether Yale has indicated they would provide a monetary investment in the Airport? Mr. Scanlon responded that Yale has not committed to a monetary investment. He also stated that there is broad support for the Airport expansion in the New Haven community.
- A commenter asked if the Airport is going to be renamed? Mr. Scanlon stated there are no plans to rename the Airport.
- A commentor asked if the emissions from ships in New Haven Harbor and on I-95 be taken into account in the Airport expansion. Mr. Wood responded that air quality would be addressed in the EA.
- A commentor asked how will the community be able to have input in to the EA process? Mr. Scanlon responded that the community would have an opportunity to provide input to the FAA EA. Public involvement is part of the EA process.
- A commentor asked if there is an update on new carriers coming to the Airport? Mr. Scanlon responded that he receives inquiries all the time from new carriers but nothing to share this evening.

Mr. Scanlon concluded by thanking everyone who came out for the evening and provided his cell phone number and email address for anyone who had additional questions. The project email address was also displayed on the screen. Mr. Scanlon stated that this is the end of the AMPU process but there will be additional opportunities for public engagement during the EA process. Mr. Scanlon also thanked the elected officials on the meeting.