

DRAFT
ROUNDTABLE STRATEGIC PLAN

November 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

Presented to and adopted by the Roundtable on October 7, 2015

ORGANIZATION OF THIS STRATEGIC PLAN

This Strategic Plan is organized as follows:

- Introduction
- Background/History
- Opportunistic Strategy
- Guiding Principles
- Mission Statement
- Goals, Action Items, Resources, and Desired Results
- Strategic Plan Amendment Process
- Appendices: Roundtable Bylaws and Memorandum of Understanding

INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the Roundtable adopted its first Strategic Plan to better serve its membership and provide long-term goals and vision. As a part of its ongoing mission to serve the residents living in the Roundtable communities (County of San Mateo and the City and County of San Francisco) affected by noise from aircraft operating to and from SFO, the Roundtable embarked on a strategic planning process in early 2010 with a goal of developing a Strategic Plan that would guide the Roundtable actions over the next three years. The Roundtable appointed a Strategic Planning Subcommittee to carry out the strategic planning process and to bring a recommended Strategic Plan back to the full Roundtable for its consideration and adoption.

This Strategic Plan represents the work product of the Subcommittee and is the Strategic Plan that was approved by the full Roundtable at its December 2, 2015 Regular Roundtable meeting; this strategic plan is in place today and serves as the basis for future Strategic Plan iterations. This Strategic Plan will guide the Roundtable's actions for the next three years.

Recognizing that the Roundtable needs to respond to changing conditions over time, there are provisions within the Strategic Plan that allow for its revision prior to 2018. In fact, the Strategic Plan update process will begin a year in advance of the expiration of the Plan or sooner if needed. Until that time, the Roundtable will rely on the guidance provided by the Strategic Plan to develop its annual Work Program, prioritize its activities, and guide its efforts to work with SFO, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the airlines to respond to community concerns and to minimize the impact of aircraft noise on Roundtable member communities.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The Airport/Community Roundtable was established in 1981 as a voluntary committee of elected officials to address community noise impacts from aircraft operations at SFO. The Roundtable monitors a performance-based noise mitigation program implemented by airport staff, interprets community concerns and attempts to achieve noise mitigation

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through a cooperative sharing of authority among the aviation industry, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), SFO management and local government.

The authority to control aircraft in flight and on the ground is vested exclusively in the FAA. The FAA, however, cannot control the number of flights or the time of day aircraft operate. Federal law preempts any local government agency from implementing any action that is intended to control the routes of aircraft in flight. Neither the Roundtable, local elected officials nor airport management can control the routes of aircraft in flight or on the ground.

OPPORTUNISTIC STRATEGY

The Roundtable has adopted a three-year strategic plan that incorporates an “Opportunistic Strategy”. This strategy operates on the principle that the Roundtable will use positive, constructive methods to advance its goals and mission.

Under this strategy, the Roundtable will continue to receive reports on its various programs such as the Fly Quiet Program; receive updates on regional aviation planning activities; and determine and present the annual Fly Quiet Program Awards.

The Roundtable will also take advantage of opportunities to respond to proposed federal or state legislative actions related to aircraft noise or land use compatibility. This level of activity may include actively tracking and responding to proposed aircraft noise legislation by writing letters in support of or against proposed legislation. This strategy will also include the active promotion of aircraft noise reduction technologies or compatible land use planning initiatives by participating in research vehicles such as the Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) or providing written support of technology programs designed to reduce aircraft noise. Under this approach, the Roundtable may prepare and submit project statements and/or participate in a relevant ACRP project panel.¹

This strategy allows the Roundtable to continue with its historical monitoring of SFO’s noise abatement programs, while responding to aircraft noise and land use compatibility legislation on an ad hoc basis, which gives the Roundtable a greater voice in these matters. In addition, actively supporting technology programs designed to reduce aircraft noise and ACRP’s research efforts will benefit future generations living in Roundtable communities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following guiding principles define the manner in which the Roundtable will conduct business over the next three-year period:

¹ ACRP Panel members provide technical guidance, review work product, and approve guidance documents for release to the public.

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1. The Roundtable is the preeminent forum for addressing and resolving community concerns related to noise from aircraft operating to and from San Francisco International Airport.
2. The Roundtable fosters and enhances cooperation between the San Francisco International Airport, noise-impacted communities, the federal government, and the airlines with the purpose of developing, evaluating, and implementing reasonable and feasible policies, procedures, and mitigation actions that will further reduce aircraft noise exposure in neighborhoods and communities in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.
3. The Roundtable members, as a group, when considering and taking actions to mitigate noise, will not knowingly or deliberately support, encourage, or adopt actions, rules, regulations or policies, that result in the “shifting” of aircraft noise from one community to another, when related to aircraft operations at San Francisco International Airport.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Roundtable’s mission is to continue to address and resolve community concerns related to SFO aircraft noise, to monitor aircraft operations and conduct airline outreach, to monitor SFO’s aircraft noise abatement programs, to respond to and support aircraft noise related legislation and programs, and to support research that reduces aircraft noise exposure and promotes compatible land use planning for those communities within the members’ jurisdictions.

GOALS, ACTION ITEMS, RESOURCES, AND DESIRED RESULTS

The following goals are listed in priority order, but may be adjusted as needed over time to reflect the community’s needs:

Goal No. 1 – Aircraft Procedures: The Roundtable will focus on aircraft arrival and departure procedures. The focus includes multiple facets: monitor adherence to existing procedures (standard and noise abatement); work with SFO Airport Noise Abatement Office (SFO ANAO) to monitor and develop noise abatement procedures; and work with FAA and airlines to advance the goal of noise reduction.

Action item: The Roundtable will monitor aircraft adherence to procedures and provide support to the SFO ANAO for outreach to airlines and FAA.

Resources: No additional resources beyond Roundtable Staff time required.

Desired results: The ongoing utilization of noise abatement procedures and when able, development of noise abatement procedures.

Goal No. 2 – Airline Outreach: The Roundtable will conduct airline outreach and education regarding SFO's aircraft noise abatement program through the Fly Quiet Program and other avenues as needed.

Action item: The Roundtable will continue to communicate positively with the airlines regarding the noise sensitive issues in and around the community.

Resources: No additional resources beyond Roundtable Staff time required.

Desired results: Improved airline awareness to aircraft noise issues in the Roundtable communities.

Goal No. 3 – Support Aircraft Noise Reduction Legislation and Research: The Roundtable will support appropriate aircraft noise reduction legislation and research.

Action item: The Roundtable will actively review, monitor, and support, when appropriate, research, legislation, and aircraft noise reduction programs.

Resources: No additional resources beyond Roundtable Staff time required.

Desired results: Continued reduction aircraft noise levels.

Goal No. 4 – Address Community Concerns: The Roundtable will remain the forum for addressing community concerns regarding noise from aircraft operating to and from SFO affecting its membership. The Roundtable will remain focused on its membership, including the cities within San Mateo County, San Mateo County, and the City and County of San Francisco. While the Roundtable operates to serve those within its membership, it continues to be sensitive and inclusive of noise concerns from operations at SFO beyond its members to the bay area region.

Action item: The Roundtable will continue to actively respond to community concerns regarding aircraft noise issues and provide education opportunities for the bay area and Roundtable membership to learn about airport operations, aircraft noise, and air traffic procedures.

Resources: No additional resources beyond Roundtable Staff time required and budget items for special reports, studies, or professional services.

Desired results: An informed regional community and Roundtable membership regarding aircraft noise issues at SFO.

STRATEGIC PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS

This Strategic Plan is a long-term plan that is intended to guide the Roundtable over a three-year period. Among other things, the Strategic Plan shall be used to guide the development of the Roundtable's annual Work Program. The Work Program can be tailored to respond to short-term needs, while remaining responsive the Roundtable's long-term goals.

There may be circumstances, however, during which conditions change to a point that require an update of the Strategic Plan. In those instances, the Strategic Planning Subcommittee shall be convened to discuss the required changes to Strategic Plan and, when appropriate, shall make recommendations to the full Roundtable regarding the required updates to the Strategic Plan. If the full Roundtable adopts the Subcommittee's recommendations, the Strategic Plan will be amended to reflect those recommendations.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the Strategic Plan shall be updated no less than every three years. The strategic planning process shall commence no less than one year prior to the expiration plan. The Strategic Planning Subcommittee shall be convened to conduct the strategic planning process and present a recommended Strategic Plan to the full Roundtable for consideration and adoption.