



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**



# Community Involvement Plan



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# 1. The FAA's Vision and Community Involvement

The FAA's vision: We strive to reach the next level of safety, efficiency, environmental responsibility and global leadership. We are accountable to the American public and our stakeholders.

The FAA's Air Traffic Organization (ATO), as part of its accountability to the American public and stakeholders, recognizes the importance of developing and maintaining a strong strategy for supporting and promoting community involvement. This strategy should:

- Build public trust and understanding
- Implement FAA's environmental (e.g., noise) impact determinations, noise land use guidelines, and environmental mitigation criteria, which are based on the best available scientific evidence and existing policy and regulations (including FAA Order 1050 *Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures* and Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 150 *Airport Noise Compatibility Planning*).
- Reduce the effects of noise effectively and efficiently in balance with other environmental considerations
- Fulfill our mission to deliver national airspace system capacity and efficiency while addressing public concerns attributed to environmental issues

## 1.1 Purpose

A plan for community involvement is necessary in order for the agency to enhance community involvement techniques and more proactively address community questions and needs as Performance Based Navigation (PBN) projects are implemented. Engaging with potentially affected communities and their leaders from the beginning of PBN projects will enable the FAA to be more responsive to communities and their representatives when implementing PBN procedures that are needed to enhance the safety and efficiency of the national airspace system (NAS).

Community expectations have grown with regard to government transparency, responsiveness, and inclusivity in the processes associated with PBN procedure development and implementation. Generally, community and aircraft noise concerns with PBN projects focus on flight paths over new areas and on the concentration of existing flight paths resulting from the accuracy associated with PBN. The air traffic control system is complicated and not easily conveyed to people unfamiliar with aviation. The FAA's challenge is to fulfill its mission to deliver national aerospace system safety and efficiency, while fulfilling our environmental responsibilities under NEPA and other environmental laws, and giving meaningful consideration to community concerns and views as the FAA makes aviation decisions that affect them.

“Community expectations have grown with regard to government transparency, responsiveness, and inclusivity.”

To facilitate meaningful consideration of community concerns, the need has arisen to enhance community involvement for PBN projects by:

- Expanding proactive community involvement activities,
- Selecting the most appropriate resources to engage in community outreach activities,

- Identifying the methods, techniques, and timing for our communication,
- Developing consistent agency messaging for each stakeholder group,
- Communicating technical information and FAA mission in an easily understandable and compelling way, and
- Understanding the political and community concerns of project implementation areas.

## 1.2 Objective Statement

Establish a standard, repeatable process to ensure productive and effective community involvement. While this plan has been developed for PBN-based projects, it may be applied more broadly to non-PBN projects.

## 1.3 A Rich Environment of Community Involvement

The ATO Community Involvement Plan is part of the FAA's larger framework of community involvement efforts. The Plan is drawn directly from the 2016 update to FAA's Community Involvement Manual, which is further based in part on public participation requirements. The elements of this framework will align to provide for comprehensive and robust community involvement. The agency will leverage these initiatives to support the development of a better community involvement approach.

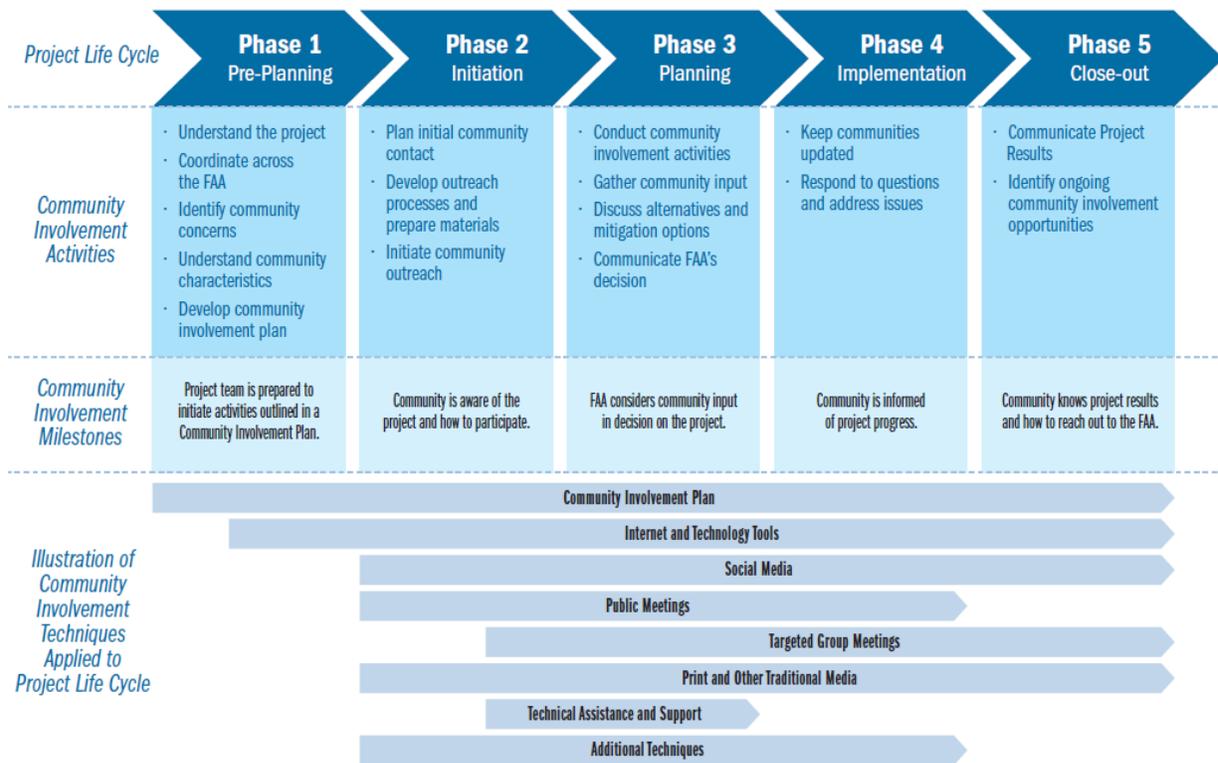
Community involvement requires more than just communication with the public. A comprehensive plan allows the FAA to more effectively engage with public stakeholders, airports, elected officials, community organizations, and industry stakeholders.

# 2. Performance Based Navigation and Community Involvement

Many community concerns today involve PBN procedure projects and reflect increased community sensitivity to potential environmental impacts generally focused on noise. Some of these projects are large and fall into the Metroplex project portfolio, which involve a large geographic area and several airports. Non-Metroplex, single-site implementations are smaller in scale and generally involve only one airport. Single-site implementations are typically less complex than Metroplex projects.

The public involvement conducted by ATO for larger-scale Metroplex projects typically exceeds legal requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Single-site PBN projects often qualify for categorical exclusions. In these cases, community involvement is usually not required by law but may be helpful so that decisions may reflect the collective public interest, receive community acceptance, and experience fewer implementation and post-implementation problems. The FAA recognizes that simply meeting legal requirements will not always meet the community's needs. The agency recognizes that more and varying opportunities for airport and community involvement may be needed in order to fully explore community concerns and communicate any procedural amendments.

For the purposes of this plan, a project life cycle can be broken down into five phases with varying community involvement activities in each phase. These phases are clearly outlined in the FAA's Community Involvement Manual, as seen in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: The Project Lifecycle (Exhibit 10 from the 2016 FAA Community Involvement Manual)**

The phases of a Single-Site or Metroplex project are formalized and roughly align with the phases of a project lifecycle, as seen in Figure 2.

<b>Community Involvement Manual Project Lifecycle Phase</b>	<b>Single-Site or Metroplex Project Phase</b>
Pre-Planning	Study
Initiation	Design and Evaluation
Planning	
Implementation	Implementation
Close-Out	Post-Implementation

**Figure 2: Community Involvement Manual Project Lifecycle Phases compared to Single-site and Metroplex Project Phases**

## 3. Community Involvement Manual Integration into PBN Project Phases

Note that, in all phases, adjustments to elements are based on local conditions and the expectations and needs of local communities, their representatives, and other project stakeholders (e.g., airports).

**Phase 1: Pre-Planning:** This phase correlates with the PBN Study Phase.

During the pre-planning phase, the FAA or another project sponsor defines the proposed project. At this early phase, FAA practitioners can begin to:

- Identify which communities may be affected,
- Identify key community issues and concerns,
- Recognize past or current community interest in aviation,
- Determine whether and how to provide community involvement, and
- Identify the groups and individuals who should be included in any community involvement efforts.

Activities during this phase include:

- 1.1 Understanding the project
- 1.2 Coordinating across the FAA
- 1.3 Identifying community concerns
- 1.4 Understanding community characteristics
- 1.5 Developing a community involvement plan

A community involvement plan serves as an anchor document that identifies community involvement activities and aligns them with the project goals, schedule, and any legal requirements for public participation. The final community involvement plan for each project should include:

- Project description
  - Location
  - Purpose and goals
  - Estimated schedule
- Community concerns and characteristics
  - Key issues
  - Community groups and individuals
  - Community characteristics
  - FAA and airport contacts
- Community involvement activities
  - Scope of community involvement
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Process for initiating contact with communities
  - Communication strategy for engaging with the community, to include:
    - Key messages
    - Materials
    - Website/other media
  - Schedule
  - Resources

- Technical staff
- Tools
- Communications
- Budget

**Milestone:** project team has a developed community involvement plan and is prepared to initiate the outlined activities and communication strategies.

**Phase 2: Initiation and Phase 3: Planning:** These phases align with the PBN project Design and Evaluation Phase.

In the Initiation phase, once the project has received official approval for initiation, the FAA, in coordination with stakeholders such as airport and local government officials, can begin to engage with any identified groups and individuals within the community. The focus in this phase is making interested parties aware of the proposed project and letting them know how they can participate in the process.

Activities during this phase include:

- 2.1 Planning initial contact with the community
- 2.2 Developing outreach processes and preparing materials
- 2.3 Initiating community outreach:
  - The project
  - Timeline and key milestones
  - Key issues and concerns
  - Ways to participate
  - Communication methods

**Milestone:** the community is aware of the project and how to participate.

The Planning phase is the most active phase of community involvement. The FAA's review of the proposed project's impacts under NEPA and other environmental statutes normally occurs during the planning phase. The FAA can provide information and gain a more in-depth understanding of community concerns. Community input is considered in developing and refining project options, analysis, and potential alternatives. At the conclusion of this phase, the FAA makes its decision on whether and how to implement the project.

Activities during this phase include:

- 3.1 Conducting community involvement activities
- 3.2 Gathering community input
- 3.3 Discussing alternatives and mitigation options
- 3.4 Communicating the FAA's decision

**Milestone:** the FAA provides information about the project and gains a more in-depth understanding of community concerns and considers community input in making a decision on the project.

**Phase 4: Implementation:** This phase correlates with the Implementation Phase in the PBN project.

After a decision has been made to go forward with the project, the FAA informs the community of the project start date and progress of implementation. During this phase, the FAA can respond to any further community issues and concerns that may arise.

Activities during this phase include:

4.1 Keeping communities updated:

- Project progress
- Key milestones
- Changes to the project

4.2 Responding to questions and addressing issues

Milestone: the community is informed of project progress and is given opportunities to raise questions and issues for FAA response and consideration.

**Phase 5: Close-out:** This phase correlates with the Post-Implementation Phase in the PBN project.

At the completion of the project, the FAA can provide an FAA contact or identify another mechanism for the community to convey new or ongoing concerns.

Activities during this phase include:

5.1 Communicating project results:

- Identify ongoing community involvement opportunities
- Ongoing community organizations

5.2 Providing contact for Regional Offices

Milestone: the community knows the results of the project and how to reach out to the FAA after project completion.

## 4. Summary

As we carry out our mission to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world, we are accountable to the American public. The views of communities — including local residents, the general public, and stakeholders — are important as we take the next steps to advance the NAS. The FAA is committed to informing and involving the public and to giving meaningful consideration to community concerns and views as it makes aviation decisions that affect them. This PBN Community Involvement Plan establishes a standard, repeatable process to ensure productive and effective community involvement for PBN implementation projects.

“The FAA is committed to informing and involving the public and to giving meaningful consideration to community concerns.”