

# Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) South of Airport Aircraft Noise and Mitigation Study Project Kick-Off Public Workshop



Fairfax County, VA  
*July 17, 2024*



# AGENDA

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# History / Timeline



The Reagan National Community Noise Working Group (DCA CWG) was established in 2015 to enable broad-based community participation to address aircraft noise issues and to identify solutions and recommendations to the FAA.

The CWG has two subcommittees: North of Airport subcommittee and South of Airport subcommittee.

The FAA typically requires regional consensus when considering requests to modify flight procedures. Changes may reduce noise or overflights for some while increasing noise for others. Recommendations proposed by the Design Team will require review and acceptance by CWG and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) prior to submission to the FAA.

In 2020, Vianair was contracted by Arlington and Montgomery Counties to work with the NOA Subcommittee reduce aircraft noise in communities north of DCA. This resulted in a set of recommendations approved by the CWG and forwarded to MWAA for submission to the FAA. Following the success of that effort, the City of Alexandria, Fairfax and Prince George's Counties engaged Vianair to complete a similar effort with the SOA SC on behalf of communities south of DCA.

**CWG Website:** <https://www.flyreagan.com/about-airport/aircraft-noise-information/dca-reagan-national-community-working-group>

# Project Overview – Components



Baseline Assessment



Noise Abatement



Community Outreach  
& Engagement



Advocacy &  
Implementation Support

# Component 1 - Baseline Assessment

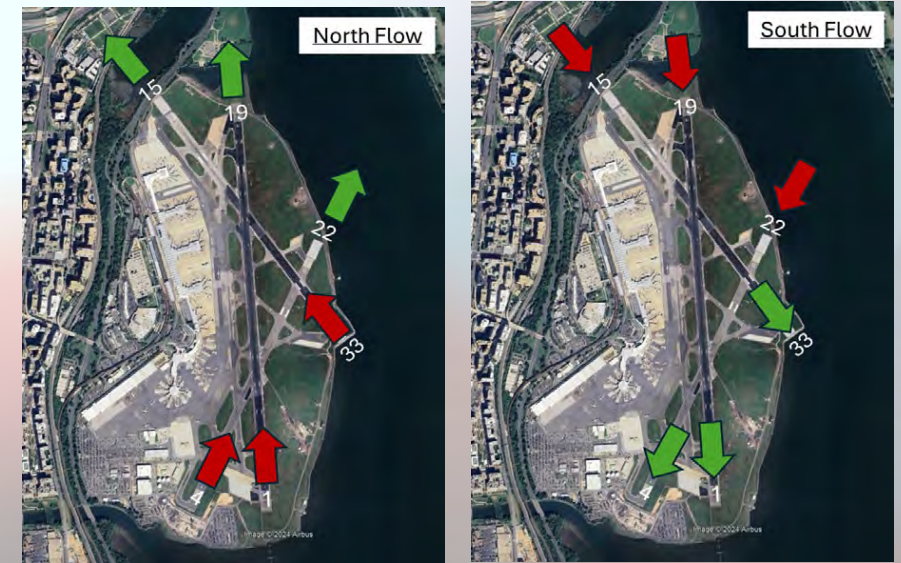
Analysis of DCA flight operations and noise exposure – historical and current.

- South of Airport study area defined as the areas impacted primarily by arrivals to Runways 1 and 33, and departures from Runways 15 and 19.
- City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince George's County.

Identification and characterization of changes that have resulted in increased overflights and aircraft noise exposure in communities south of DCA.

Analyses, to include a review of community input through a review of airport noise complaints, conventional and social media, etc.

*Download the Baseline Report at: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>*



# Component 2 – Noise Abatement



- Established a Design Team to help identify and evaluate flight procedure and operational changes to reduce community noise impacts.
- Develop and evaluate alternatives to reduce community impacts of aircraft noise, consistent with the “Design Philosophy.”
- Make recommendations to the Community Working Group for approval and forwarding to MWAA and the FAA for review and implementation.

# Component 3 – Community Engagement

- Support City of Alexandria/Prince George's County/Fairfax County community engagement efforts.
- Participate in public meetings to keep communities informed and to solicit community input.
- Maintain a dedicated project website: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>
- Launched a Community Engagement Survey to collect input from impacted residents. The survey can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/e/GAnrsCFurn>
- Make presentations and reports available to encourage the public's understanding and to ensure the opportunity for community feedback.

# Component 4 – Advocacy and Implementation



- Engage key industry stakeholders (MWAA, FAA, airlines, etc.) to advocate for recommended operational changes to reduce noise.
- Assist the Steering Committee with engagement of the FAA, MWAA, and the DCA Community Working Group in support of project goals.
- Participate in the FAA's Performance Based Navigation Implementation Process as a subject matter expert and advocate for communities south of DCA.



# Participants and Stakeholders



# Steering Committee



## **Fairfax County**

Corinne Bebek, Senior Planner, Planning Division  
Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development  
Corinne.Bebek@fairfaxcounty.gov | Ph. 703-324-1237

## **Prince George's County**

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon – Associate Director, Department of the Environment (DoE)  
Deborah Patrick – Special Assistant to the Director, DoE

## **City of Alexandria**

Melissa Atwood – Senior Environmental Specialist  
William Skrabak – Deputy Director, Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES)  
Felipe Ip – Acting Environmental Manager, T&ES

# Project Design Team (CWG Representatives)



## **Bob Meier - Fairfax County**

CWG representative, Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee (AAC) member

## **Mike Rioux - Fairfax County**

CWG representative, Fairfax County AAC member

## **Eric Woods - Prince George's County**

CWG representative, Prince George's County – Ft. Washington

## **Bill Parker - Prince George's County**

CWG representative, Prince George's County – Accokeek

## **Travis Ludwig - City of Alexandria**

CWG representative, Captain with United Airlines

## **Norman Leader - City of Alexandria**

CWG representative, Retired Air Traffic Controller



# Design Philosophy<sup>\*</sup>



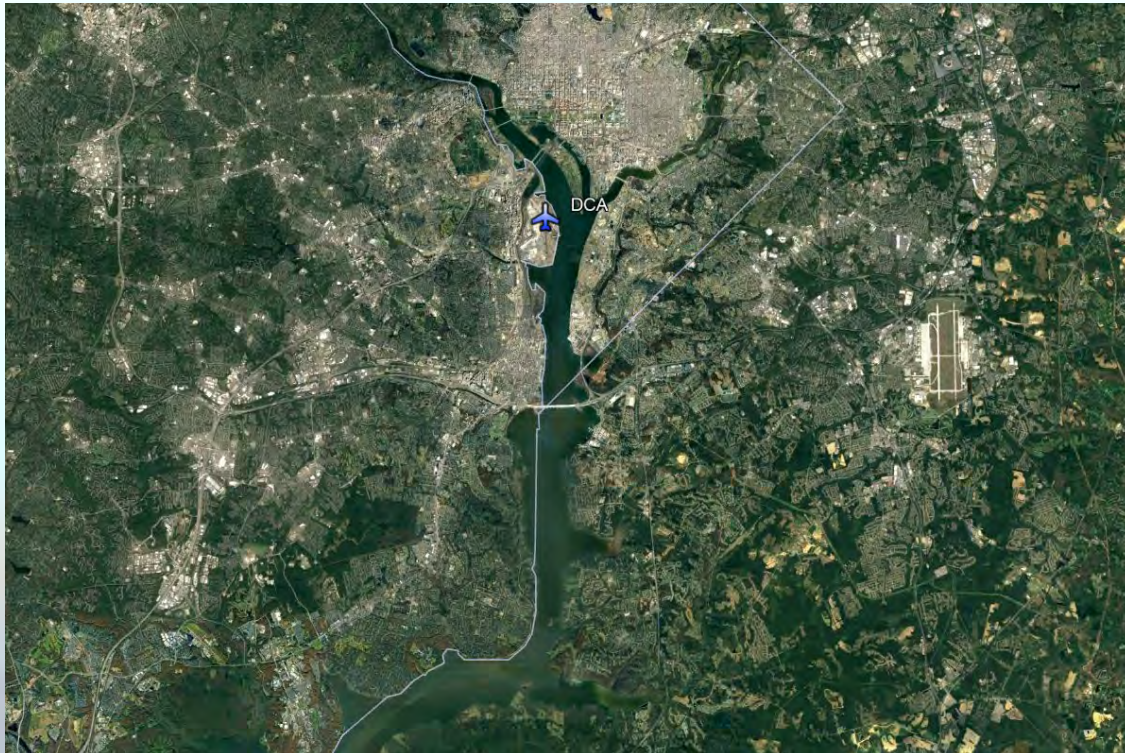
1. Maximize flight paths over the center of the Potomac River and “compatible” areas, including industrial areas, major highways, utility corridors, etc.
2. Maximize altitude – Use Optimized Profile Descent to reduce noise over noise-sensitive areas.
3. Increase track variability – Reduce concentration over noise-sensitive areas.
4. Avoid disproportionate impact to any single entity (county, city, town, neighborhood, etc.).
5. Minimize overhead flights of noise sensitive areas (schools, hospitals, churches, historic sites, etc.).

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<sup>\*</sup>The Design Philosophy will be reviewed against results of the Community Engagement Survey and may be revised as appropriate.

# Baseline Assessment – DCA Overview

General Study Area



Operational Flows



MWAA DCA Aircraft Noise Information: <https://www.flyreagan.com/about-airport/dca-reagan-national-aircraft-noise-information>



# Baseline Assessment – Annual Noise Complaints



**TOTAL ANNUAL NOISE COMPLAINTS**  
*(2013-2023)*



# Baseline Assessment – Annual Operations



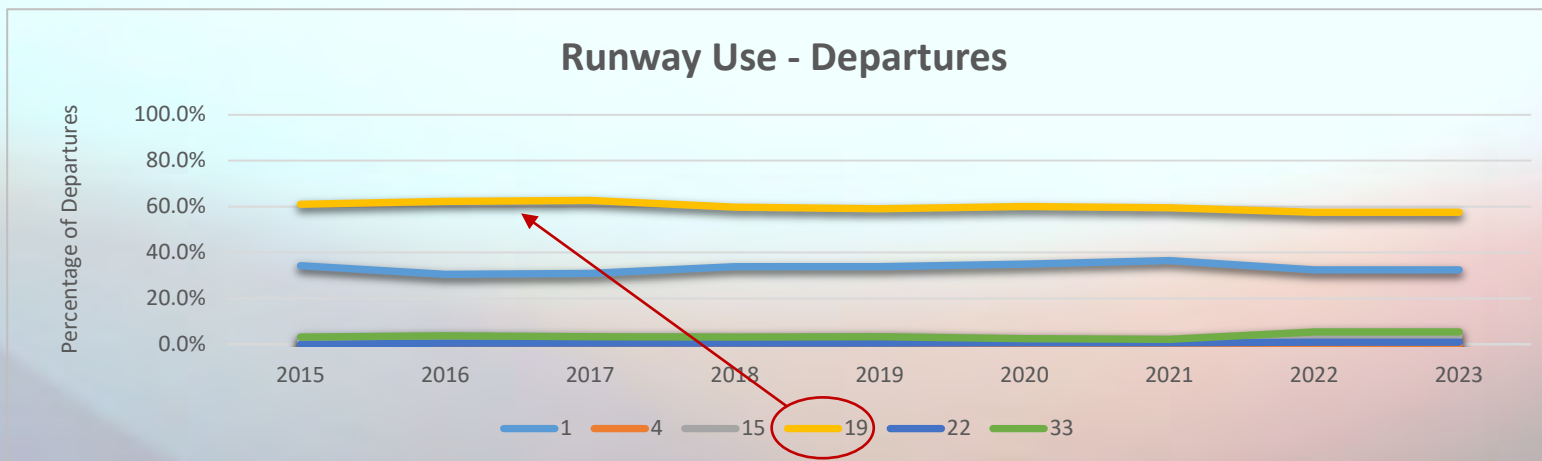
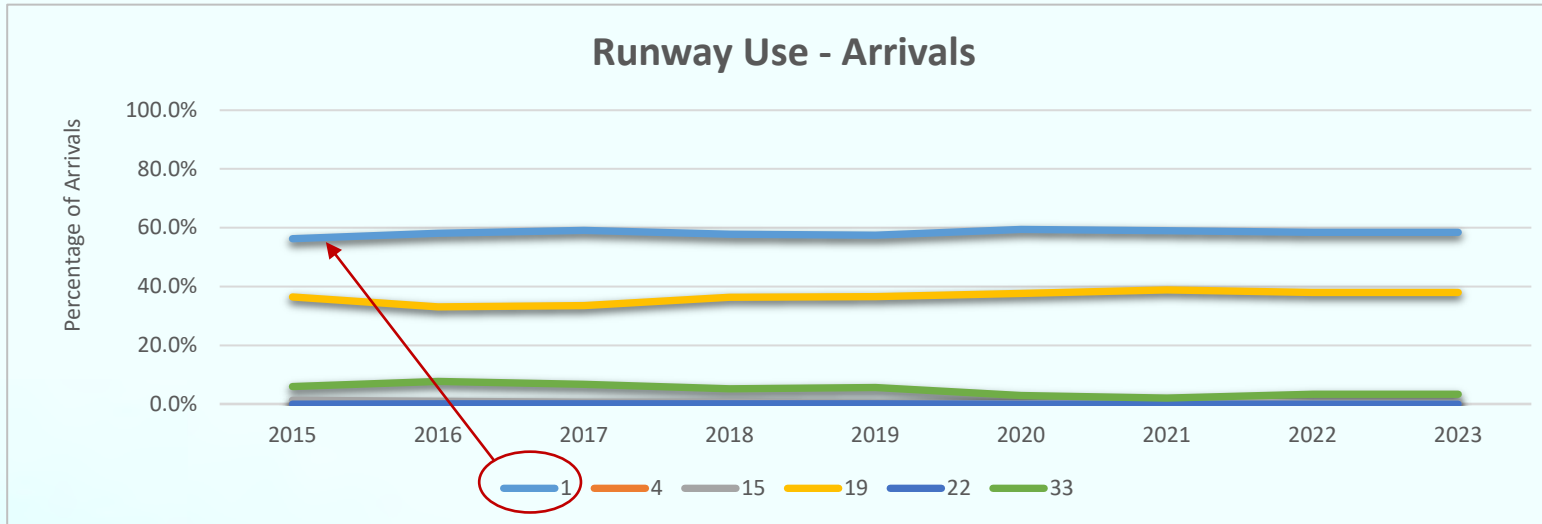
## Total Annual Operations



Data source: MWAA (<https://www.mwaa.com/reagan-air-traffic-statistics>)

COVID Lockdown  
(March 2020)

# Baseline Assessment – Runway Use

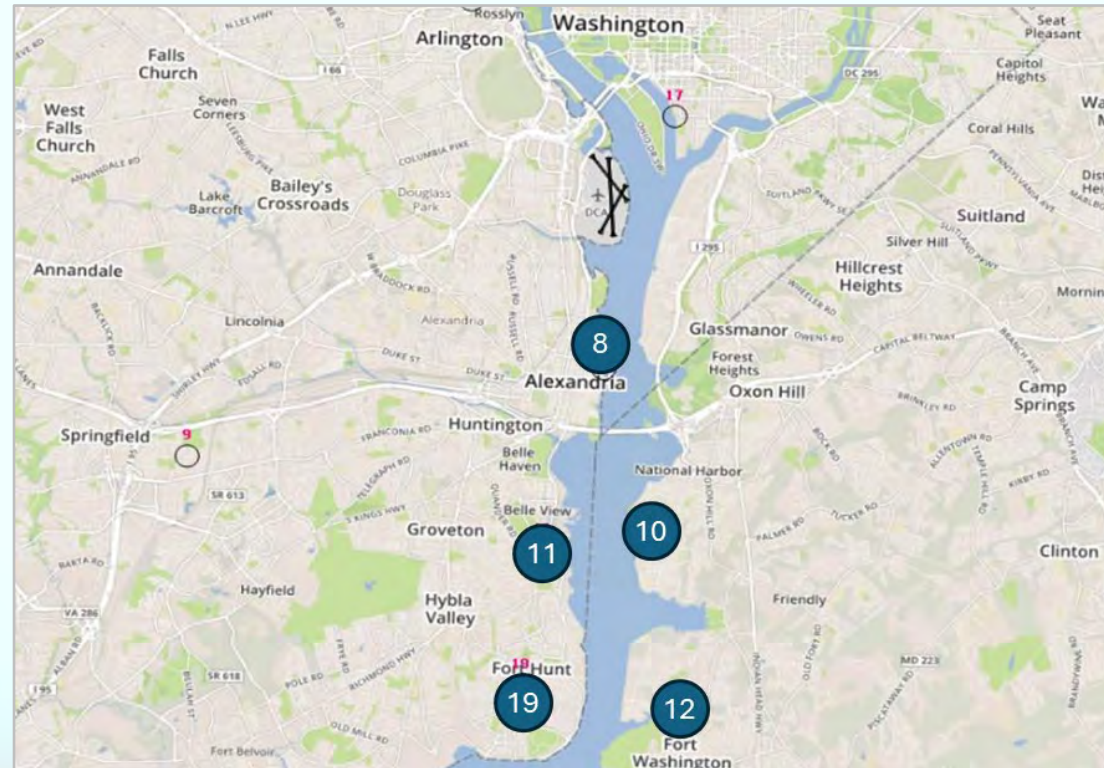


Data source: MWA

Note: Runway usage reporting began with the 2015 Annual Aircraft Noise Report



# Baseline Assessment – Noise Monitors

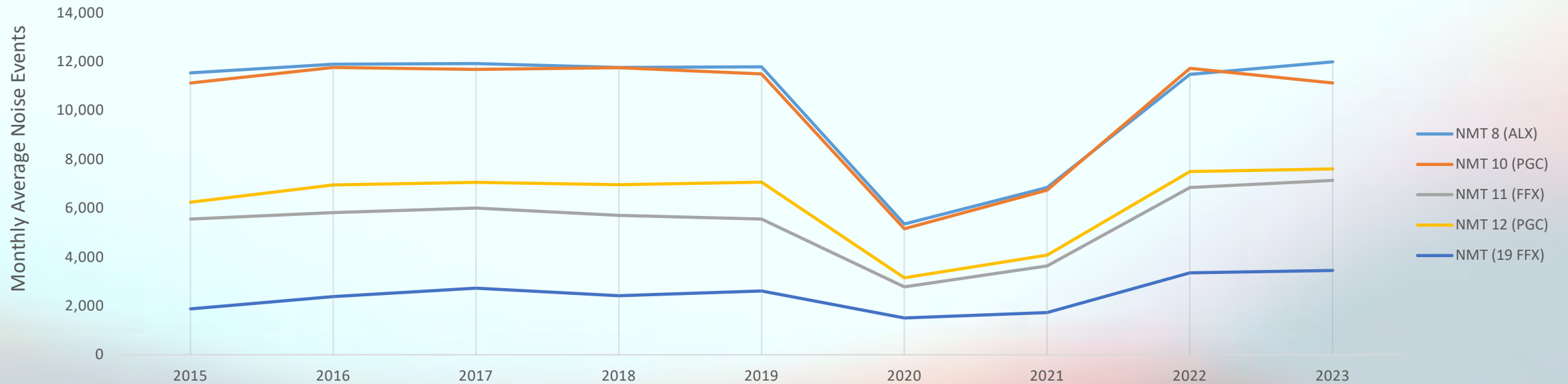


<u>Noise Monitor</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>
8	Old Town	City of Alexandria
10	Fort Foote	Prince George's County
11	Marlan Forest	Fairfax County
12	Tantallon	Prince George's County
19	North Mount Vernon	Fairfax County

# Baseline Assessment – Aircraft Noise Events



Monthly Average Noise Events  
2015-2023



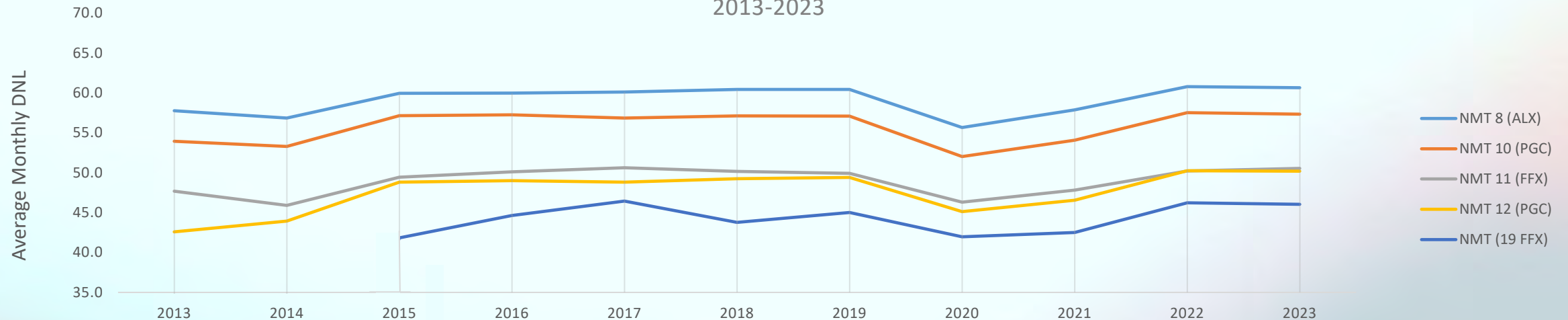
Data source: MWAA

COVID Lockdown  
(March 2020)

# Baseline Assessment – Noise Exposure Level



Average Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL)  
2013-2023



Data source: MWAA

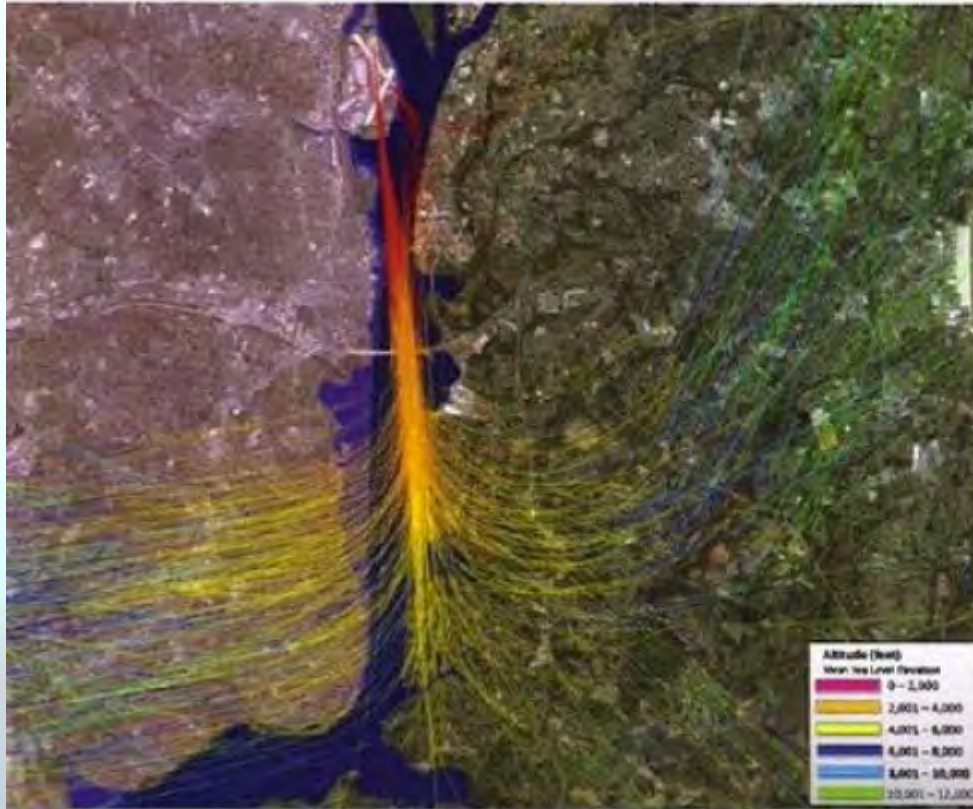
Note: Per MWAA, 2013 and 2014 NMT 19 data was excluded due to technical issues.

COVID Lockdown  
(March 2020)

# Baseline Assessment – Pre/Post Metroplex

*Changes in south-flow departures*

## Pre Metroplex (2011)

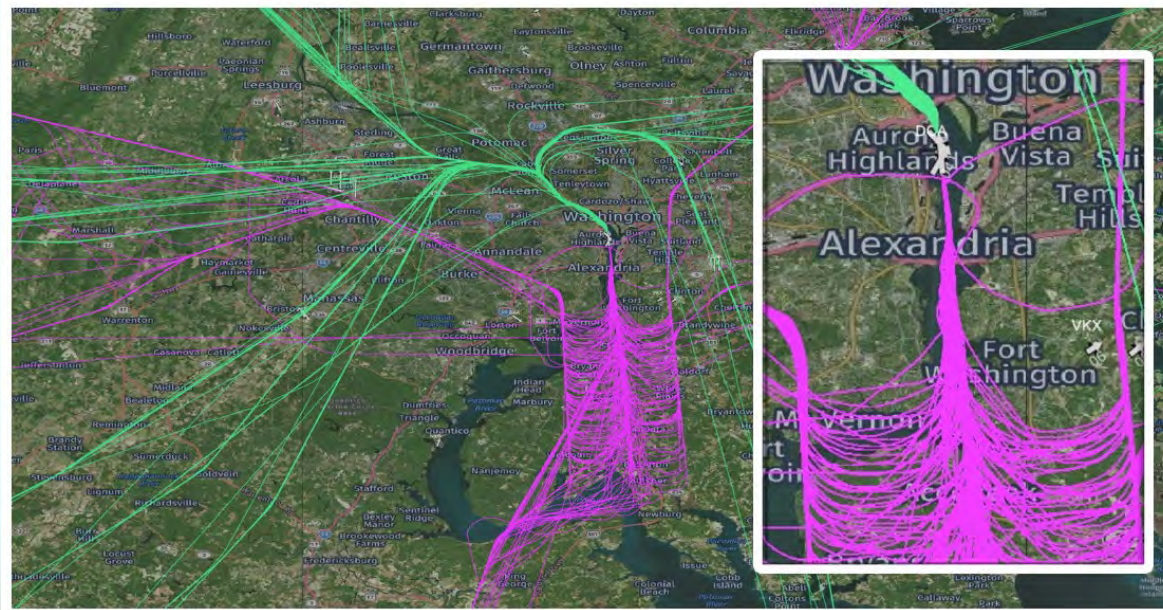


## Post Metroplex (2016)

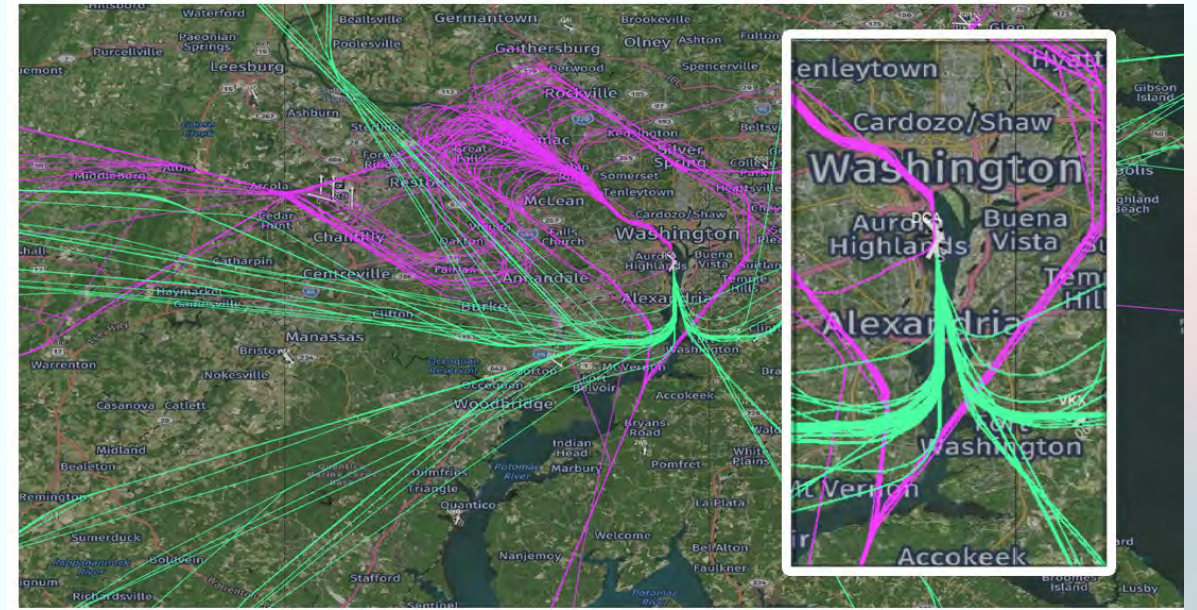


Source: <https://houseofreps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=04b6ea5feb1e4b61b8bb4be439bd882b>

# Baseline Assessment – Flight Paths



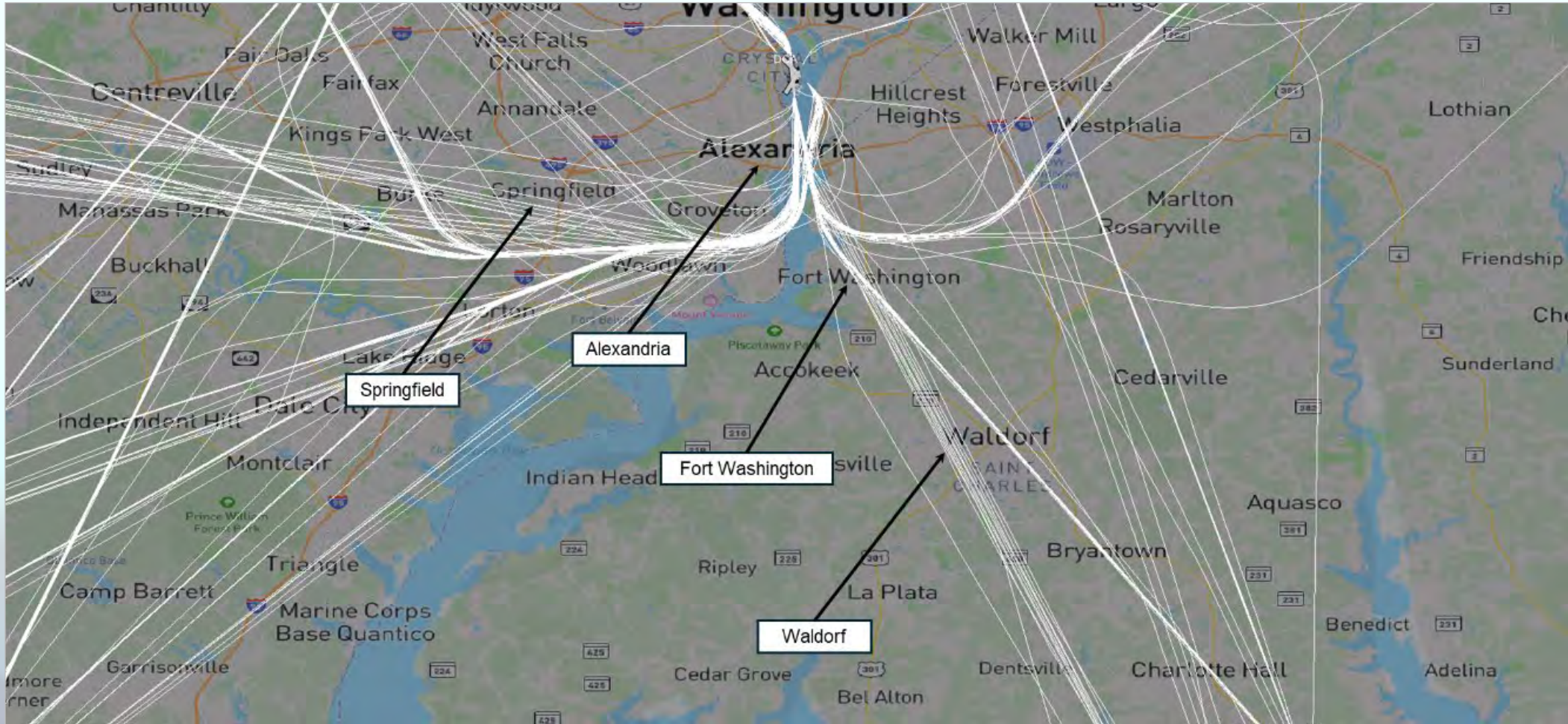
*Sample Day 2023, North-Flow Operations  
Arriving aircraft fly south, overflying communities to the south.*



*Sample Day 2023, South-Flow Operations  
Departing aircraft fly south, overflying communities to the south.*

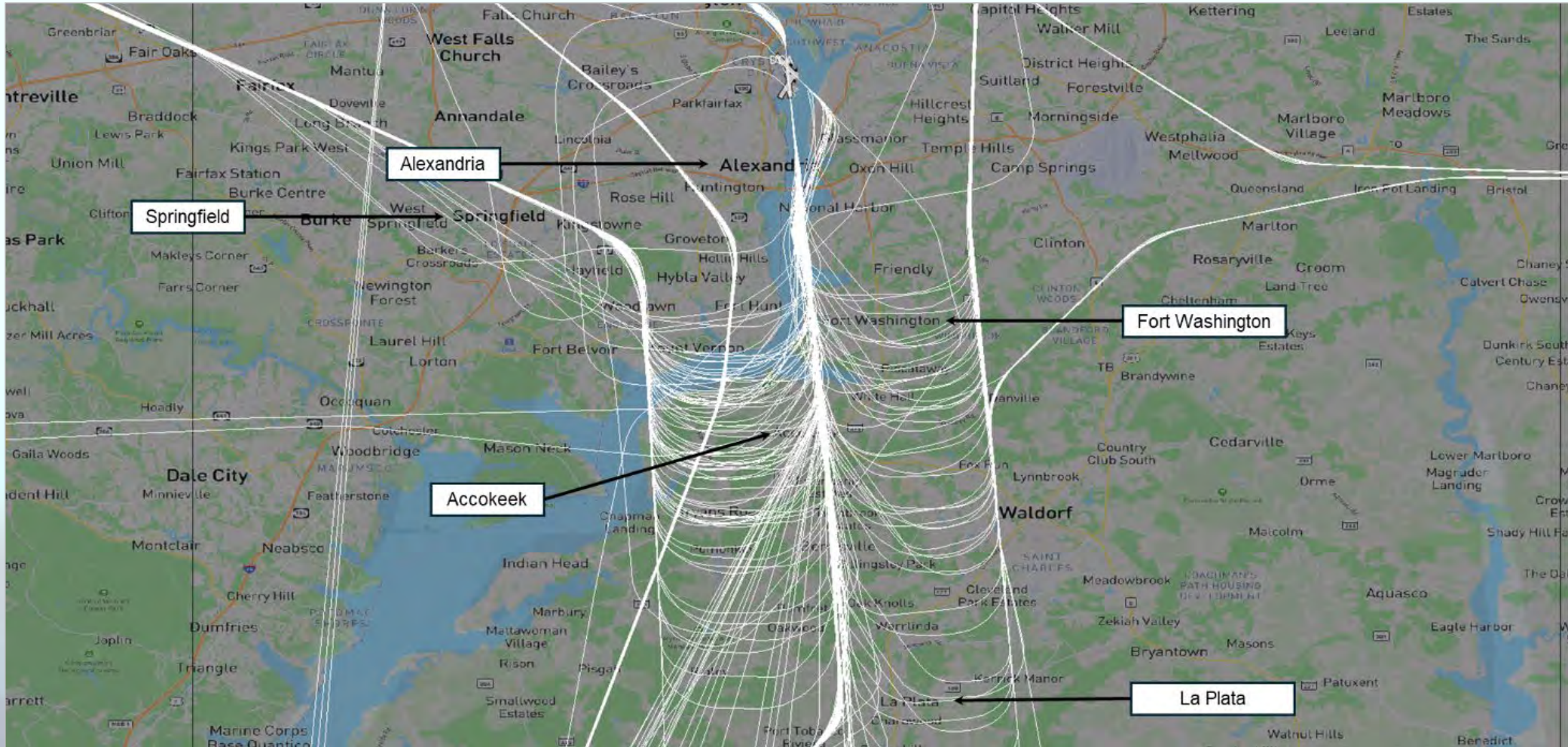
**Map Legend**  
Arrivals  
Departures

# Baseline Assessment – Runways 15 & 19 Departures



SOUTH FLOW: Runways 15 & 19 Departures, Sample Day

# Baseline Assessment – Runways 1 & 33 Arrivals



NORTH FLOW: Runway 1 & 33 Arrivals, Sample Day

## Project Website

- Launched April 8, 2024

## Project Email

- SOA@vianair.com

## Community Engagement Survey

- Launched, April 1, 2024
- **Closes: July 31, 2024**

## **DCA South of Airport Community Engagement Survey ..**

The City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince George's County are working together in an effort to reduce aircraft noise impacts in communities south of the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Community input is critical to this effort to ensure that residents' concerns and impacts are understood.

As part of the community engagement effort, we invite residents in neighborhoods south of DCA to participate in this survey. The information from this survey will be shared with the Project Team for consideration as airspace and flight procedure changes are evaluated. We appreciate your time and input.

*Information about this project is available on the project website at: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>*

*You may also email the project team at: SOA@vianair.com*

*<https://forms.office.com/e/GAnrsCFurn>*



# Community Engagement – Public Meetings



## **Project Kick-Off**

- Prince George's County: June 24, 2024
- City of Alexandria: June 27, 2024
- Fairfax County: July 17, 2024

## **Design Group Recommendations Review**

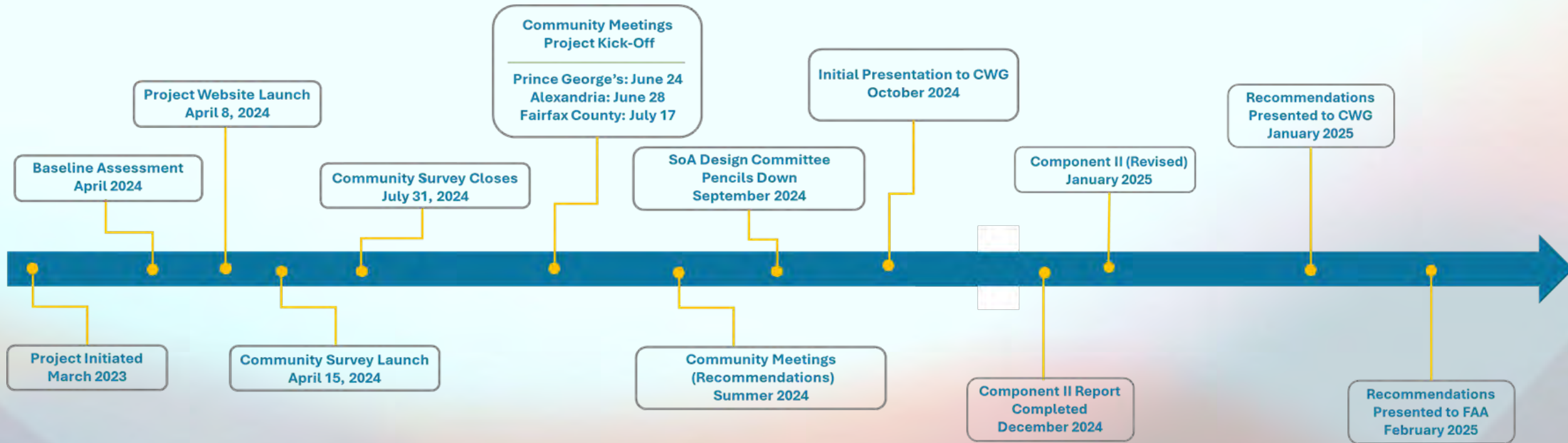
- Dates to be determined

## **CWG Recommendations Review**

- DCA Community Working Group (CWG)
- Meetings open to the public



# Project Milestones\* and Next Steps



\* Preliminary Schedule. Dates subject to change.

# For More Information

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## *Project Website*

Website: <https://www.vianair.com/soa/>

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## *Questions and Project Feedback*

Email: [SOA@vianair.com](mailto:SOA@vianair.com)

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## *Community Engagement Survey*

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# Community Input / Q & A

# For More Information

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