

ACT NOW!

Airport Community Team Meetings

ACT Meeting Summary Report

Topic

Why do planes fly over my house? What is the ability of the airport in regulating the number and type of operations? What is authority retained by the FAA and who enforces regulations.

Video Link:

https://vimeo.com/586499198

Date:

August 11, 2021

Attendance

- 24 ACT Members
- 7 Staff
- 2 Board Members

Total Members

86 ACT Members

Summary

Kevin Smith, General Manager, welcomed members to ACT and gave an overview of the group's
mission and goals. Mr. Smith provided information on the Truckee Tahoe Airport District today
including the governing structure, the number of operations, the number of hangars and based
aircraft, and various funding sources. Mr. Smith described the airspace around KTRK, presented
various graphical representations of recommended arrival and departure flight paths, and explained
the difference between Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) and Visual Flight Rules (VFR). An image of actual
operational traffic patterns on a busy day at KTRK was provided and explained. Peak seasonal
periods of operations and parallels to community visitor trends were described, as was density
altitude and its effect on aircraft performance criteria.

Mr. Smith provided the FAA definition and criteria of a "congested area" and defined exclusions for helicopters and aircraft maneuvering to land or take off. Mr. Smith outlined FAA Grant Assurances, and the rights and powers reserved by the FAA, including FAA authority and control of the following: aircraft in flight, flight routes, approach and departure from KTRK, Air Traffic Control (ATC) standards, aircraft noise signatures, airworthiness of aircraft, airport capacity, the type of aviation businesses that are allowed to operate at airports, hours of the airport, pilot training and fitness for duty, mandatory curfews, and airport land use. FAA Grant Assurances apply unless an airport does not take federal funds for 20 years.

Mr. Smith went on to describe the authority of an airport which included: control of facilities, i.e. expansion and design of runways, taxiways, hangars, and ramp areas, the service offerings to operators, and airport marketing. Other tools available and utilized by the airport to influence operations included: adoption and implementation of noise abatement procedures, voluntary curfews and operational controls, prior permission request, development of special procedures and calm wind runway programs, master planning efforts, setting fees and rates, and developing minimum standards and rules and regulations for operator conduct.

Member Comments and Questions - (See Video Link for Detailed Responses)

- Why is there a discrepancy between the suggested flight paths and actual flight tracks?
- Why do pilots fly in the residential areas where they are asked not to?
- At what point does arriving IFR traffic get released from control by Oakland Center ATC?
- What is the role of the Truckee ATC in control of flight paths?
- What is ability of the airport in controlling flight paths from repetitive operations from flight schools and other commercial operators?
- What is too low for a helicopter, are there recreational helicopters operating out of Truckee, and what is the capacity for that type of operation?
- What is the maximum capacity (# of operations) at Truckee Airport now and what has been the trend over time?
- Are the ground lease rates appropriate for Skydive Truckee?
- Questions and concerns were expressed about the safety of dropping IFR early on approach.
- Can you provide an update to the NTSB investigation into the recent crash and whether there are guidelines that limit operations during the investigation?
- Can we shorten runways so that jets can't land here?
- Can you limit the curfew incentives to fewer hour time spans or days of the week?
- Can public outreach be done prior to Board decisions that have the potential to affect airport capacity or land use?

Scheduled Future Meetings Topics

- Why are airplanes noisy and the technology to make them quieter 9/8/2021
- A discussion about airport hangars 10/13/2021



Bike Rack – Topics Racked for Future Meetings

- Meeting with Commercial Operators and Flight Instructors
- FAA Officials Q & A
- Overview of Districts Agency Partnership and Community Sponsorship Program



 Safety Programs and Facilities at the Airport An overview of Airport Properties and the Airport Land Acquisition Program 		