



## South Metro Airport Action Council

### Re: MSP 2020 Capital Improvements Draft EA/EAW Comments

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The South Metro Airport Action Council (SMAAC) has been following the MSP 2030 Long-Term Capital Improvements Plan and the noise mitigation Consent Decree on behalf of our members. Our mission is to increase community awareness of aviation and airport issues and the policies and actions of the involved governmental entities. Our supporters include over 150 households and businesses in neighborhoods near MSP *who want vigorous enforcement of environmental regulations to minimize noise and pollution; by citizens who promote long-term economic growth in Minnesota; and, by air travelers who deserve assured air and ground safety.*

Keeping the comment period open after the hearing suggests that the EA/EAW may not be based on the complete hearing record. Past practice has been less formal and less transparent than expected. It would be helpful to the Commission and to the public if the hearing allowed the public to ask questions and respond to representations by Commission staff and consultants *on the record and before the examiners.*

SMAAC and others commented during the February 2012 public comment period that all three EA options *assume no increased noise or pollution from extensive flight path changes, October 2010 to present.* As these changes are continuing and under separate review for safety and efficiency, the noise and pollution outcomes very likely would differ depending on which alternative is selected.

SMAAC is submitting its comments in advance of the hearing, and may not be informed by the 'open house' presentations or hearing testimony. We reserve the right to revise or supplement our testimony. It would be improper for staff to guide the hearing examiners and unjust to approve the EA/EAW without meaningful deliberation on the complete record of testimony.

We wanted the Commission and especially the hearing examiner(s) to consider the record of public testimony perhaps following the State Statute(s) and Rules referenced in laws establishing the Commission's special authorities for environmental assessment and environmental management, including mitigations. As this is not to be, a controversy continues that should initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and more supervision by State and Federal agencies.

*Sincerely,*

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*James R. Spensley*

James R. Spensley, President,  
South Metro Airport Action Council,  
Post Office Box 19036 Minneapolis, MN 55419-0036