

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
AND THE MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY ON RNAV PILOT TEST AT
BOSTON LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

October 7, 2016

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is transforming the nation's airspace system by replacing the ground-based radar system with satellite navigation. This modernization program known as NextGen is designed to enhance safety and efficiency and to reduce noise and emissions with technology and procedures such as Precision Based Navigation (PBN).

The FAA has implemented PBN at Boston Logan International Airport (Boston Logan) because it is a major international airport in the nation's airspace system. As owner and operator of Boston Logan, the Massachusetts Port Authority (the Authority) is fully supportive of the FAA's efforts to modernize the nation's airspace system, and its goals to enhance safety and efficiency, and reduce environmental effects.

Since the implementation of the new PBN procedures – including Area Navigation, or RNAV – flights have become more concentrated because of the more precise nature of the technology. This has generated community concerns about persistent noise in specific locations. Previously, flights were more spread out because planes were using less precise navigation systems. The Authority has proposed several ideas for a pilot program with the FAA to better understand the implications of the flight concentrations and to study possible strategies to address the neighborhood concerns. After an initial review, the FAA has agreed that the pilot ideas merit further study.

The FAA and the Authority are committing to undertake a study that will: (1) analyze the feasibility, (2) measure/model the benefits/impacts of, and (3) test and develop an implementation plan which will include environmental analysis and community/public outreach.

The FAA and the Authority will, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agree to specific roles, responsibilities and contributions each party will make toward establishing a pilot program to reduce overflight noise at Boston Logan International Airport resulting from the FAA's implementation of NextGen precision-based navigation procedures, including RNAV. Specifically, the MOU will:

- Identify specific proposed ideas to reduce overflight noise from RNAV concentration
- Assess the feasibility of specific noise abatement operational or procedural design ideas
- Design and model feasible ideas to assess the level of benefits and potential impacts for testing and or implementation
- Incorporate community outreach and feedback in the process

Through this pilot program, while maintaining safety and as much as possible efficiency, the FAA and the Authority will further their joint objectives to explore, evaluate and advance the implementation of actions that may reduce the effects of aircraft overflight noise while maintaining advances and benefits of PBN procedures at Boston Logan.

Massachusetts Port Authority

Federal Aviation Administration

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(Signature Page Continued)

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Michael E. Capuano
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Katherine Clark
U.S. House of Representatives