

Public Notice: FAA Charlotte Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex (CLT OAPM) Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Document

The FAA has extended the current comment due date of January 5, 2015 by 28 calendar days. The comment period will close on Monday, February 2, 2015

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FAA is releasing a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that will be available for public review and comment. The EA considers the potential environmental impacts of the implementation of the Charlotte Metroplex Area Optimization of Airspace and Procedures in the Metroplex (CLT OAPM) project.

A “metroplex” is a major metropolitan area with multiple airports, where heavy air traffic and environmental constraints combine to hinder efficient aircraft movement. The CLT OAPM project would improve the efficiency of the national airspace system in the Charlotte Metroplex by optimizing aircraft arrival and departure procedures at a number of airports.

The Study Airports include:

Charlotte/Douglas International Airport; Charlotte-Monroe Executive Airport; Concord Regional Airport; Donaldson Center Airport; Greenville Downtown Airport; Greenville Spartanburg International Airport; Piedmont Triad International Airport; Rock Hill (York County) Airport-Bryant Field; Smith Reynolds Airport; Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport; Statesville Regional Airport; Rowan County Airport; and, Hickory Regional Airport.

The CLT OAPM project would involve changes in aircraft flight paths and altitudes in certain areas. Specifically, the FAA proposes to publish and implement optimized standard arrival and departure instrument procedures, serving air traffic flows into and out of airports in the Charlotte Metroplex. The proposed action would not require any ground disturbance or increase the number of aircraft operations within the Charlotte Metroplex airspace area. The analysis of potential environmental impacts in the EA was conducted in accordance with FAA Order 1050.1E, “Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures.”

On December 5, 2014, the Draft EA was released online at <http://www.metroplexenvironmental.com>. The General Study Area covers areas above and near the Study Airports and involves the airspace above portions of 39 counties in North Carolina, 15 counties in South Carolina, and three counties and two independent cities in Virginia.

The FAA encourages parties to review the Draft EA and provide written comments during the public comment period. The FAA has extended the current comment due date of January 5, 2015 by 28 calendar days. The comment period will close on Monday, February 2, 2015. The public is invited to comment by mail or email. Please be aware that your name, physical address, email address, or other personally identifiable information in your comment may be publicly available at any time. You may include a request to withhold your personal identifying information; however, the FAA cannot guarantee that the FAA will be able to do

so. Written comments will be accepted by the FAA via letter until February 2, 2015 to the undersigned at the following physical address:

CHARLOTTE OAPM DRAFT EA
Eastern Service Center - Operations Support Group
1701 Columbia Avenue
College Park, GA 30337

Written comments will be accepted by the FAA via email until February 2, 2015 to the attention of "CHARLOTTE OAPM DRAFT EA" at the following email address:

9-ASO-ATO-CLTOAPM@faa.gov