

HATS

Hanscom Area Towns Committee

HATS Selectmen

Michael Rosenberg, Chair, Bedford
Elise Woodward, Concord
Deborah Mauger, Lexington
Peter Braun, Lincoln

5 November 2013

Ms. Kimberly Peace
Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc.
150 Dow Street
Manchester, NH 03101

Re: Jet Aviation Draft Environmental Assessment
Hoyle, Tanner Project Number: 304903

Dear Ms. Peace:

This letter is sent from the Hanscom Area Towns Committee (HATS) with the endorsement of the Boards of Selectmen of the four towns: Bedford, Concord, Lexington, and Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Jet Aviation Site Safety and Efficiency Improvements Project. The HATS communities support a sustainable Hanscom and applaud the decision to pursue LEED certification for the building expansion. However the overall plan calls for modifying the existing Hanscom Field Airport Layout Plan (ALP), while the stated purpose of the Jet Aviation facility improvements is "to improve the safety and efficiency of their operations". The action of expanding the airport's footprint has been consistently opposed by the HATS communities since 1997.

The HATS communities continue to be concerned about proposals for incremental development lacking a "roadmap" for an integrated, long-term comprehensive regional transportation plan that includes air, road, and rail modalities and assesses the capacity of the environment to absorb the effects of the proposed development. Without such a plan, the cumulative impact of increased "ad-hoc" development on the MassPort property on the Minute Man National Historic Park, Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge, and the hundreds of other historic & natural resources cannot be adequately evaluated.

Therefore the HATS communities oppose the expansion of the ALP and will support no expansion of operations, infrastructure, or airport footprint at Hanscom until a regional transportation plan is in place that will permanently protect the historic communities and the surrounding natural resources from any further aviation related environmental impacts.

HATS respectfully requests that Jet Aviation:

1. Identify anticipated additional aviation traffic due to the proposed plan,
2. Propose an alternative plan that will not require modifications to the existing Hanscom ALP,
3. Confirm that the plans will be presented for review by the Lincoln Conservation Commission, especially with regard to the wetlands and wetland buffer areas and storm water retention,
4. Propose an alternative plan that will not encroach on areas that are currently un-built today (green space),
5. Consider the pros and cons of an alternative plan that includes structured parking to decrease impervious pavement on the site.
6. Comment on whether the plan is consistent with the 1978 Hanscom Field Master Plan and 1980 Noise Rules.

Sincerely,

Michael Rosenberg, Chair, HATS