

# Noise Monitoring Terminals How and Why We Monitor Aircraft Noise

## CENAC Meeting



Colin Novak Ph.D., P.Eng.  
Akoustik Engineering Limited  
September 20, 2018

# Monitoring Aircraft Noise - Infrastructure

## Hardware

- Environmental noise is measured using a Noise Monitoring Terminal (NMT)
- Bruel & Kjaer Type 1 sound level meter inside a weather tight cabinet and an all weather microphone
- Noise data is measured in real time and communicated to servers in Australia via 3G communications
- Number and locations for NMT installations are determined using specific criteria

## Software

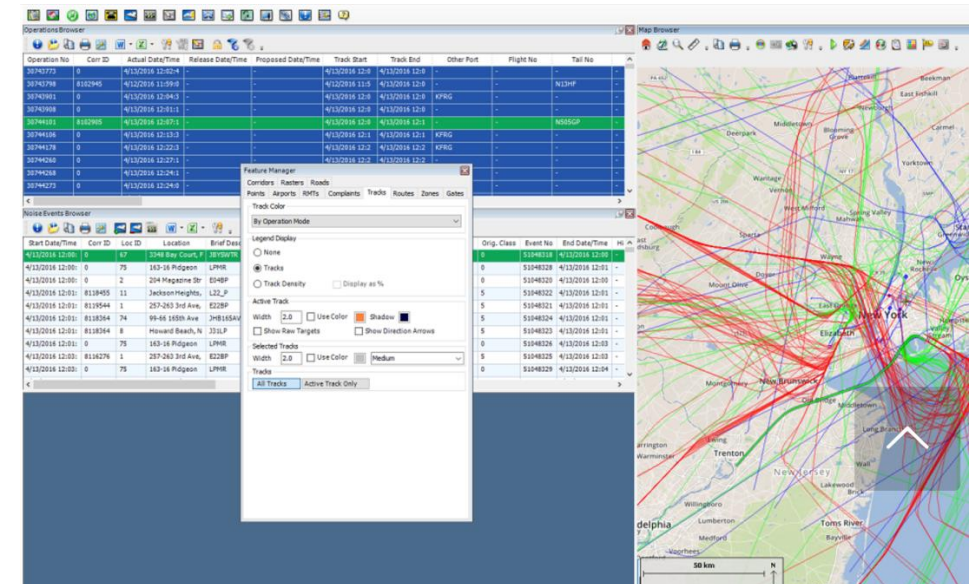
- ANOMS - Airport Noise Monitoring and Management
- Install base is approximately 250 airports worldwide
- Integrates real noise data to specific flight operations and aircraft
- Provides a databank of historical noise data to facilitate future planning
- Document tool to record and correlate community complaints to noise levels and aircraft operations

## Portable Noise Monitoring

- Environmental noise can also be measured using a portable Noise Monitor for areas without a nearby permanent NMT

# Why is Aircraft Noise Monitoring Important

- Noise exposure – Document the noise level for aircraft arriving and departing the airport
- Flight track correlation – Match noise levels to which aircraft are flying
- Operational reports – Understand real noise level impacts on communities
- Community relations – Analyze noise data over time to report on trends to plan for future changes and help set community expectations and build understanding





# Typical NMT Installation



Microphone

Sound  
Level  
Meter

Modem

Mast

NMT Cabinet



Portable  
Noise Monitor



# NMT Site Location Criteria

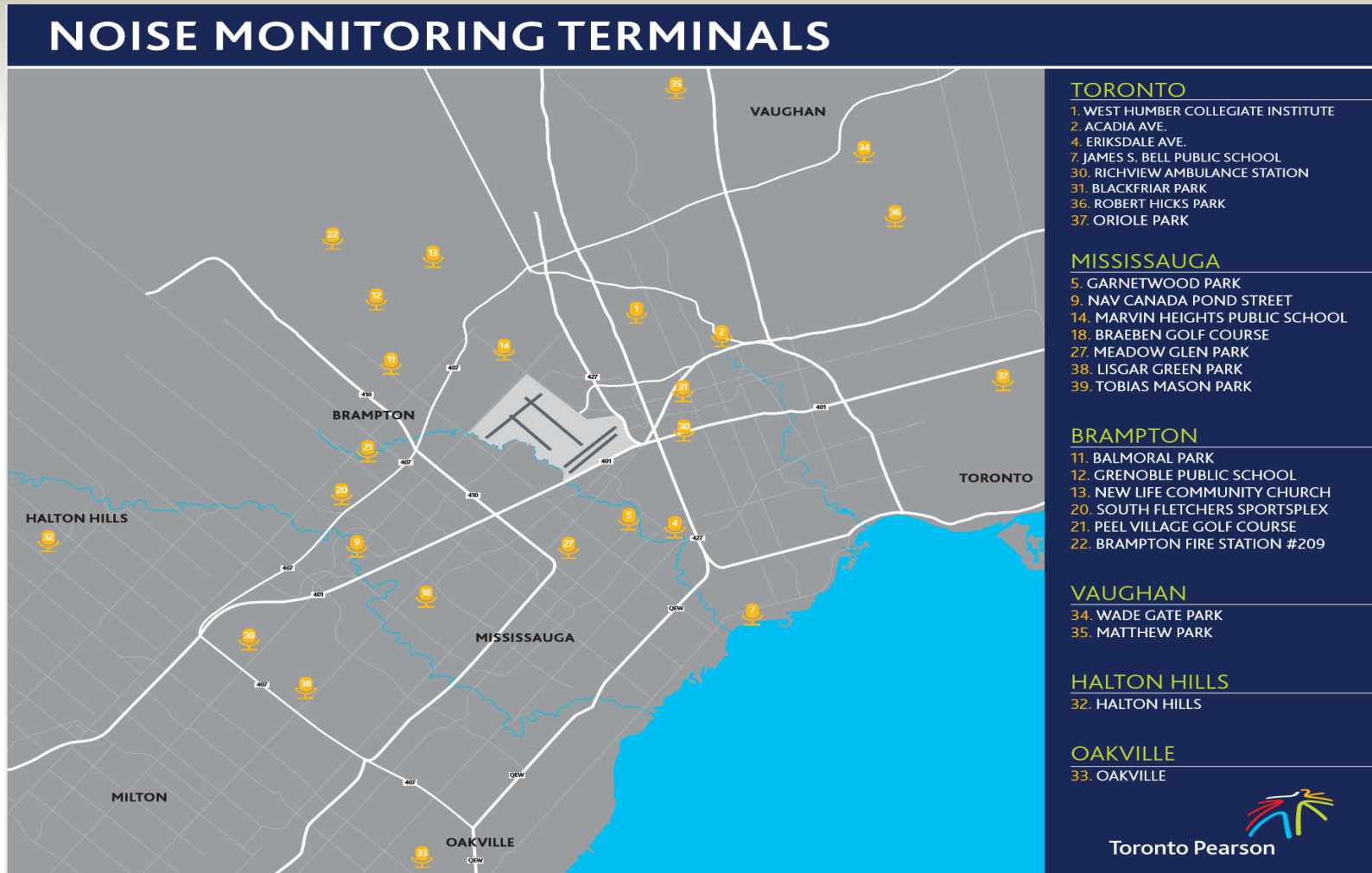
- Proximity of NMT to aircraft flightpaths
- Proximity of NMT to existing noise monitor locations
- Proximity of NMT to noise sensitive land uses
- Background noise levels
- Utility sources, site access and security
- Terrain and building interference; reflection/absorption



# 2015 NMT Review

- A review of the Noise Monitoring Terminal (NMT) locations in our surrounding communities was identified as one of the 2015 initiatives of GTAA's Five Year Noise Management Action Plan, developed with the Community Environment Noise Advisory Committee.
- Traffic levels and operations had changed since the last NMT Review; therefore a new review was needed to ensure that we are accurately measuring airport noise impacts.
- The CENAC working group identified the need for eight additional sites. Their recommendation was approved and all monitors have since been installed.

# GTAA – 25 Existing NMT Installations





# Noise Metrics – Measured and Calculated

## What do they Mean?

$L_{eq}$  – Averaged acoustic energy over the measurement time period

$L_{max}$  – Maximum noise level measured within defined period of time

$L_N$  (statistical noise) – Noise level exceeded “N” percent of the measurement time

SEL – Noise event level normalized over a one second period

EPNL - Perceived noise level, goes beyond the physical measured quantity

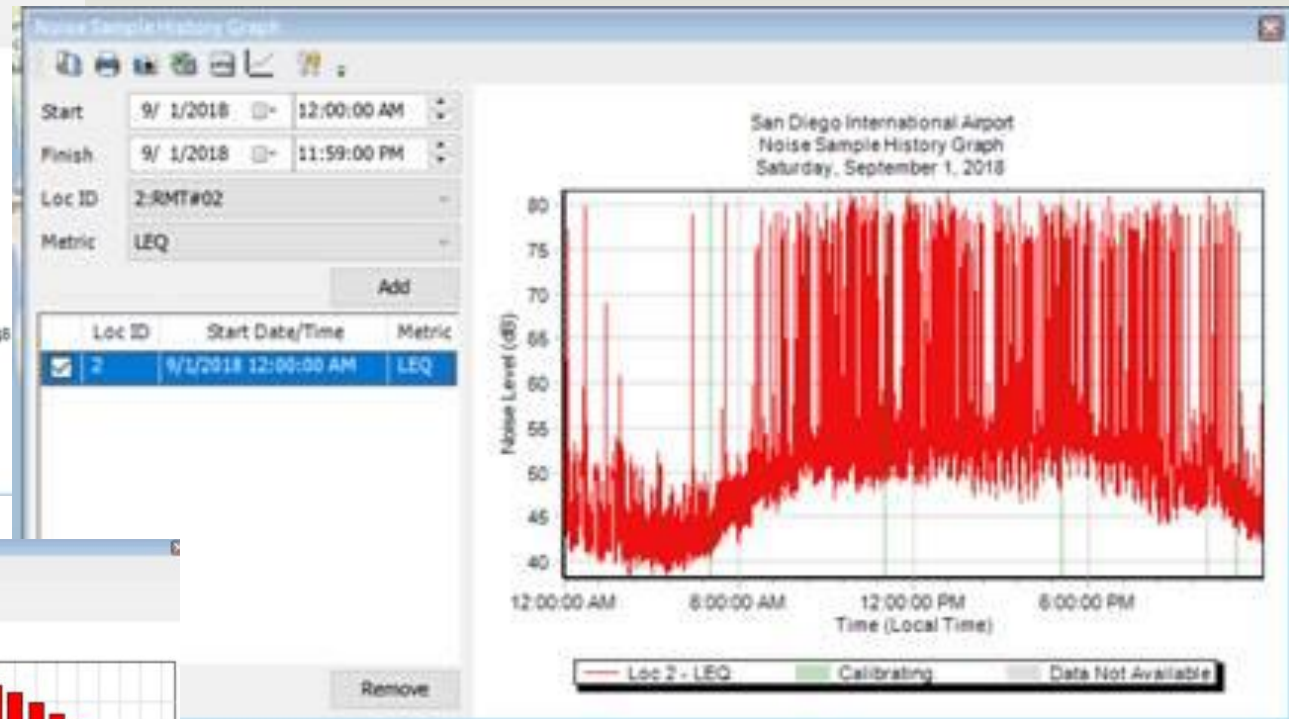
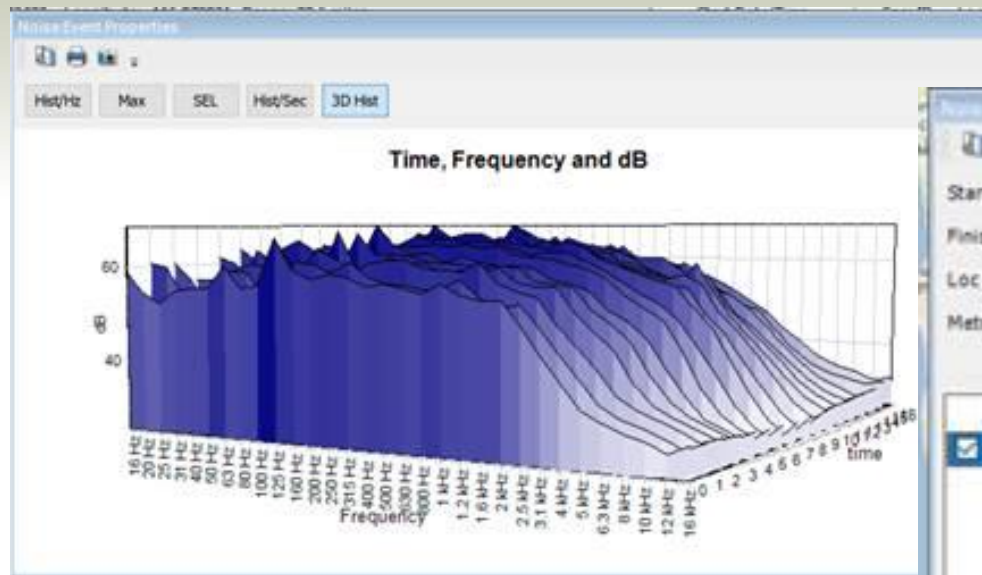
$L_{DEN}$  - Single valued equivalent Day-Evening-Night level

1/3 octave frequencies - Frequency spectrum divided in 1/3 octaves



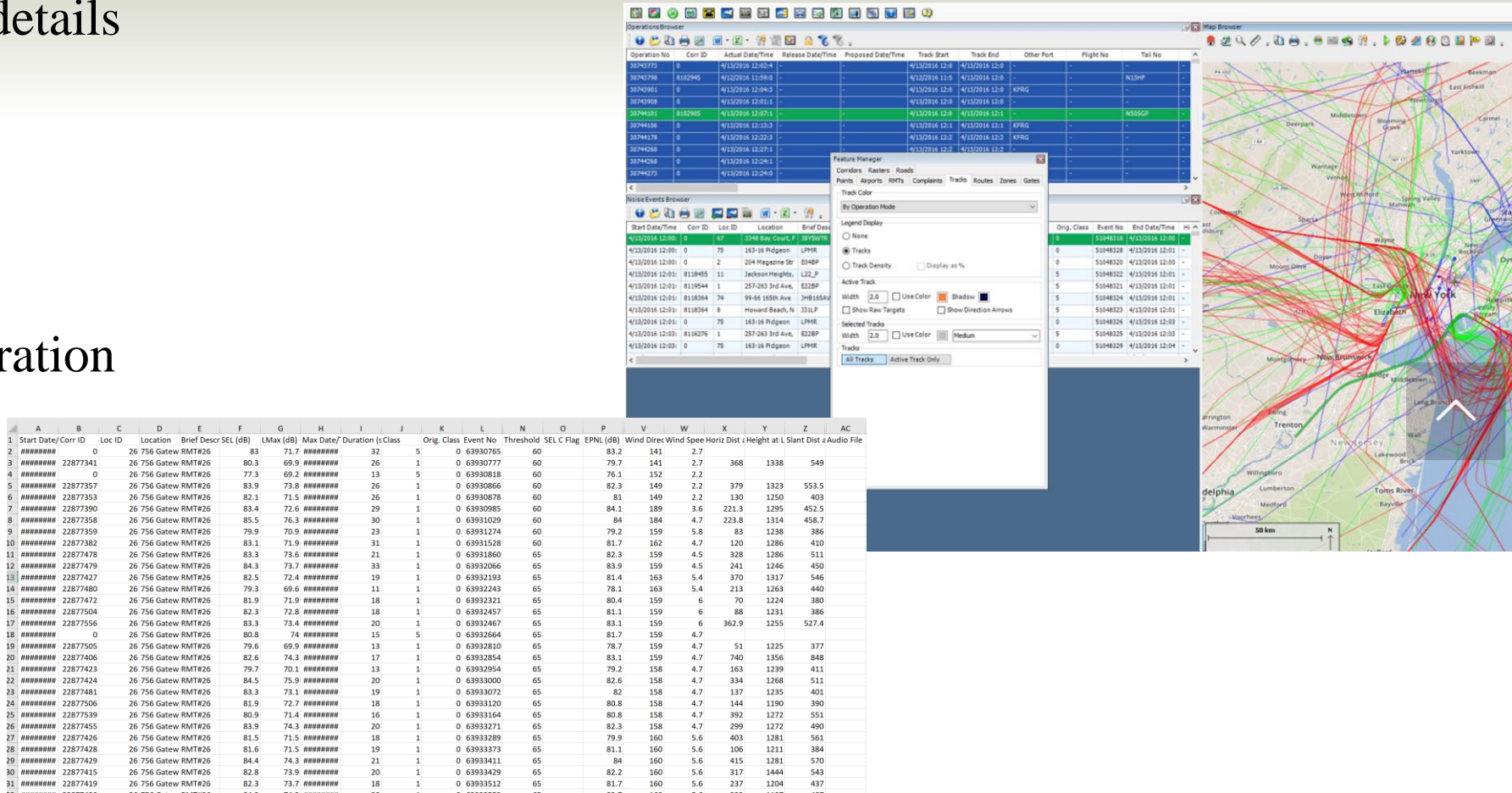


# Noise Metrics



# Other Relevant Reported Information

- Aircraft details
- Position
- Weather
- Event duration



# How else can Noise Monitoring Data be Used?

- A method to monitor community impacts during periods of construction and maintenance
- A research tool; investigate social impacts from aircraft noise
- Means of comparing effectiveness of noise mitigation initiatives or impacts of procedural changes
- Community relations, urban planning and education



Thank you for listening!

