

Conversations about our future: Public Workshop, Brampton

Date: June 22, 2017

Location: Peel Art Gallery, Museum, and Archives

Moderator: Alex Way, MASS LBP

Presentation: Kim Stangeby, Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer and Robyn Connelly, Director, Community Relations, at Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA)

Participants: 16 Community Members

Goals: To share information and gather community advice about Toronto Pearson International Airport's Growth Strategy and the Airport's approaches to managing and mitigating airplane noise.

Format: The evening began with a short presentation about Toronto Pearson's master planning process, including initial plans for an airport transit hub and explanation of how the airport mitigates environmental impacts, addresses noise impacts, and work with communities to grow responsibly. Participants then engaged in small group discussions, led by facilitators, that responded to four questions. After approximately an hour of small group conversation, representatives of each group shared highlights from their conversations with all in attendance.

Summary of Responses Gathered

1. What are the benefits and drawbacks of Pearson's growth?

Benefits	Drawbacks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent flights help connect the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) to the world, which helps strengthen our economy • The area around the airport will see job growth, particularly in higher-paid, technical work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit and highway congestion and the need for more parking around the airport will affect local residents • Greater airplane noise and pollution which affects quality of life and human health • Construction work to grow the airport will impact the area directly around the airport • More passengers at Pearson will lead to costs for non-GTAA organizations (e.g. traffic police, counter-terrorism). Huh?

2. What steps would you like to see the GTAA take to...

...provide new transit options for the airport and region?	...engage and inform residents about its operations	...strengthen its commitment to the environment?
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with transit planning agencies across the GTHA to develop a range of underground and above ground transit routes that not only connect to Toronto Pearson, but other airports in the region • Provide improved areas for passengers waiting for transit at the airport • Consider costs and benefits of different configurations for new transit hub, for example, by placing the transit hub on the northside of the airport, near rail lines, and parking on the south side, near highways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give plenty of notice to avoid “day before” communication about operational changes • Adopt a more proactive communications strategy, providing updates through automated phone calls, public access points (like libraries), email, newspaper, and social media • Offer email subscription for updates about specific flight path changes • Communicate both positive and negative impacts • Involve community representatives in GTAA decision-making meetings • Better community GTAA outreach programs to provide information on GTAA operations and initiatives • Work in partnership with elected officials to ensure GTAA reaches and engages a broad range of community members • Treat residents with the same importance as passengers in all aspects of GTAA planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue monitoring the impact of air quality from jet fuel exhaust, particularly in residential areas • Promote the GTAA’s corporate social responsibility report, to demonstrate the GTAA is operating sustainably • Promote public transit instead of car use, which will have a positive environmental impact
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3. How would you propose to address the concerns of residents who are adversely impacted by airplane noise?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate more information, in a clearer way, about airplane noise, particularly about the reasons and impacts of flight paths over affected communities • Produce and share a simple map of runways and flight plans to help explain the impacts of flight paths • Put up noise warning signs in affected communities and find ways to inform potential residents before they buy homes in affected areas |
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- Undertake noise studies which explore the way noise impacts different people and communities, and build more noise monitoring stations.
- Implement the 23 community noise mitigation suggestions from 2015
- Offer benefits for those who live under flight paths, such as triple-glass installation and tax rebates
- Reduce flight concentration
- Disperse more flight paths over Lake Ontario
- Ban night flights
- Appoint an independent flight path enforcement officer to ensure all protocols are being adhered to
- Build better trust by communicating how feedback and noise complaints are used to make operational changes, and what action is taken as a result.
- Promote the use other airports in the GTHA through cooperation with municipal, provincial, and federal governments, by helping to improve transit options to those airports, and encouraging cargo flights to use those airports

4. From among the items you've discussed, what are the top three measures Pearson could take to ensure that it grows responsibly?

<p>Work with partners to improve regional transit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with transit planning agencies and all levels of government across the GTHA to develop a range of underground and above ground transit routes to airport • Work in partnership with smaller airports to connect Pearson and other airports across the GTHA more directly with rapid transit
<p>Build trust with the community through better communications with impacted residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate about airport operations and operational changes more clearly with residents, while continuing to explain the benefits of growth • Use a variety of communications methods to reach and engage a wider audience • Develop communications like live runway updates and noise - or flight-path specific notifications. • Appoint an independent flight path enforcement officer to ensure all protocols are being adhered to • Listen to and implement community recommendations • Build better trust by communicating how feedback and noise complaints are used to make operational changes, and what action is taken as a result
<p>Encourage growth of smaller airports to share air traffic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTAA to encourage the growth of other regional airports to share the burden of airplane noise across the region

