



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Southwest Region

10101 Hillwood Parkway  
Fort Worth, TX 76177

April 5, 2022

Jim Thompson  
City Manager  
3939 North Drinkwater Blvd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251



Subject: FAA Response to Scottsdale's December 6, 2021 Correspondence

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter dated December 6, 2021 requesting that representatives from the City of Scottsdale be included in the Full Working Group (FWG) being formed by the FAA to consider procedure changes at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX). I am grateful for your expression of interest in the safety of the airspace in the Phoenix metropolitan area and understand you and the City of Scottsdale have expressed interest in the impact of potential future changes.

The FAA is in the process of considering procedure changes at PHX intended to increase both safety and efficiency. Actions that the FAA may take regarding the airspace changes under consideration would be considered new actions not pursuant to the previously completed Implementation Agreement between the FAA, the City of Phoenix, and Historic Neighborhood Petitioners. The FAA's process for implementing Performance Based Navigation (PBN) procedures is set forth in FAA Order 7100.41A, *Performance Based Navigation Implementation Process*, and includes five phases. The FAA is preparing for Phase Two: Design Activities, which entails establishing a FWG to develop procedure designs that meet the project's goals and objectives. Your letter requests that representatives from the City of Scottsdale be included in the FWG, and notes that Scottsdale Airport (SDL), which is owned by the City, is considered part of the PHX airspace. Notably, while Order 7100.41A provides that the "Airport Authority" "may be included as appropriate," this role is filled by a representative from the primary airport authority for which the procedure changes are intended to support, which in this case would be PHX.

Appendix A of Order 7100.41A further describes participants of the FWG and outlines their roles and responsibilities. The role of the airport authority representative includes "providing input on . . . potential operational or environmental impacts to the airport and surrounding communities." In light of this role, you may wish to discuss any concerns you may have as a surrounding community with PHX. You may also submit additional information to the FAA that you would like it to consider. The PBN co-leads reserve discretion to later add additional subject matter experts to the Full Work Group to address concerns identified by the FWG. If

the PBN co-leads determine that a representative from the Scottsdale Airport, for example, would be beneficial to address concerns, then such participation may be requested.

The FAA is also committed to community engagement when making changes to air traffic procedures. FAA expects that potentially impacted communities will be notified of proposed changes to air traffic procedures and be offered an opportunity to provide input. Please also note that new or amended procedures are subject to environmental review prior to their implementation, at which point FAA expects that any impacts from proposed procedure changes to Scottsdale and other neighboring communities will also be considered.

In closing, thank you again for your correspondence and expressed interest in the safety of the airspace in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rob Lowe".

Rob Lowe  
Regional Administrator, Southwest Region