



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
Thursday, October 27 at 7:00 PM
8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: If you are interested in participating on **Item 6. Public Comment**, please contact Ally Sutherland prior to this meeting via telephone 651-604-8511 or email (asutherland@ighmn.gov) to inform her - your name, address and to what you wish to speak on. Individuals may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing comments to Ally Sutherland (asutherland@ighmn.gov). Comments received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2022, will be provided to the Commission at or before the October 27, 2022 meeting.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Presentations

A. Metropolitan Airports Commission, Noise Oversight Committee Update

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, August 25, 2022, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

5. Regular Agenda

A. 2023 Environmental Commission Workplan Discussion

6. Public Comment

Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the Commission on items that are not on the agenda. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person.

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

8. Adjourn

This document is available upon a three (3) business day request in alternate formats such as braille, large print, audio recording, etc. Please contact Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, at 651-604-8511 or asutherland@ighmn.gov.



Staff Report

TITLE: Metropolitan Airports Commission, Noise Oversight Committee Update

Meeting Date:	October 27, 2022
Item Type:	Presentations
Contact:	Ally Sutherland, 651-604-8511
Prepared by:	Ally Sutherland

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Metropolitan Airports Commission, Noise Oversight Committee will present an update to the Commission.

BACKGROUND

Michele Ross, Community Relations Manager of Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), will present MAC and Noise Oversight Committee (NOC) updates, 2022 flight trends in Inver Grove Heights area, and 2023 MAC workplan, including any anticipated impacts for the Inver Grove Heights area. More information on MAC and NOC can be found at www.macnoise.com.

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission



Michele Ross – Manager, Community Relations
October 27, 2022



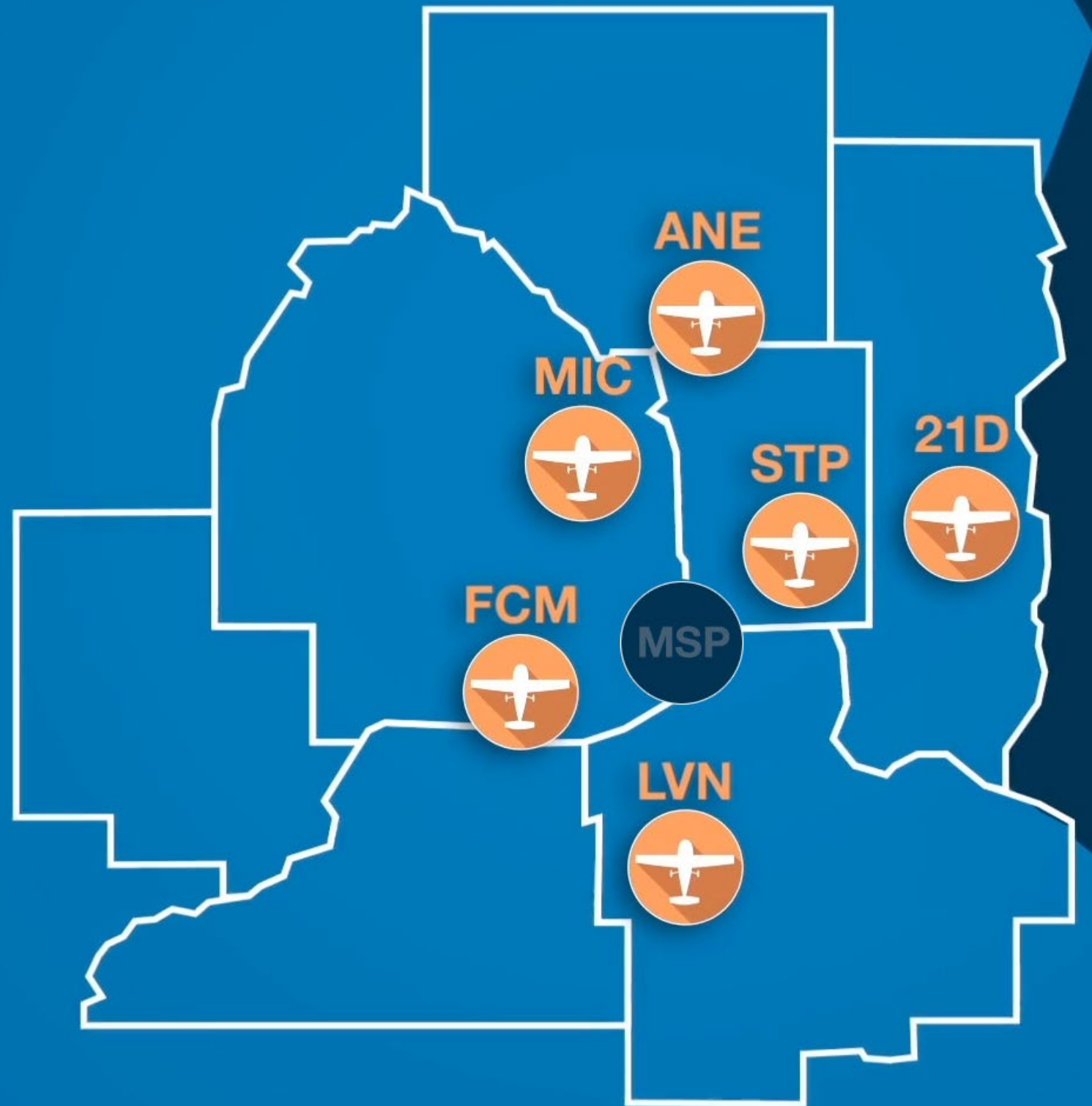
1

Metropolitan Airports Commission



The MAC Airport System

- ✈ The MAC was established in 1943 by the State of Minnesota.
- ✈ With 7 airports, MAC operates one of the largest airport systems in US





- Legislated purpose:
 - Promote efficient, safe, economical air commerce
 - Develop the full potentialities of the metropolitan area as an aviation center
 - Minimize the environmental impact from air transportation and the public's exposure to noise and safety hazards around airports
- Can own airports within 35 miles of downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul



Commission Chair
Rick King



District A
Carl Crimmins



District B
Braj Agrawal



District C
James Lawrence



District D
Timothy Baylor



District E
James Deal



District F
Rodney Skoog



District G
Richard Ginsberg



District H
Yodit Bizen



City of Minneapolis
Leili Fatehi



City of St. Paul
Ikram Koliso



Outstate St. Cloud
Patti Gartland



Outstate Duluth
Donald Monaco



Outstate Thief River Falls
Dixie Hoard



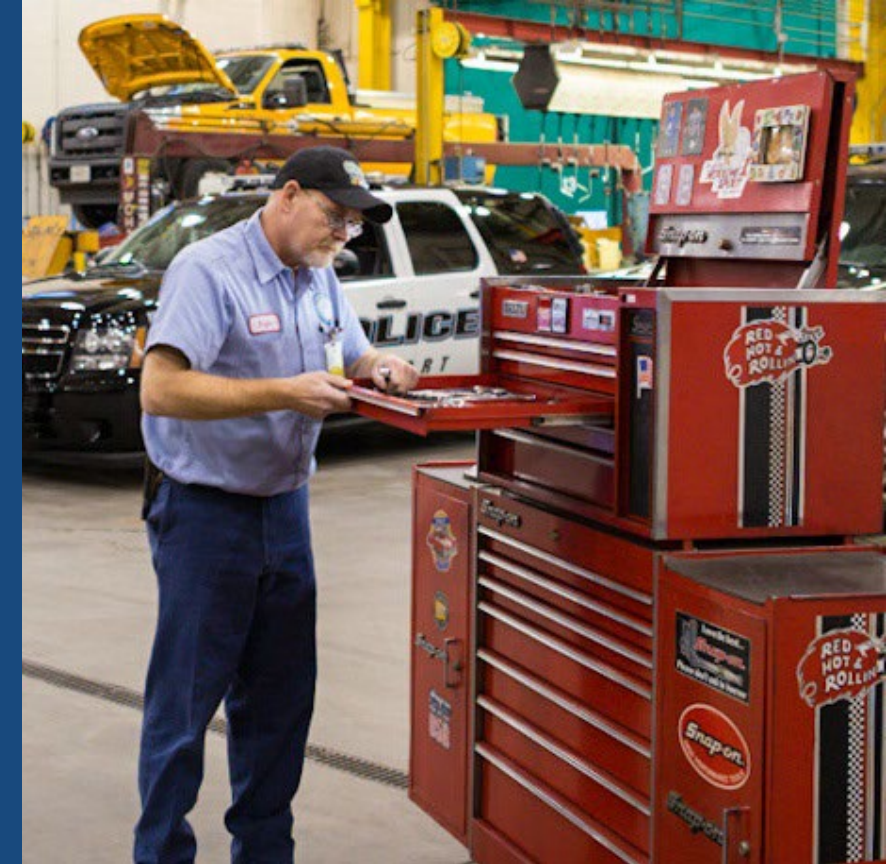
Outstate Rochester
Randy Schubring



Metropolitan Airports Commission



- 650 employees
- Operates much like a city, with its own:
 - Police
 - Fire
 - 9-1-1 dispatch
 - Building inspection
 - Planning
 - Maintenance Department
- Funded by rents and fees paid by airport users, not by general tax dollars



2

Roles & Responsibilities



Aircraft Noise Basics

- <https://metroairports.org/community-connection/aircraft-noise>



AIRCRAFT NOISE | METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION

Who makes the decisions?

AIRCRAFT NOISE | METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION

Collaboration at Work

The MAC is committed to regular, authentic and data-driven engagement with its airport neighbors. A key component of that commitment are advisory committees that convene to discuss aircraft noise topics for many of the MAC airports. The most active of these committees is the MSP Noise Oversight Committee.

MSP Noise Oversight Committee (NOC)
The NOC was created by a blue ribbon panel in 2002. It is the primary advisory board to the MAC board's Planning, Development and Environment Committee on topics related to aircraft noise at MSP.

The NOC is a balanced forum for the discussion and evaluation of noise impacts around MSP including the identification, study and analysis of aircraft noise issues. Membership includes six community representatives and six aviation industry representatives. As shown below, the most noise-impacted cities -- Bloomington, Eagan, Mendota Heights, Minneapolis and Richfield -- each has a representative. An At-Large Community member represents the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Inver Grove Heights, St. Louis Park, St. Paul, Sunfish Lake and Edina. The aviation industry is equally represented by a scheduled air carrier, a cargo air carrier, a charter/scheduled operator, a chief pilot of an airline serving MSP, the Minnesota Business Aviation Association (MBAA) and an At-Large member.

NOC members serve two-year terms and are appointed by their respective community or airport industry group. Each representative is authorized to make decisions and recommendations on behalf of his or her city or organization – a crucial element of the NOC's success.

NOC REPRESENTATIVE CITIES

A map of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. The city of Minneapolis is highlighted in pink, and St. Paul is highlighted in blue. Other cities like Bloomington, Eagan, and Mendota Heights are also visible. The map shows major highways and the surrounding landscape.

Roles and Responsibilities



U.S. Congress

- Creates laws that govern aviation in the U.S.



Federal Aviation Administration

- Regulates airports
- Regulates airlines
- Operates Air Traffic Control (ATC) facilities



Airlines

- Transport people and products domestically and internationally
- Determine number of flights, aircraft types and flight times based on customer travel preferences



Metropolitan Airports Commission

- Owns and operates MSP and six reliever airports
- Provides a facility for airlines to conduct air commerce activities
- Does not determine where aircraft fly, runway use, or flight procedures

MSP Noise Oversight Committee

- ✈ Established in 2002
- ✈ 6 Community Representatives
- ✈ 6 Airline Industry Representatives
- ✈ Preceded by the Metropolitan Aircraft Sound Abatement Council (MASAC), established in 1969
- ✈ Balanced forum and advisory committee to the MAC Board



Noise Oversight Committee



Provide policy recommendations or options regarding airport noise issues to the MAC PD&E Committee and full Commission regarding airport noise issues

Identify, study and analyze airport noise issues



Monitor compliance with established noise policy at MSP



NOC Work Plan and Accomplishments

- ✈ Quarterly Listening Sessions
- ✈ Air National Guard Guest Speaker
- ✈ MSP Runway 17 Departure Operations Report
- ✈ Runway 12L and 12R Nighttime Arrival Operations Report
- ✈ Runway 30L and 30R Departure Operations Report



NOC Draft 2023 Work Plan

1. RESIDENTIAL NOISE MITIGATION PROGRAM

- a. Review Residential Noise Mitigation Program Implementation Status

2. MSP COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIFIC EFFORTS

- a. 2022 Annual Noise Contour
- b. MSP Fleet Mix and Nighttime Operations Assessment
- c. MSP Annual Aircraft Noise Complaint Assessment
- d. Status of Aviation-Related Research Initiatives
- e. Update on Converging Runway Operations at MSP

- f. Update on the MSP Long Term Plan Update and Associated Stakeholder Engagement

- g. Update on the FAA's Noise Policy Review

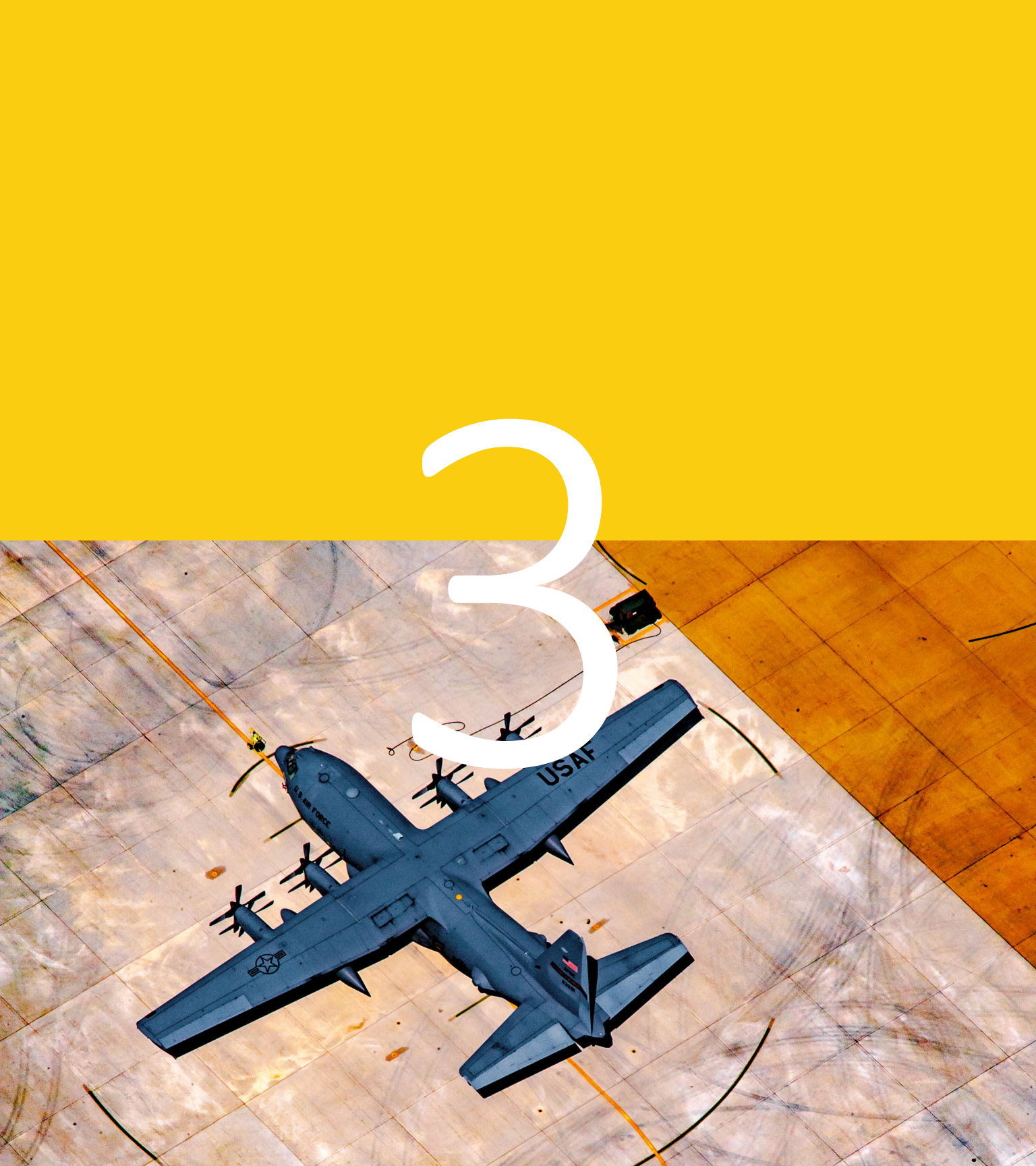
- h. Guest Speaker: Brian Ryks, MAC Executive Director

- i. Update on MSP Construction

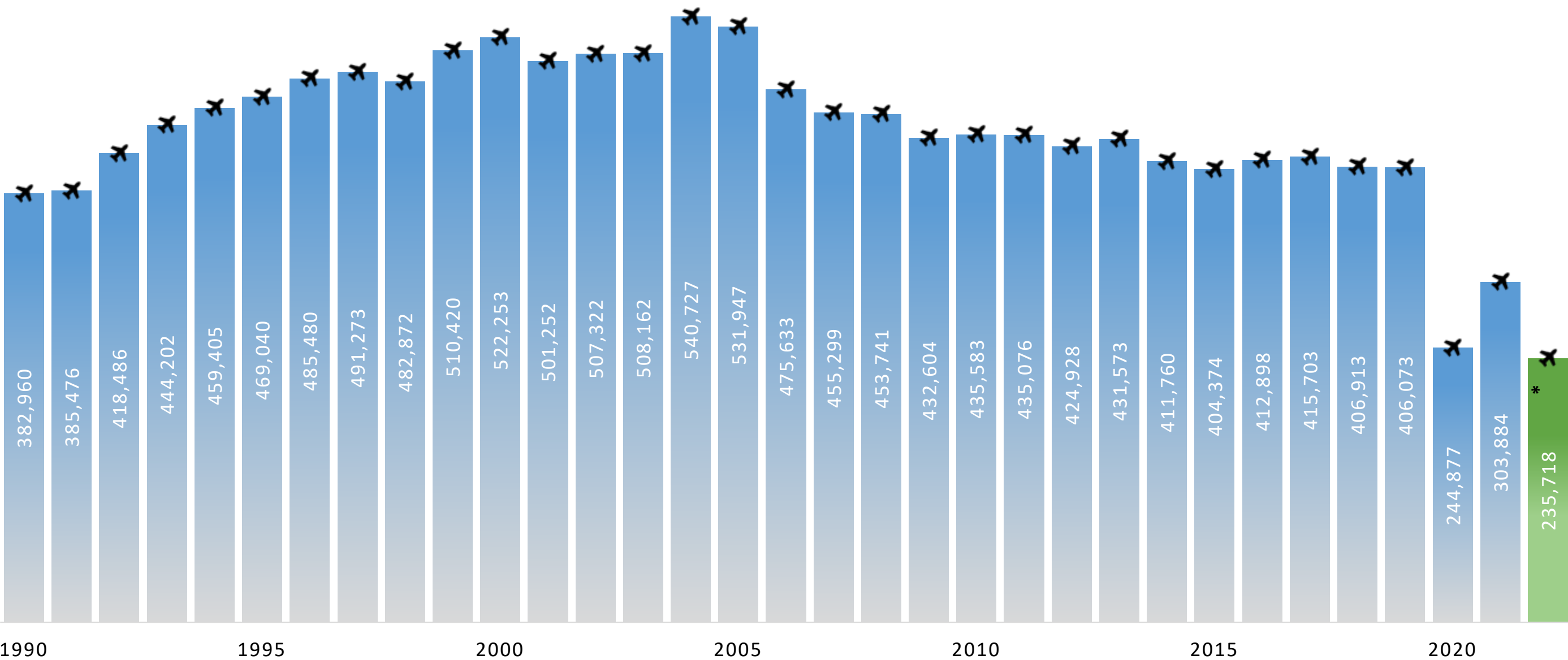
- j. Update on FAA's VOR-MON Program

3. CONTINUE REVIEW OF PUBLIC INPUT

2022 MSP Update

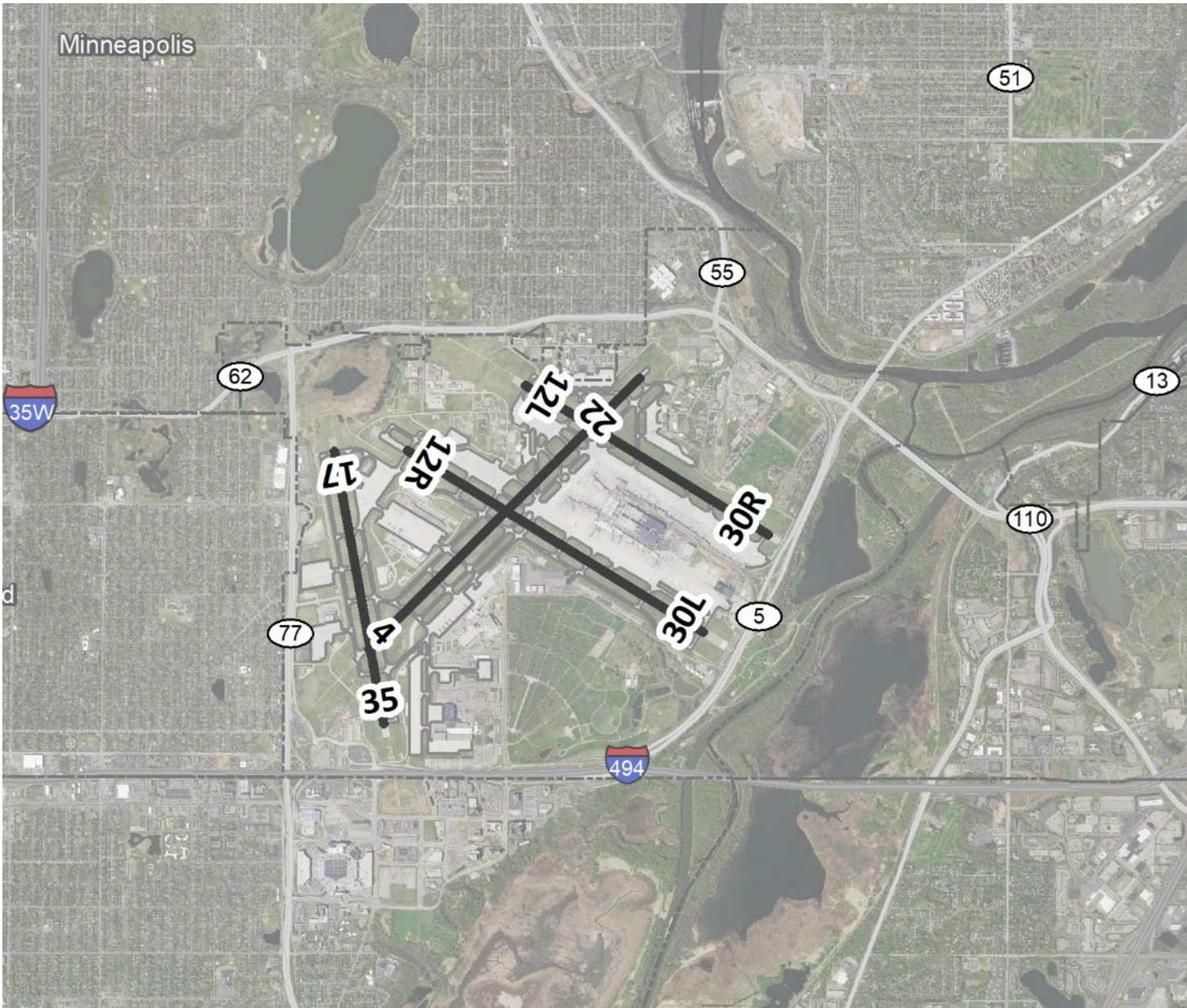


MSP Operations (FAA Opsnet)

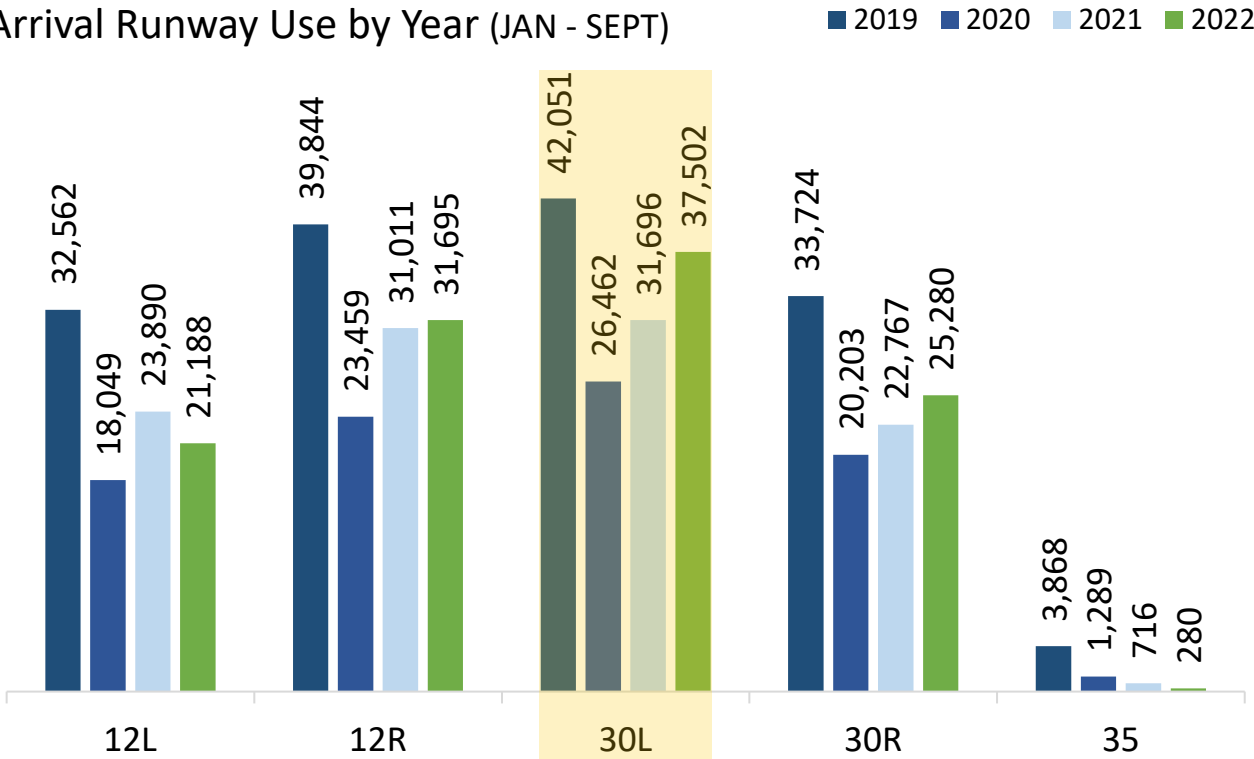


* 2022 JAN - SEPT

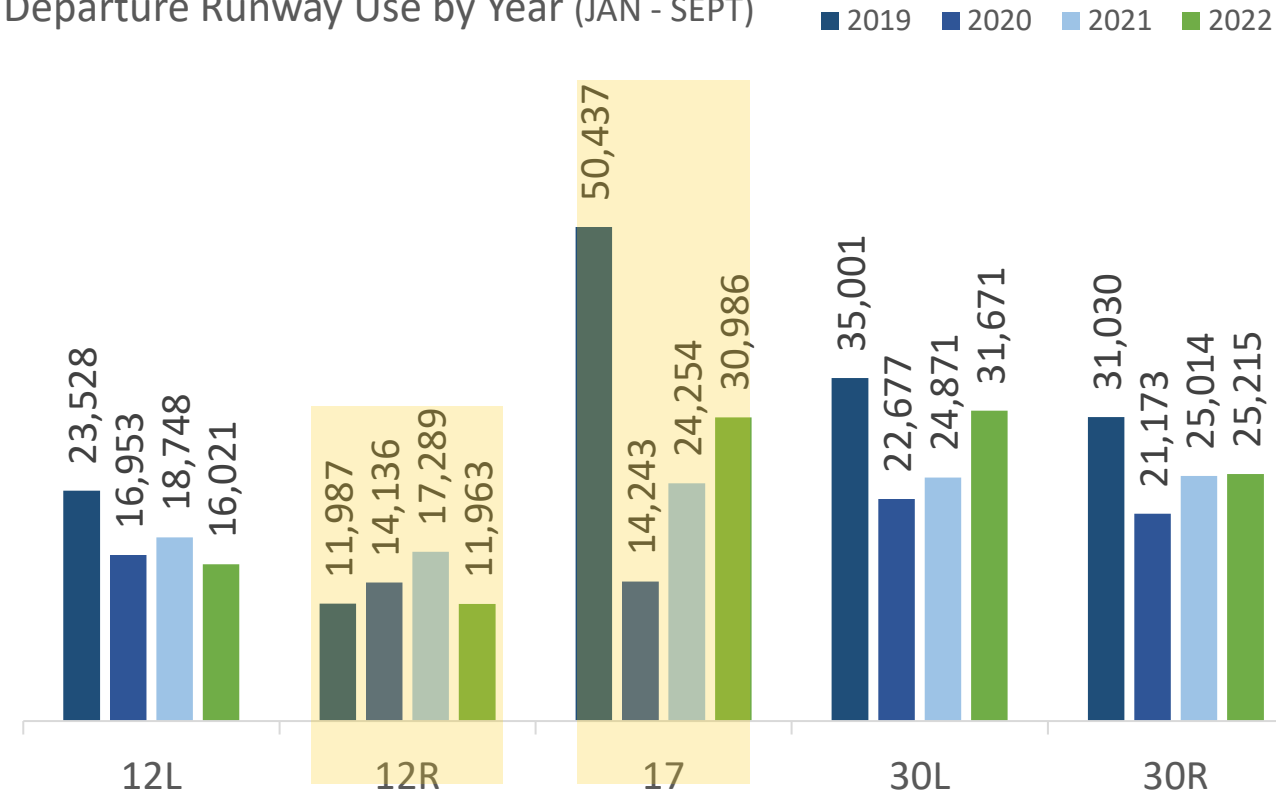
MSP Runway Use



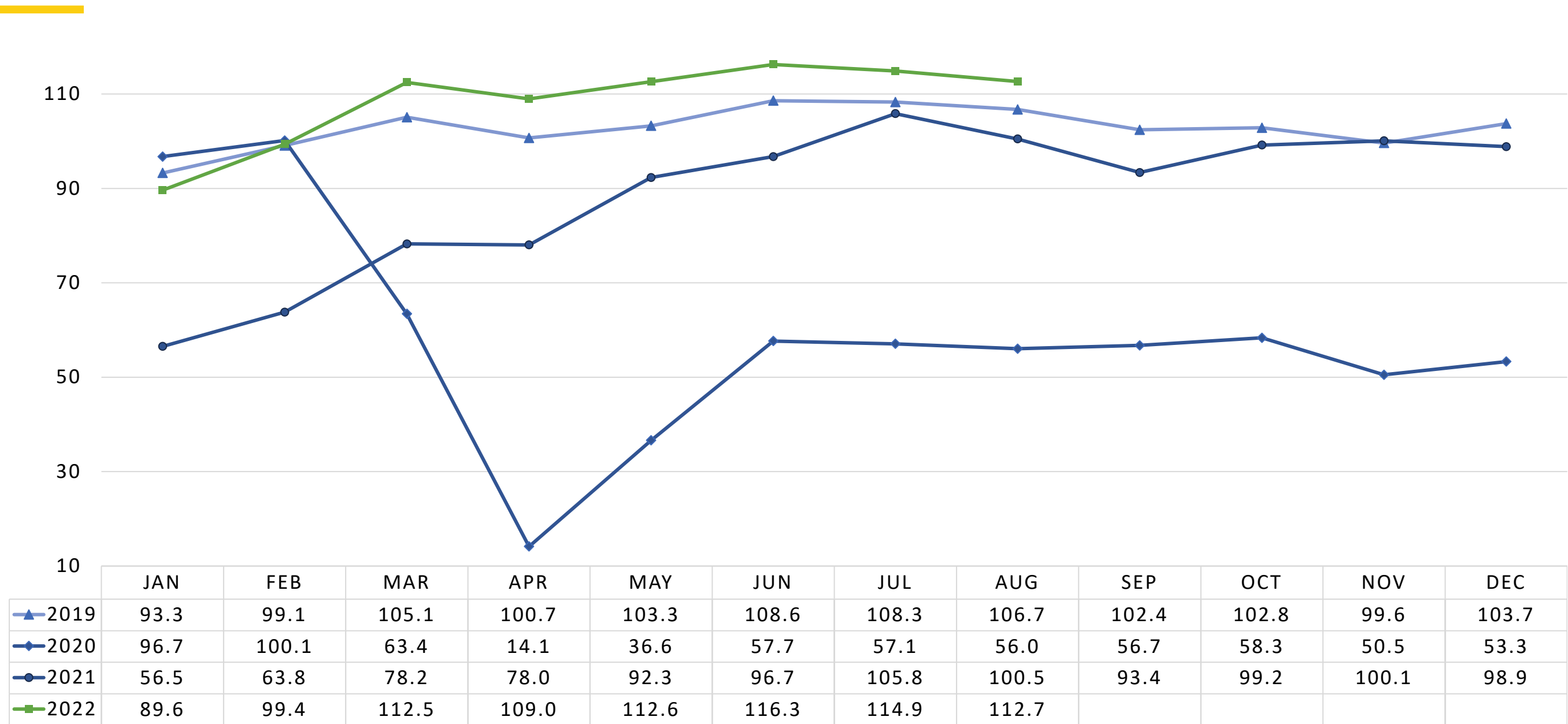
Arrival Runway Use by Year (JAN - SEPT)



Departure Runway Use by Year (JAN - SEPT)

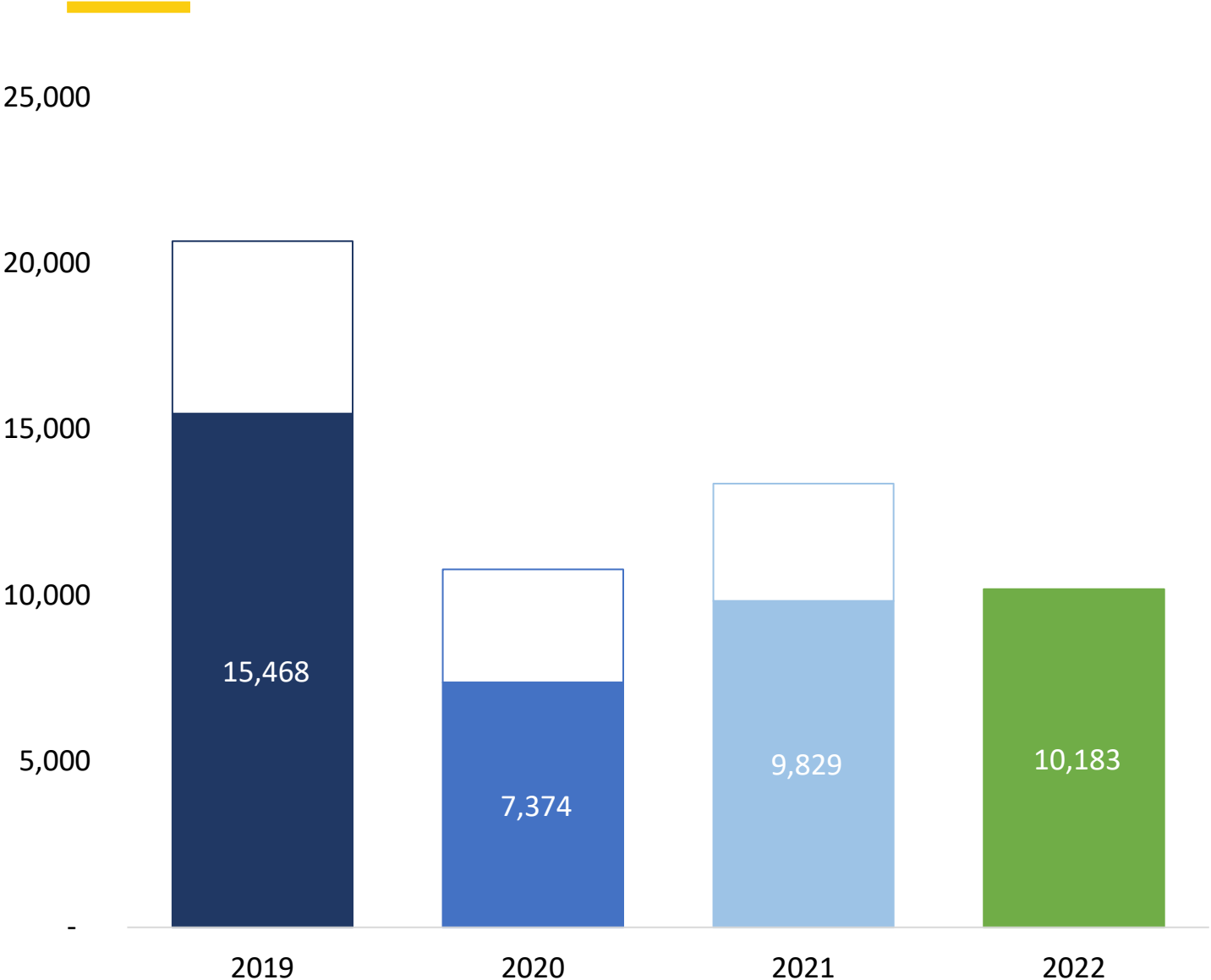


MSP Average Passengers per Flight



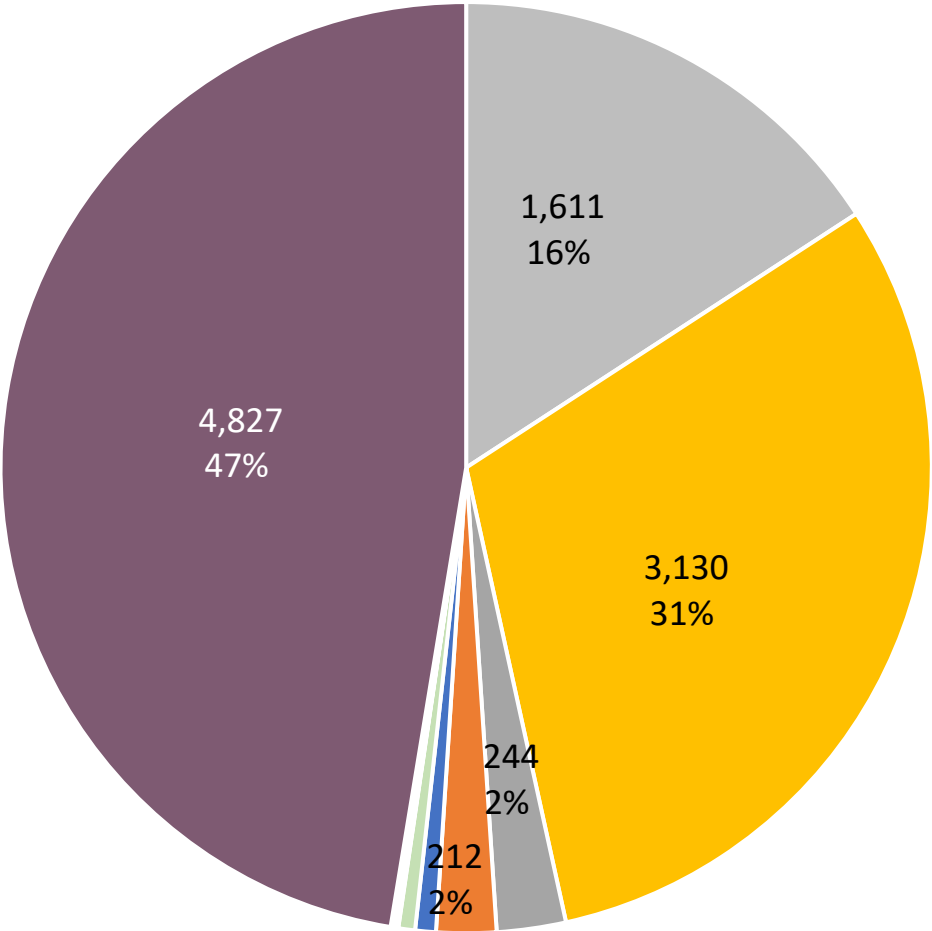
SOURCE: MSP MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORTS

MSP Complaints from Inver Grove Heights Households



Solid areas are January through September.

MSP 2022 COMPLAINTS FROM IGH BY HOUSEHOLD



Thank you



Inver Grove Heights Environmental Commission
October 27, 2022

Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission
8150 Barbara Avenue
Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes**1. Call to Order**

The Environmental Advisory Commission of Inver Grove Heights met in City Council Chambers on Thursday, August 25, 2022. Chair Boehmke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Chair Nichole Boehmke, Commissioners; Sarah Brass, Sara Goodman, Nick Ruiz, Ted Trenzeluk, Larry Moehring, Kevin Sethre, Todd Kruse
Absent: Brian Barner (excused)

3. Presentations**A. SolSmart Program Overview**

Emma Parkson, Senior Program Associate of Great Plain Institute, presented a powerpoint presentation to the Environmental Advisory Commission on SolSmart. Powerpoint slides were presented as follows:

What is SolSmart

- SolSmart is a national designation and technical assistance program that helps local governments make it faster, easier, and more affordable for residents and businesses to go solar.
- A SolSmart designation:
 - Recognizes communities that have taken key steps to address local barriers to solar energy and foster the growth of mature local solar markets.
 - Demonstrates that a community is “open for solar business,” making it attractive to solar companies and other business development.
 - SolSmart provides targeted, no-cost technical assistance to help communities reduce soft costs and earn SolSmart designation.

SolSmart Actions

- Increase transparency
 - Post a permitting checklist online
 - Develop a solar landing page
- Increase understanding
 - Provide training on solar PV to staff working in permitting and inspection
 - Train planning staff on planning and zoning best practices for solar PV
- Reduce barriers
 - Decrease permit turnaround time
 - Codify that solar PV is a by-right accessory use in the zoning ordinance
- Benefits:
 - Streamline processes + Clear solar guidelines
 - Better submittals to local government departments + Solar training for staff
 - Shorter processing times
 - Time savings for department staff + Budget savings for local governments

The SolSmart Designation Process

- 1) Visit the website solsmart.org
- 2) Read Program Guide
- 3) Complete consultation
- 4) Submit written commitment
- 5) Utilize Technical Assistance
- 6) Submit application
- 7) Publicize successful designation

Technical Assistance

- SolSmart technical assistance providers work with elected officials, local government staff, and community members to help communities update processes using established best practices
- The technical assistance is funded by SolSmart, and there is no cost to the community
 - Communities must commit staff time to working toward SolSmart designation
 - Communities must demonstrate a commitment to achieving designation
- Delivery of technical assistance can be tailored to fit the community needs
 - Online - resource library, email, webinars, templates
 - Phone - conference calls
 - In person - site visits, technical workshops

Designation Structure

- To receive designation, communities must complete the following:
 - Bronze: Complete 3 prerequisites, 20 pts in Permitting & Inspections, 20 pts in Planning & Zoning, 60 pts total.
 - Silver: Bronze requirements, 3 additional prerequisites, 100 pts total.
 - Gold: Silver requirements, 2 additional prerequisites, 200 pts total.

Core Competencies: Criteria and Designation

- 75 unique credits in 5 different categories that promote best practices to help local governments improve their solar markets
- Each credit has a corresponding point value ranging from 5 to 20
- Foundational Categories:
 - Permitting and Inspection
 - Planning and Zoning
- Special Focus Categories:
 - Government Operations
 - Community Engagement
 - Market Development

Designation Criteria

- Permitting and Inspection | 20 Credits | 205 Points
- Planning and Zoning | 23 Credits | 185 Points
- Government Operations | 10 Credits | 160 Points
- Community Engagement | 12 Credits | 70 Points
- Market Development | 10 Credits | 155 Points

Designation Review Process

- Ensure that applicants are evaluated fairly
- Ensure that the SolSmart designation is meaningful, robust, and highly valued
- Provide input regarding possible improvement to solar policies
- Discover particularly noteworthy accomplishments to highlight for press releases
- Steps:
 - 1) Community submits application
 - 2) Two reviewers independently evaluate the claims made in the application
 - 3) Reviewers compare their findings and generate feedback reports
 - 4) Results are sent to the TA provider and Advisor for sharing with community

SolSmart by the Numbers

- National: 474 Designees; 176 gold, 118 silver, 180 bronze
- Minnesota: 43 Designees; 9 gold, 15 silver, 19 bronze

Technical Assistance Guides, Templates, and Resources

- The SolSmart program has an extensive resource library to make the designation process as easy as possible for communities.
 - The updated [program guide](#) walks through each credit of the SolSmart designation criteria. The program guide has links to templates and other resources directly relevant to each credit.
 - More in-depth resources can be found on the [SolSmart Resources](#) page. Here you'll find webinars and issue briefs tagged with the specific criteria they address.
 - Within the resources are several training webinars specific to the SolSmart credits. These are free and available to anyone.

Commissioner Kruse asked what is the highest value carbon management solution for local governments from cost-benefit analysis standpoint. Mrs. Parkson stated she would have to defer the question to their carbon management teams as she works on the communities team.

Commissioner Kruse asked what area GPI serves. Mrs. Parkson noted they have expanded to offer their services through the mid-west and nationally.

Commissioner Kruse noted he had read that 50% of energy produced is wasted along the transmission line and asked what the solution is for this. Mrs. Parkson stated she would have to defer the question to their energy systems teams.

Commissioner Moehring asked what the most common issues are for communities found during the technical assessments. Mrs. Parkson answered most issues are related to the zoning ordinances. Often communities do not mention solar in their zoning ordinance. Many communities work with GPI to update their zoning ordinance and include solar development parameters.

Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, asked how long the technical assessment typically takes. Mrs. Parkson noted it typically takes less than 1 business week.

Commissioner Sethre asked what the cost is for city staff time. Mrs. Parkson stated that will vary based on the community's goals and how much the city wants to achieve. Technical assistance

providers take a lot of the leg work off staff. City staff do more of the facilitation between departments.

Commissioner Brass asked how many communities do not make it to the bronze level. Mrs. Parkson stated it's very likely a community will achieve bronze as it's easiest to achieve. The intention of bronze is to document where are city processes are currently at. Where, for example, Silver requires more effort, such as changes to zoning ordinance.

Commissioner Trenzeluk asked what percentage of a sustainability staff member is typically needed for this work, for example, what was needed for the city of South St. Paul. Mrs. Parkson estimated about 1/8 of an FTE for the year. This varies by community and the technical assistance provider is there to help with the leg work. Commissioner Boehmke noted that there is no timeline for the program and a community can work at its own pace. Mrs. Parkson stated that is correct however the technical assistance provider will continue to help keep you on track.

Mrs. Sutherland noted city leadership has already requested she to look into potential updates to the city code related to solar development, however it has not yet been determined that a city goal would be to achieve all designation of the SolSmart program. She asked if a city could join with the intent to just achieve gold or silver. Mrs. Parkson responded yes, and technical assistance will continue to be available any time after joining. Mrs. Sutherland noted this work would fall within her environmental planning role and within the bounds of city council and leadership goals.

Commissioner Kruse asked what the city process would be for the city to move forward with SolSmart. Mrs. Sutherland stated that the Environmental Advisory Commission and City Council would review a program proposal, and possibly the Planning Commission if recommended by the City Planner.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Minutes of Thursday, June 23, 2022, Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Sethre, seconded by Commissioner Trenzeluk to approve the minutes from Thursday, June, 23, 2022 as submitted.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. Regular Agenda

6. Public Comment

7. Commissioner and Staff Comments

B. Solar Power Hour Update

Mrs. Sutherland shared there were 49 people in attendance at the Grow Solar's Solar Power Hour event on August 4, majority were IGH residents. Maybe people at the event asked questions related to if solar was right for their property and showed interest in the group buy

opportunity. Planning staff and Community Development as a response believe the city should look into updating our zoning code to reflect solar development.

The Solar Power Hour workshop included background on home energy efficiency, solar panel basics, if it's right for your property, and differences between roof top and ground mounted options. Grow Solar selected a solar developer who will offer a group buy opportunity to residents and small businesses within the Twin Cities metro. The more buyers who commit to installing solar panels through this program, the lower the cost is per person. The program's goal is to make the solar installation process easier and more accessible through affordability. Registration for a final free virtual workshop is still available at www.growsolar.org/twin-cities.

Commissioner Brass noted she would be supportive of the SolSmart program as it's free and the Solar Power Hour shows there is community interest in solar.

Commissioner Trenzeluk stated this is similar to the GreenStep City program, that provides free technical assistance to cities.

Commissioner Sethre suggested this could be taken to the City Council. Commissioner Trenzeluk suggested the EAC could make a recommendation to the City Council for the City to pursue the SolSmart program. Mrs. Sutherland recommended the EAC make a motion for staff to continue researching the SolSmart program. She would then bring the conversation back to the EAC with a staff recommendation and request the EAC make a recommendation to the City Council.

Motion by Commissioner Sethre, seconded by Commissioner Kruse to request staff continue researching the SolSmart program and bring an update back to the EAC.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0 Motion carried.

A. Organics Drop Off Update

Mrs. Sutherland shared an update related to the organic drop site program the Commission was interested in including in the 2023 EAC workplan. This is a program offered by Dakota County where residents can dispose of their food waste and compostable paper for free at an organics drop off. City and County staff are looking into feasible locations for this in IGH. Mrs. Sutherland noted city council and staff received emails from three residents expressing interest in locating an organics site in IGH. Municipal and County properties are being considered at this time, and she will bring an update back to the Commission.

B. Meeting Time Survey

Commissioner Sethre requested the Commission consider an earlier meeting time. Mrs. Sutherland stated the two determining factors are 1) Commissioner availability, and 2) Town Square's availability. Town Square could accommodate a 6 pm, 6:30 pm, or continue as at 7pm. Mrs. Sutherland took roll call and because 3 commissioners preferred a 7 pm start time, she advised the 7 pm start time is continued. This can be revisited again after the next round of appointments if the Commission would like.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Sethre shared the Commission was invited to a tour of Republic Services Recycling Facility (Material Recovery Facility) and Pine Bend Landfill. He noted the tours were informative and would recommend a tour to all residents.

Commissioner Kruse shared that Soil and Water District (SWCD) is a local environmental agency. He recommends the EAC invite SWCD to speak to the Commission. Commissioner Goodman noted she has gone through SWCD's Landscaping for Clean Water program.

Commissioner Ruiz shared he joined the Master Recycling/Composter Program.

Motion by Commissioner Kruse. Seconded by Chair Boehmke to invite the SWCD to speak at a future EAC meeting.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. Adjourn

Commission adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Ayes: 8
Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**Staff Report****TITLE: 2023 Environmental Commission Workplan Discussion**

Meeting Date:	October 27, 2022
Item Type:	Regular Agenda
Contact:	Ally Sutherland, 651-604-8511
Prepared by:	Ally Sutherland

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) is asked to provide feedback on draft 2023 EAC Workplan attached and assign a EAC representative for each item.

BACKGROUND

At the June 23, 2022 EAC meeting, the Commission reviewed a list of potential initiatives to pursue in 2023. The Commission noted it was in favor of the three initiatives for the 2023 EAC workplan: Dakota County Organics Drop Off Program, SolSmart, and a Resident and Business Sustainability Recognition Program. Updates on these items are listed below:

- [SolSmart](#): At the August 25, 2022 EAC Meeting, SolSmart presented a program overview. Based on the discussion, the EAC noted it is still in favor of including SolSmart in the 2023 EAC Workplan.
- [Organics Drop Off](#): City and Dakota County staff have continued to research possible locations for organics drop off in IGH. Dakota County staff are now working with the City Planning department to review requirements for a potential site on County property in IGH.
- [Sustainability Recognition Program](#): City leadership is in favor of creating an environmental related recognition program for residents and businesses.

The EAC should note the city's two-year MOU with Xcel Energy's Partners In Energy is ending in December 2022. If the City wishes to continue receiving technical assistance from this program, the city can request the MOU be extended to support specific programming in 2023 for [Energy Action Plan](#) related items, for example:

- Implementing SolSmart related items
- Developing a Sustainability Recognition Program for residents and businesses
- Supporting community electric vehicle readiness, and more

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on EAC discussions and free technical assistance available to the City, Staff has drafted the attached draft 2023 EAC Workplan. Staff recommends adding "Explore electric vehicle readiness" as an item as this support the IGH Energy Action Plan and is currently a priority of many other twin cities communities, GreenStep City partners, and Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy.

Staff recommends the EAC discuss the draft 2023 EAC Workplan to provide feedback and assign a EAC representative for each item. EAC representatives will be asked to attend related City Council meetings as needed with Environmental Specialist to support items and represent the EAC. Staff will bring back an updated draft 2023 EAC work plan to the November 17, 2022 EAC meeting for review.

ATTACHMENTS

- Optional 2023 Environmental Advisory Commission Workplan Items
- DRAFT 2023 Environmental Advisory Commission Workplan

Optional 2023 Environmental Advisory Commission Workplan Items

Updated 10/24/2022

Staff has developed a list of environmental initiatives the EAC can consider including in the 2023 EAC Workplan. These initiatives support the City's existing environmental and sustainability programming goals. Items are in no particular order.

SolSmart: SolSmart is a solar-ready certification program focused on helping communities adopt best practices for solar readiness. The city is eligible to receive free technical assistance from Great Plains Institute (GPI) on solar projects, land use and permitting standards, and educational and outreach initiatives does require entering the program. Minnesota has almost 40 communities that have achieved certification and their achievements which can be viewed [here](#).

Organics Drop-Off: Dakota County is expanding opportunities for residential organics recovery. Specifically, to co-develop and provide assistance (e.g., hauling and enclosure reimbursement, resident education, training) for residential organics drop-off sites with cities until curbside organics collection is widely available. Cities provide the location and site maintenance. Drop-off sites include organics dumpsters that may be enclosed in a fenced-in structure. Any Dakota County resident can sign up to use this free service. Cities with existing drop-off are include Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Hastings, Lakeville, Mendota Heights, Rosemount, and West St. Paul.

Residential and Business Sustainability Recognition Program: Many communities in Minnesota recognize their residents and/or businesses for taking sustainable actions that help create a greener, more resilient community. Examples of city sustainability recognition programs include: [Eden Prairie](#), [St Louis Park](#), [Hopkins](#), [Coon Rapids](#), [LaCrescent](#), [Burnsville Neighborhood Grant](#), [Burnsville Community Builder Award](#) and more.

Pollinator Lawns and/or No-Mow May: Initiatives such as [pollinator/bee lawns](#) and [No Mow May](#) were created to provide habitat for pollinators that have been in decline for years. Bee lawns made of a tight mix of grasses and low-growing perennials that offer high-quality nutrition to pollinators. No Mow May was developed to increase pollen and other foraging resources for pollinators emerging from dormancy. The initiative is promoted by Bee City USA and cities such as West St. Paul, Edina, Crystal, New Brighton, Vadnais Heights and Mendota Heights by temporarily suspending zoning codes. IGH received at least 7 inquiries from residents about No Mow May in May 2022.

Litter Clean-Up Event: Various cities organize city-wide litter clean-up events in Spring or Fall. Picking up trash, litter, and other debris protects water quality by preventing pollutants from entering the storm water system. Volunteers are typically organized into groups and designated to sites around the city such as parks, streets and school grounds. Examples of existing events/programs include [Eden Prairie](#), [St. Paul](#), [Minneapolis](#), [Lakeville](#), [Dakota County](#), [Champlin](#), [Fridley](#), [Duluth](#), [Vadnais Heights](#), [Roseville](#) and more.

Home Energy Squad® Buy-Downs: The 2020 Inver Grove Heights Energy Survey results identified cost as the number one barrier to completing energy efficiency projects in home and businesses. [Home Energy Squad visits](#) are the first step to identifying home energy problems, and how homeowners can save money and reduce energy usage. Other Minnesota cities offer "Buy Downs" of home energy squad visits to reduce cost barriers to home energy improvements. City programs vary, where they pay for a portion of the visit or offer a select number of free visits annually. Cities such as Burnsville, Coon Rapids, Golden Valley, Richfield, and [more](#) participate

Electric Vehicle Readiness: Many twin cities metro cities are becoming EV ready to achieve climate, public health, and equitable transportation goals. Communities are doing so by updating city codes, permits and administrative process to support public EV infrastructure development. Communities are also partnering with local businesses and community groups to increase access to charging infrastructure, and researching ways to incorporate EVs into their municipal fleet. CERTs, a program partner of the GreenStep City, is [releasing certification program soon](#) to help cities achieve electric vehicle readiness goals. Participation is limited and an application is required.

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION WORKPLAN

Duties and functions of the City of Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) include reviewing and advising the City Council on environmental issues and promoting public awareness and understanding of local environmental issues.

In 2023, the EAC will work on the following workplan items with support from the city's Environmental Specialist.

ITEM	TECHNICAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE	EAC REPRESENTATIVE(S)	RELATED CITY PROGRAMMING
Support development of an IGH Organics Drop Off	Dakota County	TBD	2023 Community Waste Abatement Workplan - GreenStep City
Join SolSmart and work to achieve gold designation	- SolSmart <i>Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy (MOU dependent)</i>	TBD	- Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy/IGH Energy Action Plan - GreenStep City
Develop a Residential and Business Recognition Program	- GreenStep City <i>Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy (MOU dependent)</i>	TBD	2023 Community Waste Abatement Workplan - Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy/IGH Energy Action Plan - GreenStep City
Explore electric vehicle readiness	<i>Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy (MOU dependent)</i>	TBD	- Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy/IGH Energy Action Plan - GreenStep City

EV CHARGERS FOR IGH

Let's give IGH a reputation as an EV Charging Haven

Collated by Dawn Gaetke October 2022

Charging Basics

- Level 1 (trickle charge)
 - Plug into a standard 120-volt household outlet. No additional equipment required. Provides 2 to 5 miles of range for every hour vehicle is charge.
 - Not relevant for this discussion
- Level 2 (J1772)
 - Plug into a 240-volt outlet. Provides 10 to 50 miles of range per hour. Most EVs will charge back up to 80% in 2 to 3 hours. Good for around town driving. Common for both household use and public charging stations.
- Direct Current Fast Charge (DCFC)
 - Public charging stations. Can fully charge an EV in about 30 minutes. Needful for road trips. Convenient for around town driving.

Source: <https://driveelectricmn.org/charging/>

Location Selection Basics

- Install DCFC fast chargers near busy highway corridor
 - Locating a DCFC along major roadways in your community gives EV drivers the confidence to plan trips while encouraging them to spend dollars in your community.
 - Must be near an industrial line. Close to a transformer with minimal trenching saves costs
- Install Level 2 stations near amenities that provide things to do while charging for multiple hours
 - There are a variety of locations that work very well for Level 2: parks, theaters, libraries, hotels, restaurants
 - Find route to power supply that minimizes trenching, consider mounting on a wall
 - Look for a building with 240V breaker slots available (two per charging head)—having unused breaker space means no additional electrical capacity work is required.
- General best practice basics
 - Install in larger lots. This way, the EV charging stations take up a smaller overall percentage of the parking spaces.
 - Lighting helps EV owners feel safe while they charge.

Our Retail Business Hubs

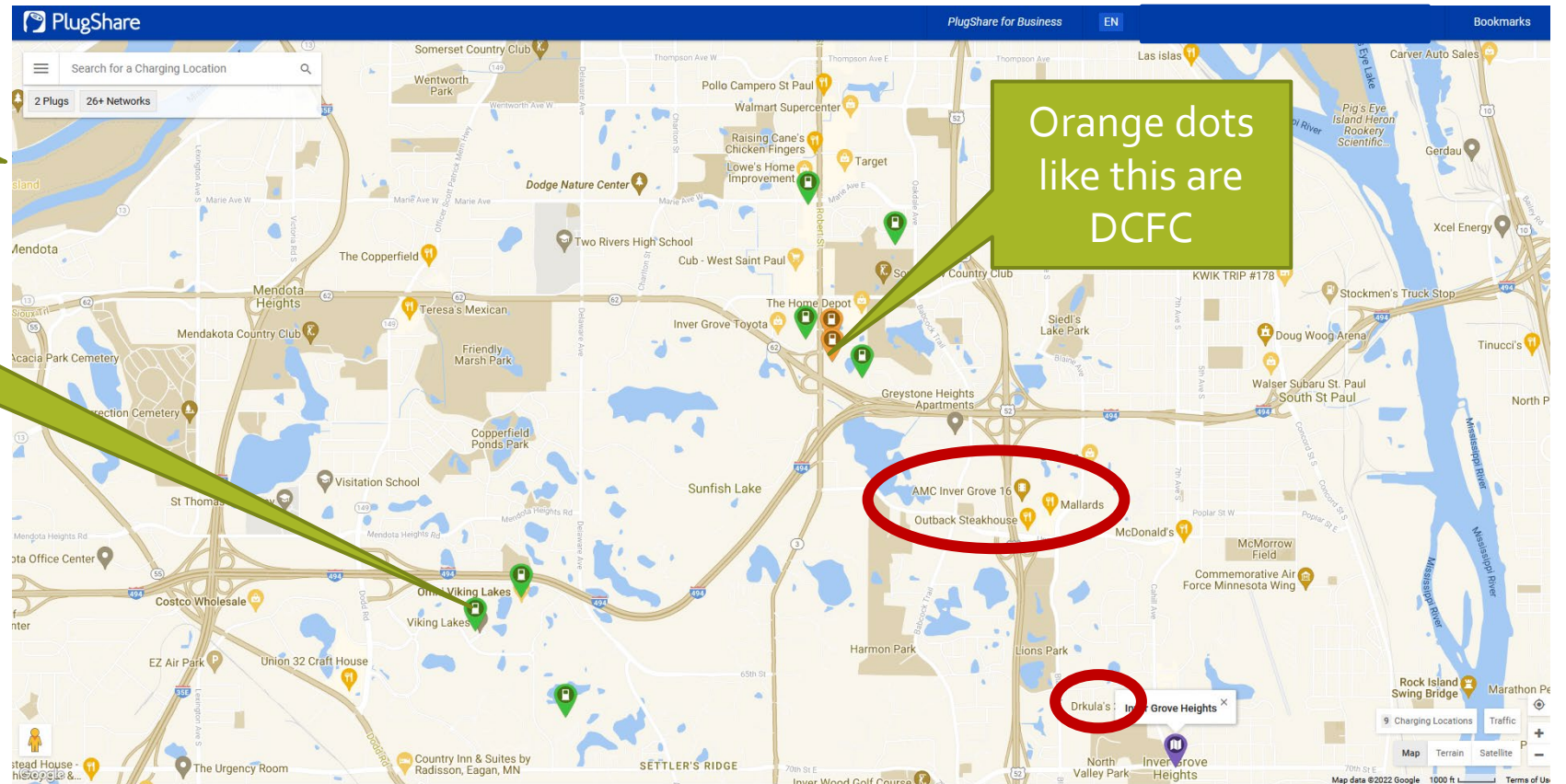
- Blaine and Upper 55th
 - Cahill and 65th
 - Argenta Hills/Target
 - Cahill and Concord
-
- Ideally, there would be a charger at every hub
 - This presentation examines some location possibilities

Currently, our business hubs look like deserts to EV drivers using charging apps

This is the result when searching for stations in Inver Grove Heights

Green dots are Level 2 stations

As an EV driver, I am going to hang out on South Robert or head to Eagan



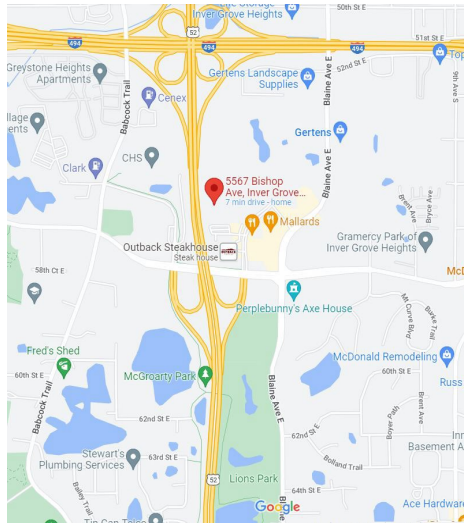
Let's explore possibilities to change that initial impression

Blaine and Upper 55th

DCFC makes sense since this is near Highways 52 and 494 as shown by the map below

Map to right is close-up of area

Note the 2 hotels, 5+ restaurants, office park, movie theater, axe house, health offices, and nearby apartments (Lake Cove, Blackberry Pointe, Gramercy Park) and other businesses



Blaine and Upper 55th continued

Movie theater lot has most space

To be closer to transformer AmericInn, Microtel/Outback, near Jimmy John's, or the Blackberry office park make more sense

Lightning bolts indicate approximate transformer placement



Why lots of space is important

Pictured to the right is a Tomah, WI fast charging station

This is to give an idea of the space these stations could take up (smaller is possible)



Other station possibilities

Top left is a level 2 wall-mounted single bay charger on the Siren Chamber of Commerce building



Top right is a covered, 2 bay, level 2 charger at Racine, WI City Hall



Middle left is a 2 port, level 2 charger at a mall parking lot in Tomah, WI. Middle right is a 2 port Fast Charger, again in mall parking lot Tomah, WI



Bottom left is an 8 bay Tesla supercharging station. (They are proprietary unless you have adaptor.) Bottom right is the 2 port, fast charging station at Inver Grove Volkswagen



Cahill and 65th

Map to right is close-up of area

Level 2 makes most sense here. Near grocery shopping, some eating establishments, a bowling alley, and an apartment complex to the far right of the image.

The area behind Aldi's and O'Reilly has most space, but, again, transformer location (lightning bolts) suggests other areas.

Note the transformer near the laundromat. A laundromat makes sense for a level 2 charger.



Argenta Hills/Target

Map to right is close-up of area

DCFC probably makes most sense since this is right on Highway 55.

The area between Target and the other stores has the most space, but, again, transformer location (lightning bolts) suggests other areas.



Cahill and Concord – the Walmart Area

Many Walmarts have Electrify America charging stations.

This Walmart could be encouraged to add a charging station

Pictured at right is the station at the Tomah, WI Walmart



Why would businesses work with us to bring more charging stations to IGH?

- Businesses will attract EV drivers whose income is twice the national average
- Increase customer spend because shoppers stay in the store longer
- Puts their business on the map within EV charging apps
- Create virtual connections to drivers who use their stations

Source: <https://www.chargepoint.com/blog/5-ways-retail-stores-can-boost-sales-ev-charging>

- At least two charging station providers claim to cover all up front and maintenance costs
 - Electrify America
 - EVgo

What can Environmental and Planning Commissions do?

- Pave the way for any necessary permitting
- Help educate local businesses and institutions about hosting EV charging stations
 - Distribute educational materials
 - Host/sponsor a day-long workshop where EV Charging Pros are invited in to speak and all vendors are gathered together in one place
- Highlight EV charging host businesses on city social media

What else can the city do to champion EV charging?

- Install a Level 2 charging station at our municipal golf course
- Install a Level 2 charging station at our hockey rink/fitness center
- Install Level 2 chargers for our own fleet and start converting our fleet to electric
 - Zef Energy, a Minneapolis based company, could help with this, as could others

City can encourage home charging

- Amend single family dwelling building ordinances to make homes EV charging ready*
 - Require pre-installation of conduit: Designate enough space and capacity on the main electrical panel or garage subpanel for at least a 40 amp, 240V dedicated branch circuit. Install conduit linking the electrical panel to the future location of the EV charger
 - Wire a Level 2-ready outlet: install a 240V grounded alternating current receptacle, allowing a homeowner to purchase a plug-in Level 2 EV charger without the extra wiring expense
- Amend multi-family dwelling building ordinances to mandate charging stations in parking areas

*Source: <https://www.energystar.gov/sites/default/files/asset/document/Building%20Electric%20Vehicle-Ready%20Homes.pdf>