

Information to help prepare for FAA Open Houses on Sky Harbor NextGen

Background:

In 2014, the FAA adopted new flight patterns at Phoenix Sky Harbor airport known as NextGen. While the greatest impact was in Phoenix, this change resulted in new Sky Harbor air traffic over DC Ranch. The city of Phoenix filed a lawsuit against the FAA in August 2017 that has led to the FAA agreeing to hold open houses to gather public input that could result in FAA-initiated changes to NextGen.

If the Sky Harbor NextGen flight pattern changes have negatively impacted the enjoyment of your home, this is your opportunity to speak up!

Sky Harbor NextGen flight patterns also caused tighter flight paths to occur at Scottsdale Airport.

[Flight paths prior to NextGen](#)

[Flight Paths under NextGen](#)

To Note:

The FAA considers safety its priority, so it is important to emphasize that safety is a serious concern.

Talking Points:

I am a resident of DC Ranch, a Scottsdale community located north and west of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. I am concerned about increased risk to public safety due to Sky Harbor NextGen flight paths taking place over far more densely populated areas.

The FAA must make changes for eastbound departure routes from Sky Harbor Airport to lessen the negative impact on eastern communities resulting from the 2014 flight path changes.

Citizen concerns have risen dramatically from the Scottsdale area, increasing from 7 in 2013 to 17,000 in 2016. I urge the FAA to consider changes that could be made to increase safety and lessen the impact on people now dealing with increased flight traffic over their homes and businesses, such as:

- Moving the northeast-bound flight patterns just a few miles to the east would result in flying over primarily unpopulated areas.
- Patterns became denser. Flights should be spaced to eliminate consistent flyovers generated every 90-120 seconds on the same path.
- Climbing altitudes were decreased by around 2,000 feet. They must be raised especially over more populated and higher land elevations in north Scottsdale.
- Slow departing flights by 30 or more knots to decrease sound as shown in the [Boston study](#).

SCANA: Scottsdale Coalition on Airport Noise Abatement is a citizen's organization that was formed to address north Scottsdale resident concerns with Sky Harbor NextGen. You can find more information on their website: www.airplanenoise.org