

Comments from Lexington:

To: Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office
From: Sheila Page
Re: **EEA #16654: L.G. Hanscom Field North Airfield Development ENF**
Date: February 14, 2023

As Hanscom Airfield has grown and expanded over the years, the incremental increases in, aircraft traffic, noise, and air pollution has eroded the quality of life for residents and wildlife and diminishes the visitor experience. The flight path runs directly over Environmental Justice Areas in Lexington, federally-owned Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge, the Minute Man National Historical Park and the Battle Road Scenic Byway. We are concerned about the impact to our residents health and as well as these unique cultural and environmental resources.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report should include both qualitative and quantitative information that addresses questions of increase air traffic and subsequent air quality, noise and visual intrusions.

In addition this project's impact on climate change should also be addressed. The increase in impervious pavement and the resultant loss of the woodland and grassland areas in the area proposed for development will create a "heat-island" effect that may impact surrounding neighborhoods and businesses without mitigation measures taken. How will groundwater be protected in the event of a fuel spill or similar occurrence. Has there been any spills in the past? Is any mitigation needed now for past contamination events?

The four communities encircling Hanscom are working to reduce their respective carbon footprints. The carbon footprint of the proposed use should be evaluated, including both direct impacts from new impervious surface as well as increased fuel usage.

Airplane exhaust severely diminishes air quality. We should clearly understand the increased air traffic's impacts. In addition, this is an opportunity to be a leader in sustainable aviation. We would like to know more about the fuels and fuel storage.

THANK YOU !

Sheila Page
Assistant Planning Director
Town of Lexington
1625 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, Massachusetts 02420

spage@lexingtonma.gov
781-698-4563