

Proposed Statute Changes to Airport Zoning Public Outreach – Thief River Falls, May 11, 2015 Summary

These meetings notes are a summary of the above meeting. Any corrections should be sent to Rylan Juran, Rylan.Juran@state.mn.us.

Attendance: See the attached attendance sheet.

Agenda

- Introductions
- Airport Zoning History
- Purpose of Airport Zoning
- Current Airport Zoning
 - Airspace
 - Land Use
- Issues/Solutions
- Next Steps
- How to Provide Further Comments
- Questions

MnDOT delivered a presentation on the agency's proposed changes to airport zoning statutes. The presentation included the history and purpose of airport zoning, current MN airport zoning requirements, and the work of the airport zoning advisory committee.

The airport zoning advisory committee identified issues with current airport zoning and provided input to guide a statutory change proposal. This proposal seeks to provide for better integration with local zoning and planning efforts and provide more flexibility into airport zoning efforts.

MnDOT asked for input on custom-zoning criteria and modifications to Established Residential Neighborhood provisions, and feedback on the proposal in general.

A discussion session followed the presentation and is summarized below:

Question: What defines an Established Residential Neighborhood (ERN)? If one new house is built is that exempt? Response: Yes, an ERN allows for infill. Also, when determining what constitutes an ERN there are 10 – 15 items listed in MN Rules that need to be considered. The community is responsible for identifying an ERN.

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Comment: Joint Airport Zoning Boards (JAZB) do not meet regularly and they are unfamiliar with zoning.

Response: This is an issue we often hear about across the state. Most JAZBs do not meet regularly, and many dissolve upon completion of their work in prepping an ordinance.

Comment: There is a disconnect between the zoning processes (Federal and State) for the JAZB, working closer with local zoning is a good move.

Comment: Showing the airport zoning boundaries on city/county documents is a good idea.

MnDOT Comment: The new language would trigger adding airport zoning to their official control documents when the city or county updates pertinent maps.

Question: Will funding be available to update a county map when a city map is updated, so there's consistency?

Response: MnDOT will consider this concept.

Question: Could the 12 – 15 criteria identified for ERNs be parallel considerations for custom zoning?

Response: MnDOT will consider those criteria as we continue to develop proposed criteria.

Comment: It's very important to remember that custom zoning should not be compared to the basic zoning.

Response: That has been, and continues to be, an overarching goal of this proposal.

Question: What type of approval would the custom zoning require?

Response: The proposal includes a 120-day review period with final approval in the form of a Commissioner's Order. The same process would apply to the basic zoning concept.

Question: Would you talk about criteria that have already been discussed?

Response: This is an area where we are actively seeking stakeholder suggestions. Some of the concepts we are currently considering include:

- Safety

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- Airspace
- Vulnerable populations
- Economic impact
- Consideration of risk
- Type and number of operations
- Fleet mix
- Existing land uses

Question: What if a community has 99% of the zoning, but have a small portion does not meet the future basic zoning standards; would they be required to do custom zoning?

Response: We envision the basic zoning standards to allow for some flexibility. We will be doing broad outreach during the rule-making, so we don't know the amount of flexibility today.

Question: Will current airport zoning ordinances be grandfathered in?

Response: If the current ordinance protects existing and future infrastructure, and a Commissioner's Order was issued, then the current proposal would not trigger any need to update an ordinance.

Comment: Polk County is updating their County Comp plan.

Response: MnDOT would like to assist in incorporating airport considerations into the plan in any way possible.

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Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Tom Werner	Duluth Airport Authority
Joe Hedrick	Thief River Falls Airport
Angel Weasner	City of Crookston
Troy Schroeder	NWRDC
Dave Odette	Thief River Falls Airport
Josh Holte	Polk County Planning & Zoning
Ryan Evenson	City of Hallock
Stacy Lee	Rocksbury Township
Brian Holmer	Thief River Falls Mayor
Darrly Tveitbakk	Pennington County
Don Jensen	Pennington County
Erik Beitel	Pennington County
Mark Borseth	Thief River Falls
Christina Anderson	Pennington County
Mike Flaagan	Pennington County
Tara Kalar	MnDOT Office of Chief Counsel
Ryan Gaug	MnDOT Office of Aeronautics
Rylan Juran	MnDOT Office of Aeronautics
Cassandra Isackson	MnDOT Office of Aeronautics
Julie Carr	MnDOT Office of Aeronautics