

**VAN NUYS AIRPORT CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, September 6, 2022**

A virtual meeting of the Van Nuys Airport (VNY) Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Vice Chair, Wayne Williams. Members present: Kathy Delle Donne, Robert Rodine, Thomas Materna, Lisa Petrus, Marykate Harris, John Parker, Araz Parseghian, Ryan Sanders, Heren Molina, Sharon Bronson, Kimberly Chan, Leonel Fuentes and Chair Jason Price.

Absent: Eliot Cohen, Eric Robinson and Wendy Saunders.

**I. STAFF REPORTS:**

**A. Flora Margheritis, Airport Manager:**

Ms. Margheritis welcomed CAC members and announced that Van Nuys Airport completed the construction of runway 16L, Van Nuys Airport's 4,000-foot runway primarily used by the propeller aircraft community. The runway formally opened on Monday, August 8. Ms. Margheritis shared that the City of Los Angeles bought the airport from the War Assets Administration in 1949 for \$1. This is originally when the small runway was first built. The recently completed reconstruction will extend the life of the runway by 20 years and includes multiple safety and efficiency enhancements including LED lighting, improved signage and new surface markings.

Ms. Margheritis expressed gratitude to the airport tenants for closely coordinating with the airport to minimize operational impacts during construction and to VNY pilots for their patience while the team worked to deliver a gold standard runway.

Ms. Margheritis shared that the airport has had three environmental/sustainability wins. Both LAX and Van Nuys Airport have renewed their Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) (Level 3) from Airports Council International (ACI). The Airport Carbon Accreditation program is a voluntary program that allows airports to have their efforts to quantify and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions independently verified by ACI. This global certification recognizes LAWA's ongoing commitment to reduce our carbon footprint by mapping and measuring the carbon emissions from our operations and those of our partners.

Adding that five years ago, VNY was one of only three general aviation (GA) airports in North America to be ACA-certified when the airport achieved the necessary requirements to enter the ACI - North America's Airport Carbon Accreditation Program at Level 2. In addition to determining emissions sources within the operational boundary of VNY by measuring its carbon footprint, the airport was also required to set up its carbon management and progress towards a reduced carbon footprint.

Ms. Margheritis added that there are only two GA airports that are currently accredited airports at Level 3 'Optimization', VNY and Teterboro Airport. Level 3 known as 'Optimization,' airports are required to engage their third parties in carbon footprint reductions. Third parties include our airport tenants, sub tenants and service providers.

Second, five VNY master tenant businesses will be seeking certification or recertification through the City of L.A.'s Green Business Program. This program recognizes businesses, nonprofit organizations, and offices that meet environmental standards established by the California Green Business Network. The program will provide free environmental consulting to

our VNY airport tenants and will help them implement environmental standards currently established by the CA Green Business Network. These standards help businesses to reduce their environmental impact by reducing water and energy consumption, purchasing environmentally friendly cleaning products, properly handling hazardous materials and reducing the waste they produce.

Ms. Margheritis referenced the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) news release sent to CAC members announcing that General Aviation Modifications Inc.'s (GAMI) received FAA approval of its unleaded Avgas STC for the entire GA piston aircraft fleet. FAA's approval allows GAMI 100-octane unleaded fuel to be used by all piston-powered aircraft including those that require higher-octane fuel noting that aircraft that require a higher-octane fuel account for two-thirds of avgas consumption. This is exciting news for the aviation industry, and it's a huge step towards the transition to an unleaded fuel environment. Ms. Margheritis noted that although this is good news, she also referenced a quote by the AOPA President, "there is a lot of work yet to be done." The infrastructure must be managed, including production, manufacturing, and distribution. In the meantime, the SWIFT unleaded fuel product remains available at VNY at both the Prop Park and Signature Flight Support.

On the health front, Ms. Margheritis noted that LAWA's state-of-the-art, on-site COVID-19 testing lab at LAX exceeded 350,000 completed tests; this was part of LAWA's Travel Safely campaign.

The County Health Officer extended the requirement for all persons, 2 years of age and older, to wear a mask in indoor transportation hubs and on public ground transportation within Los Angeles County. So, the wearing of masks continues in our facilities and shuttles and continues in our City of L.A. facilities.

Ms. Margheritis gave her monthly shout out to Curt Castagna, President, and CEO of Aeroplex Group Partners and the President of the Van Nuys Airport Association for his recent appointment to President and CEO of the National Air Transportation Association (NATA). The NATA is the national association of aviation business service providers, representing the business interests of general aviation service companies on legislative and regulatory matters at the federal level, while also providing education, services, and benefits to members.

Ms. Margheritis reported that throughout the month of August, passenger levels at LAX were about 75% compared with the same time in 2019. But with the Labor Day weekend, LAX was a very busy airport. From Thursday through Monday, the airport saw about 79% of passenger levels compared with Labor Day weekend in 2019.

Ms. Margheritis added that in July 2022, VNY conducted 24,865 aircraft operations, this represents a 6.06% decrease in operations when compared to July 2021. This brings our YTD 2022 operations totals down by 12.42% as compared to YTD 2021 totals.

In July 2022 VNY had approximately 5,522 Jet Operations. This number is down 9.5% compared to July 2021 (6,104) and down 3.2% compared to last month (5,707).

## **B. Christian Moreno, Chief of Operations:**

Mr. Moreno addressed the council as it relates to the Capital Improvement Project. Once 16L/34R opened, work immediately started on the slurry seal of runway 16R which is expected to be completed on September 13. For the latest construction updates and photos please visit iflyvny.com.

The Super Scoopers arrived August 29<sup>th</sup> and started service on September 1. LA County has leased these aircraft to help fight fires during fire season for the past 29 years.

**C. Diana Sanchez, Director of Public and Community Relations:**

Ms. Sanchez thanked the CAC for their patience as she made the transition to CAC Secretary and her new role at LAX. Ms. Sanchez addressed the council as it relates to the Fernando Awards ceremony taking place on September 9. She also announced that VNY will be sponsoring the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber breakfast on September 28. Ms. Sanchez shared that the team will be attending the United Chambers Annual Mayor's luncheon on September 29<sup>th</sup> and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association's After Dark featuring LAWA CEO Justin Erbacci on September 29<sup>th</sup> in the evening.

Ms. Sanchez noted that Van Nuys Airport will have a booth at the Sherman Oaks Street Fair on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and the VICA Business Forecast Conference on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

**D. Environmental Management Report:**

Mr. Page reported on the monthly statistics for July on noise comments, the Jet Early Turn and Quiet Jet Departure programs. The briefing summarized the information contained in the monthly environmental reports which can be found on the iflyvny.com website.

[LAWA Official Site | Van Nuys Noise Comments Monthly Report](#)  
[LAWA Official Site | Van Nuys Airport Fly Friendly](#)

Additional updates and information can also be found on the LAWA website at [www.iFlyVNY.com](http://www.iFlyVNY.com) under the Noise Management Section.

**E. Lt. Anthony Boisselle, Officer-in-Charge, Airport Police:**

Lt. Boisselle reported that airport police have focused on supporting the construction on the runway by monitoring access and having high visibility in the area and on the airfield. There has been an increase in plane spotters this past week but they have all been very cooperative.

If there are any concerns members can reach out to airport police at [vnyapd@lawa.org](mailto:vnyapd@lawa.org).

**II. BOAC AGENDA ITEMS CONCERNING VNY**

Since the last CAC meeting in August, there were three BOAC meetings held in person.

There regular meeting held on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> had two consent items. Both resolutions were to accept grant offers and execution of grant agreements to cover infrastructure funds under the Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2021 for both VNY and LAX and to cover airfield improvements and noise mitigation.

Two regular items for action resolution for a contract with National Auto Fleet Group for a term of three years to cover the purchase of class 4 vehicles and accessories  
Second contract was also for National Auto Fleet Group for three years to cover the purchase of trucks, vans, SUV's and other vehicles for both airports.

Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, for a resolution to award a two-year contract with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) with a one-year extension option to cover homelessness issues, response consultant services for LAWA.

The BOAC meeting that was scheduled for Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> had no items related to VNY. The Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> BOAC meeting was subsequently cancelled.

The next regular BOAC meeting is scheduled for October 6 and will be in person and broadcast live. Members of the public interested in making a public comment must do so in person and must show proof of vaccination or a negative test.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Vice Chair opened the Public Comment Period (Item III.)

The following community member spoke during the public comment period:

Mr. David Rankell, Resident

No Community members submitted written comments for the meeting.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION**

#### **A. Presentation Urban Air Mobility Briefing – George Kivork, Joby Aviation**

Mr. Kivork gave an overview of Joby Aviation and their progress in certification.

Mr. Kivork introduced his colleague, Ryan Naru.

Mr. Rodine addressed Mr. Naru as it relates to air traffic.

Mr. Price asked questions as it relates to pilot certification and Joby's business model.

Mr. Materna asked a question regarding when the aircraft will be live and the rollout timeline.

Vice Chair Wayne Williams asked questions as it relates to flying levels.

Mr. Materna asked questions regarding the charge time.

Note: Due to the wrong caller ID number listed on the agenda callers were allowed an additional comment period.

Caller Penny asked questions regarding costs and the electric grid.

## **B. Home Depot Briefing**

Mr. Francisco Uribe gave an update on Home Depot's desire to continue to operate at the location located on Van Nuys Airport property designated for commercial use. He also shared that the location is also used as a training facility.

Mr. Rodine asked a question regarding lease terms.

## **C. Annual Election of Officers**

Mr. Rodine made a motion to elect Mr. Price as CAC Chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Mr. Materna, seconded by Mr. Parker, made a motion for Mr. Williams to serve as Vice Chair of the CAC. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

## **V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – DISCUSSION/ACTION**

No items were discussed.

## **VI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

No items were discussed.

## **VII. REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUPS**

### **A. Membership**

No items were discussed.

## **VIII. EMERGENCY ITEMS SINCE POSTING OF AGENDA**

### **A. Determination to Continue Holding CAC Meetings via Teleconference and/or Video conference under Assembly Bill 361 Section 3(e)(3). Discussion/Action**

Mr. Rodine presented a motion *“Pursuant to AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council finds that holding Council meetings in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of the members. Pursuant to AB 361 Section 3(e)(3), the Council finds that the COVID-19 State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of Council and Council members to meet safely in person. As such, the Board should continue holding Council meetings via teleconference and/or videoconference.”*

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a roll call vote of twelve "affirmative" votes, one no vote. (K. Delle Donne, H. Molina, R. Rodine, R. Sanders, M. Harris, T. Materna, A. Parseghian, J. Price, J. Parker, L. Petrus, W. Williams, and S. Bronson) and one "no" vote (L. Fuentes).

#### **IX. ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Mr. Price thanked everyone for their votes and the honor to serve as Chair.

Mr. Parker thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Williams for serving again.

Ms. Delle Donne thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Williams for serving another term.

Mr. Fuentes thanked the chair and vice chair for serving again.

Ms. Harris stated she enjoyed the presentations during this month and last month's meeting. She also thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Williams for continuing to serve.

Ms. Petrus thanked the chair and vice chair for serving again and noted she will be absent at the next meeting.

Mr. Rodine thanked the chair and vice chair for willing to serve another year.

Mr. Sanders thanked Mr. Williams and Mr. Price for serving again.

Mr. Materna commented that he enjoyed the presentation and wants to be able to see the public during the meetings.

Mr. Williams thanked everyone for their vote and spoke about the pilot shortage affecting general aviation.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT:**

8:37 p.m.