Session 17: Friends or Foes: Community Relations for Lawyers

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Common community issues

• Noise
• Height and land use compatibility
• Drones
• Street traffic
• Airline service and incentives
• Labor
• Community benefits
The lawyer’s role

- Understanding legal authority
- Explaining law
- Interplay: legal and political imperatives
- Risk assessment
- Negotiations (political, litigation, policy, legislative)
Explaining the pieces

Governance

Historic relationship

Grant Assurances

State law

Preemption

Economic and political context
Noise

- FAA thresholds and standards
- Limited tools
  - Insulation
  - Routes
  - Studies
  - Land use regulation
- Shifting expectations
- What is acceptable?
Compatibility: height

- Explaining the law
- Understanding scope of authority
Compatibility: tall towers

- Zoning, land use authorities
- Economic, political pressures
Compatibility: energy projects

• Unforeseen conflicts
• Political pressure
Compatibility: trees

- Emotional and esthetic concerns
- Condemnation
- Easements vs acquisition
Wildlife hazards: natural

- Legal obligations
- Off-airport impacts
Wildlife hazards: attractants

- Understanding legal obligations
- Off-airport land use controls
Drones

No Drone Zone

Flying a drone near a manned aircraft is illegal and dangerous.

Photo credit: Lakemaid Beer
Traffic and access
Air service / economic development

• Legal constraints
• Diversion and use of revenue

http://www.aerotropolis.com/airportCities/publications
Labor

- Labor Harmony
- Jobs
- Training
- Benefits
Community benefits

• Examples
  – LAX
  – Heathrow
Parks and sensitive neighbors

https://foursquare.com/v/carl-e-nielson-youth-park/4bd01a52046076b0c8616f71?openPhotoId=514e28d9e4b057957c6acfd8
Conclusions: tools

- Intergovernmental agreements
- MOUs
- LOAs and informal +agreements with FAA
- Legislation (local, regional, state)
- Money
Questions/discussion

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