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## City continues investigation into Don Scott runway plan

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The city of Worthington continues to dig deeper into the proposal made by Ohio State University's Don Scott Airport, 2160 Case Road, to extend its northern runway from 3,000 to 6,000 feet.

Though the airport is working on an environmental study to uncover the impact of the extension on residents, Worthington city officials decided to take matters into their own hands.

The city hired Attorney David Zoll of Zoll & Kranz LLC in Toledo last month to investigate any impact the proposal would have on Worthington alone.

Having made available \$10,000 to cover the job, City Manager Dave Elder said he looks for a report to council May 19.

In the meantime, Elder said he has forwarded to Zoll several letters from citizens giving their 2 cents.

"I've read several letters of support and several letters of opposition," Elder said.

Of those in support of the proposed exten-

sion is Columbus Flight Watch President and Worthington resident Alan Harding.

While Harding agrees the airport may make for increased noise, he said there are still many reasons to back the proposal.

"Airplanes are noisy. If you have more flights, it's going to be more noise," Harding said. "(But) the airport is good for business."

Aside from a favorable economic impact, Harding said the extension also is needed for the safety of those flying in and out of the landing strip.

In addition, Harding said the planes would

be able to stay higher longer with an extended runway, making for less noise on the ground.

Harding added that the airport works closely with medical entities including MedFlight, Lab Corp and Lifeline.

"I think that's pretty important," he said. "It should be longer."

But there are others who don't follow Harding's favorable sentiment.

John Haucaisen is one of the dozens of res-

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idents who crowded council chambers in February to speak out against the proposal.

Haucaisen said issues of safety concern more than those flying overhead.

He said routing the flight pattern over state Route 161, as proposed, would be a hazard to residents on the ground.

But the possibility of increased noise alone, Haucaisen said, is cause for concern.

"These planes really vibrate the walls," he said.

"That's really what bothers people. It would be better if we could avoid it."

Haucaisen suggested relocating the airport north to more unpopulated areas, to avoid treading a path above

thousands of Worthington residents.

"That's a lot of people to have right under it," Haucaisen said. "Nobody wants an airport in their back yard."

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