



SNP HOME

Community
Classified
Photos
Commentary
Sports
Special Sections
Contact SNP



Zoll tells council to request new study

By [AMANDA WASHIEL](#)

The question of whether or not the proposed runway extension by OSU's Don Scott Airport, 2160 Case Road, would negatively impact residents was still left unanswered after Worthington City Council heard the opinion of recently hired legal counsel David Zoll of Zoll & Kranz LLC in Toledo.

Zoll stepped up to the plate Monday to give his take on the proposal to extend the airport's northern runway from 3,000 to 6,000 feet.

But Zoll said the noise studies and information offered by the airport were not current enough to make any decisions.

Using a 1992 noise exposure map outlining the areas most affected by airport noise, Zoll said the "noise footprint" needed to be updated to better assess any possible impact.

"The data that we have is insufficient to determine the impact of the proposed project," Zoll said.

He said the use of new and different aircraft and different take-off patterns other than those studied more than a decade ago could change noise levels for surrounding areas.

He said the study only included westerly take-off patterns, excluding the current take-offs that now often exit to the east.

"It's based upon data which I don't think is accurate. That caused me concern," Zoll said. "The current noise exposure map is out of date. The proposed expansion may cause a significant shift in the noise footprint."

Zoll said the airport's current efforts to perform what he called a "basic" environmental assessment would not yield enough information to determine the proposal's impact on Worthington residents.

Instead, Zoll suggested the city request that the Federal Aviation Administration conduct a more in-depth environmental impact study.

"The environmental assessment is inadequate to evaluate

objectively the impacts of the proposal," Zoll said.

While Zoll said he is not at odds with the airport, he did suggest the expansion was based on measures of convenience alone.

"There's no foreseeable need," he said. "It's an improvement for convenience."

Aside from mulling over Zoll's suggestion to push the FAA to conduct an environmental impact study, council members also plan to consider Zoll's request for an additional \$15,000 to hire an environmental consultant in the coming weeks.

Council already has allocated \$10,000 to hire Zoll.

Several residents also gave their ideas and suggestions, both for and against the proposal.

While some chose to advocate the runway extension, many more offered their concerns.

"I'm very concerned about the future of this community," resident Angelika Gerbes said. "Erosion occurs slowly."

Zoll suggested residents wishing to give their 2 cents should continue their letter-writing campaign to the city as well as the airport itself.

He also suggested the city give further community-sponsored workshops on the matter and prompted residents to get involved.

"This community will have as big of an impact as it chooses," Zoll said.

"The data that we have is insufficient to determine the impact of the proposed project."--David ZollZoll & Kranz LLC