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Letter: Homeowners should be wary of airport plan

by Bill S. Lovejoy | Ann Arbor

Monday June 15, 2009, 11:03 AM

I have followed with interest the letters regarding the runway expansion at Ann Arbor Airport. I have had the misfortune of being familiar with two similar debates in different parts of the country, and my impression is that they share some common features.

First, the proposal is always presented by the airport as a safety initiative, but it seldom is. It is about money. Landing more, larger planes (especially if this includes increased commercial traffic) means more revenue.

Second, the cost to people on the ground is substantial. Nobody who has ever lived under a take-off or landing path would want to do so again. Unfortunately, most homeowners don't realize this until it is too late. An expansion that brings in larger planes will generate a similar expansion of homes adversely affected.

Third, the argument is always made that the people living near the airport knew it was there when they moved in, so they should not object. That is like saying you knew you had a road in front of your house when you moved in, so you should not object to it being expanded to a four-lane freeway.

Finally, the FAA is not objective. Their charter is to support air travel, not to care about loss of property values near the airport, and they typically pay only lip service to the latter. This does not mean that no runway should ever be expanded, but it does mean that healthy skepticism is in order.

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Posted by **getwithtimes** on [06/15/09 at 1:29PM](#)

You obviously do not understand the benefit of an airport. YES, larger planes will be able to come into Ann Arbor. This is a good thing for the commercial/industrial/research possibilities of the area. Business needs to have the ability to bring people in and out quickly and cheaply.

And, I have no Sympathy for people who bought a house in the flight path in the 90's with an airport that had been there for decades. Even in the 90's, Ann Arbor was listed as one of if not the highest usage, non commercial airport. Stupidity on you part does not require action on our part.

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