



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Massachusetts Historical Commission

November 15, 2021

Veronda Johnson
Environmental Protection Specialist
Operations Support Group
Federal Aviation Administration
Eastern Service Center
1701 Columbia Avenue
College Park, GA 30337

RE: Logan Airport RNAV (GPS) RWY 4L Approach Procedures, Boston, MA; MHC# RC.68314

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) have reviewed the information you submitted, received at this office on October 13, 2021, for the project referenced above.

Your letter seeks further information on the types of resources the MHC believes would be adversely affected by the undertaking through the introduction of visual or audible elements.

Concentrated flights in a more precise vertical and horizontal track will place a higher volume of aircraft in the 4L RNAV flight path. This increase of 359 flights annually will introduce increased visual and audible events which will affect the historic resources under and near the 4L RNAV flight path.

In addition to the properties identified in your correspondence, received at this office on June 21, 2021, it is the opinion of MHC that a number of other important historic resources will be impacted by additional audible and visible flight events. Please see a list below:

Cedar Grove Cemetery

The Cedar Grove Cemetery is located directly below the proposed RNAV Runway 4L flight path. MHC's *Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth* provides information on the importance of this historic resource that in MHC staff's opinion meets the criteria of eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. "Cedar Grove's land bordering the Neponset with its low lying hills, marshland and wooded areas constituted a textbook perfect location for a rural garden cemetery of the type pioneered by Dr. Jacob Bigelow, General Dearborn and others at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge/Watertown in the 1830s. The peace and charm of the place was apparent to the fashionable strollers of the mid 19th century." The Luther Briggs, Jr. designed Cedar Grove Cemetery with Dorchester Park provide a glimpse of the marshland, meadows, and gently rolling hills characteristic of southern Dorchester before intensive, post 1890-development.

Governor Hutchinson's Field

Governor Hutchinson's Field is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element of the Milton Hill Historic District. Governor Hutchinson built his family a country estate on Milton Hill to escape the city. According to *A History of Milton 1640-1887*, "he found leisure to cultivate his rural tastes and spent much time in laboring with his men in setting out and grafting trees and attending to the routine of farming and of cultivating fruits..." The field is all that remains of the estate today but continues to represent the former rural peaceful landscape of those who left the city for a rural respite.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128

www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

Captain R. B. Forbes House

The Captain R. B. Forbes House and Carriage House is a National Historic Landmark. The structures and site are also listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to the Milton Hill Historic District.

Blue Hills Reservation Multiple Resource Area

While the list the FAA provided includes the Blue Hills Parkway and Blue Hills Reservation Parkways-Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston, the list does not include the Blue Hills Reservation Multiple Resource Area. The Blue Hills Reservation is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and includes prehistoric and historic resources of the Blue Hills and Neponset River Reservations. The Blue Hills Reservation has served as an important recreation area since the latter decades of the nineteenth century. Improvements at the turn of the last century included the construction of buildings to support the public's use of the important outdoor space for the residents of the surrounding communities. The Great Blue Hill Weather Observatory, found at the top of the Great Blue Hill, is a National Historic Landmark.

Historic properties that are associated with or designed for leisure, respite, or places of rest and solemnity would be adversely effected by the increased flight events. Through the introduction of visible and audible elements that are out of character with the setting of these historic properties (36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(v)).

Thus, the MHC cannot concur with FAA's finding of "no adverse effect" to historic properties.

The proposed RNAV (GPS) Runway 4L approach procedures will concentrate flights in a more precise vertical and horizontal track. As indicated in the draft Environmental Assessment (EA), the number of overflights will increase and result in an increased number of events when air traffic noise will be heard over historic resources (see 36 CFR 800.5(2)(v)).

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (36 CFR 800). Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Sherva of my staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Jamie Loichinger, ACHP
Milton Historical Commission
Boston Landmarks Commission
AIR, Inc.
BOS Fair Skies/Fair Skies Nation
Eagle Hill Civic Association