

Redesign of RNAV Departure Procedures at Van Nuys Airport



Overview

In 2017, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) implemented Metroplex Area Navigation (RNAV) procedures at Van Nuys Airport (VNY), which resulted in changes to flight paths, affecting surrounding communities. Since then, collaborative resolution efforts have been underway to address concerns regarding the change in flight paths.

2017-2018

Metroplex Implementation: The FAA's initial publication of the Metroplex RNAV procedures contradicted the ideal waypoint established in the Metroplex Environmental Assessment (EA).

Noise Impacts: Communities in Encino, Sherman Oaks, and Studio City reported a sharp rise in noise issues due to the southward shift of flight paths. The number of individuals submitting monthly noise comments rose from 15-20 to a peak of 500.

2020

Task Force Recommendations: Over the course of eight meetings, the Task Force developed 16 recommendations to address VNY and Burbank Airport noise issues, which were submitted to the FAA by LAWA, including the revision of RNAV flight procedures to return the flight paths to existing paths before the Metroplex implementation.

FAA Response: The FAA initiated a feasibility study to address the concerns of the Task Force and ordered the convening of a "Full Work Group," including representatives of the FAA, LAWA, and other stakeholders. The FAA declined to implement interim procedures, despite LAWA's encouragement to ease concerns over noise and flight paths.

2019

LAWA's dialogue with the FAA: In response to community feedback, LAWA continuously engaged with the FAA through 2019 to determine possible alternative departure procedures. As a result of these efforts, the Southern San Fernando Valley Airplane Noise Task Force (Task Force) was established.

2021

Full Work Group Meeting: LAWA participated in the FAA Full Work Group meeting to discuss notional procedures and changes to waypoint locations.

October, Request for Redesign: LAWA asked the FAA to move forward with the flight procedure redesign process that was recommended by the Task Force and discussed at the Full Work Group meeting, resulting in a proposed publication date of 2024.

2022

June, LAWA Requests Higher Prioritization: LAWA CEO sent another letter to the FAA regarding the environmental review to ensure the integrity of the January 2024 RNAV Redesign publication date

August, FAA Response: The FAA responded to LAWA CEO's letter, ensuring that a more expeditious handling is not available in line with the Performance Based Navigation Implementation Process.

August, LAWA CEO Update to LA City Council: LAWA CEO issued a letter to City Council leadership indicating the efforts to implement RNAV Flight Path Redesign procedures with urgency, and shared the FAA's communications.

September, Priority Environmental Review Process: The FAA assured LAWA that their flight procedures team had finalized the proposed flight path redesigns, and the Environmental Team would begin its work to finalize the amendments as soon as possible.

2024

July, LAWA CEO Update to Board of Airport Commissioners: LAWA CEO shared details regarding the FAA's expected publication date of 12/26/24 for revised RNAV departure procedures.

December, Publication of Revised RNAV Procedures Postponed: Due to mandatory maintenance and logistic procedures as part of the FAA's flight inspection approval process, the publication of the Revised RNAV Departure Procedures was pushed to February 20th, 2025.

2023

August, LAWA Responds to Delay: Following an additional 11-month delay notification from the FAA, LAWA CEO sent a letter to the FAA expressing deep concern over the delay in the publication date, set for December 2024.

September, FAA Response Re: Delay: FAA provided a follow-up response to LAWA regarding the detailed and obligatory review process of the proposed VNY departures redesign, citing operational safety and efficiency qualifications not addressed in the initial RNAV departure procedure amendments.

2025

February 20th, Expected FAA publication date of revised RNAV Flight Procedures. Updated procedures are expected to include modifications to waypoint locations to reduce the southward shift of flight paths as a result of the FAA's Metroplex implementation, improving the quality of life for local residents.

Visual Representation of Revised RNAV Departure Procedures at Van Nuys Airport



May 1-14
2014 Conventional

May 1-14
2019 RNAV

February 20, 2025
FAA Proposed Notional Departure Procedures*

Following the implementation of the Revised Departure Procedures, LAWA will conduct a thorough analysis to measure effectiveness of the new procedures. For more information on the RNAV Departure Procedures, please go to www.lawa.org/lawa-environment/noise-management/van-nuys.

* WP1 and WP3 may differ from final FAA publication on February 20, 2025. The dark blue lines, and their width, are for reference only and are not intended to depict a flight corridor or boundary.