



Airport Zoning Outreach

May 7, 2015
Duluth: 9:00 – 11:00

We all have a stake in **A  B**



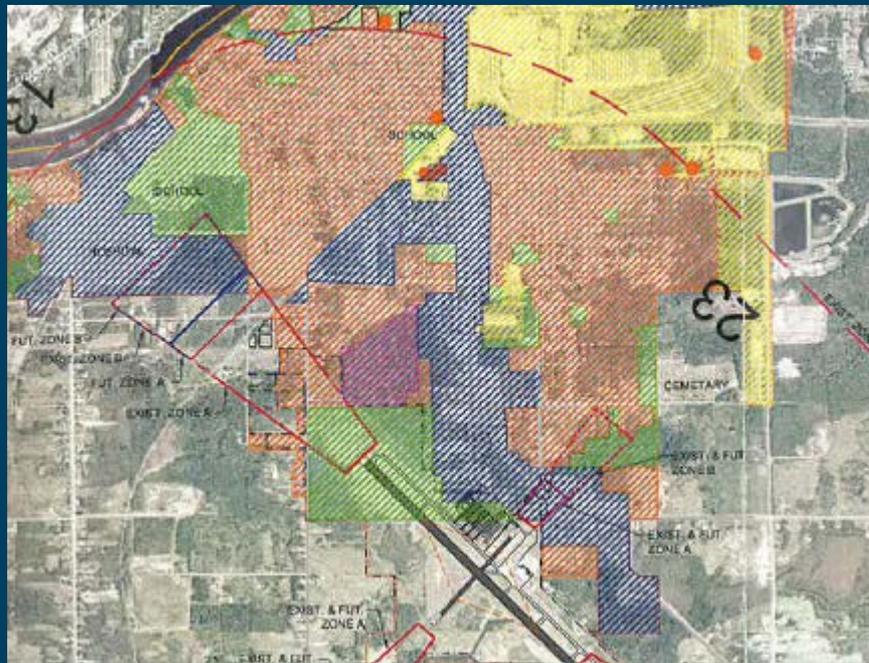
Today's Agenda

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Airport Zoning History
- ▶ Purpose of Airport Zoning
- ▶ Current Airport Zoning
- ▶ Issues/Solutions
- ▶ Next Steps



Definitions

- ▶ Airport Master Plan \approx City/County Comp. Plan
 - Documents forecasted activity and all future development for an airport



Definitions

- ▶ Airport Layout Plan (ALP) \approx Development Site Plan
 - A series of drawings depicting the current and future facilities at an airport.
 - Product of the master plan
 - Considered a “plan on file”



Definitions

- ▶ Airport Zoning = Municipal/County Zoning
 - Protects the existing and future infrastructure from incompatible development.



Airports in Minnesota

- ▶ Employment for airport workers and airport related industry □
- ▶ A base for recreational and corporate aircraft □
- ▶ Charter transportation services □
- ▶ Corporate travel □
- ▶ Tourism industry development □
- ▶ Fire and police protection □
- ▶ Agricultural related support □
- ▶ Pilot training □
- ▶ Medical and emergency related transportation service



Doolittle

▶ 1952

- President's Airport Commission (Harry S. Truman)
- Chaired by
General James H. Doolittle
- Resulting Report =
The Airport and Its Neighbors
116 pages



The Airport and Its Neighbors

- ▶ Recommendations (25 of them)
- ▶ Highlights
 - Integrate municipal and airport planning
 - Incorporate cleared runway extension areas into airports
 - Establish effective zoning laws



Doolittle Recommendations on Zones

- ▶ A fan shaped zone
 - At least 2 miles long
 - 6,000 feet wide at outer limits
- ▶ Eliminate establishment of places of public assembly
- ▶ Restrict residences to distant locations in the zone



Purpose of Airport Zoning in MN

- ▶ MN Statutes Chapter 360: Purpose and Process
 - Protects users of the airport
 - Protects people and property in the vicinity of the airport
 - Protects public investment in the airport



Two Types of Airport Zoning

- ▶ Airspace
 - Prevent accidents from happening
- ▶ Land Use
 - Lessens the impacts of a crash

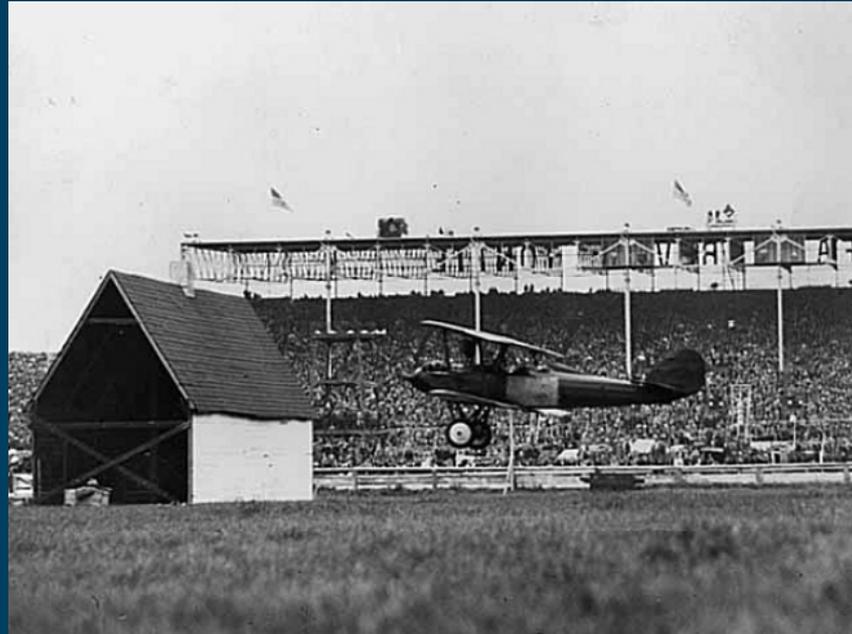
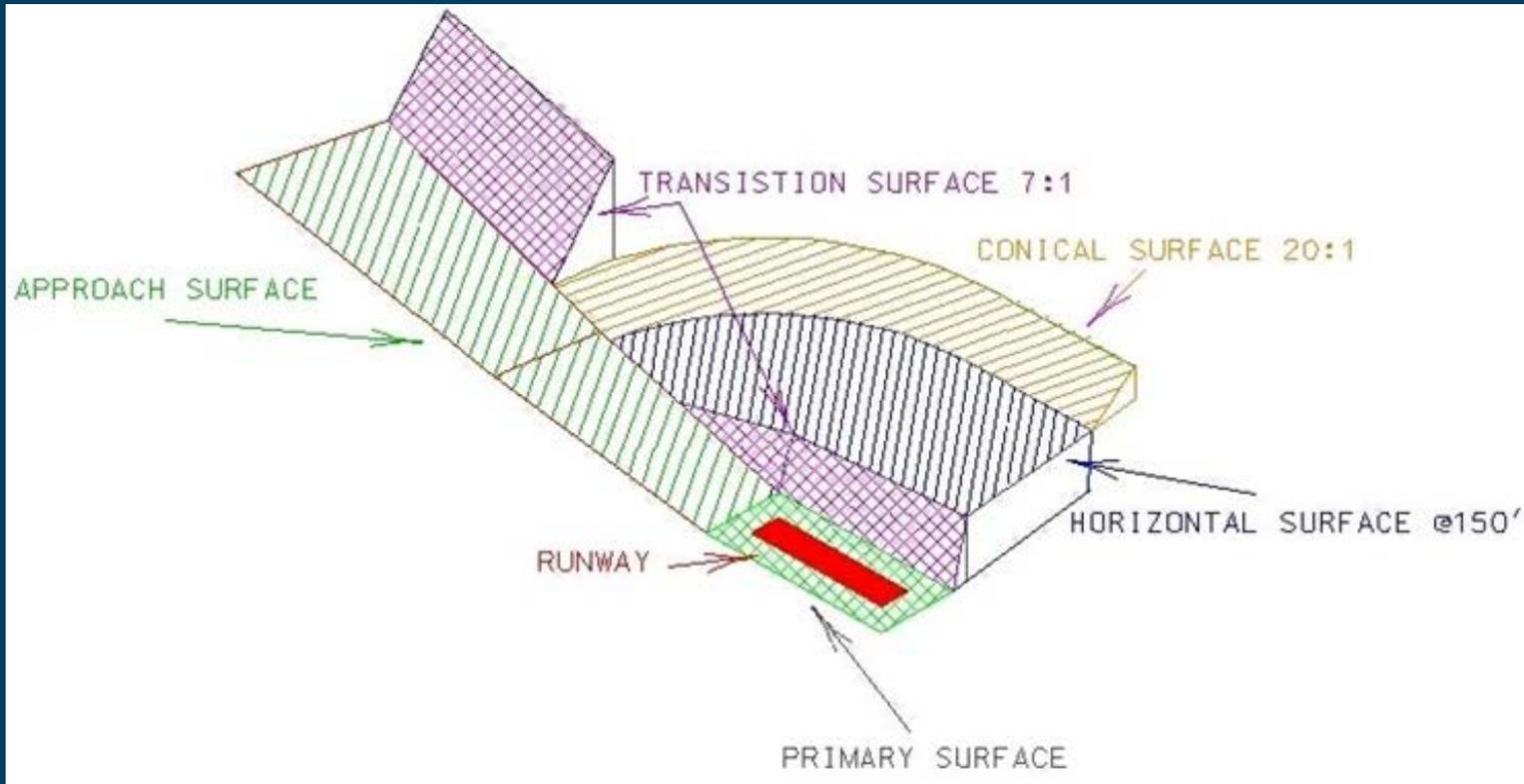


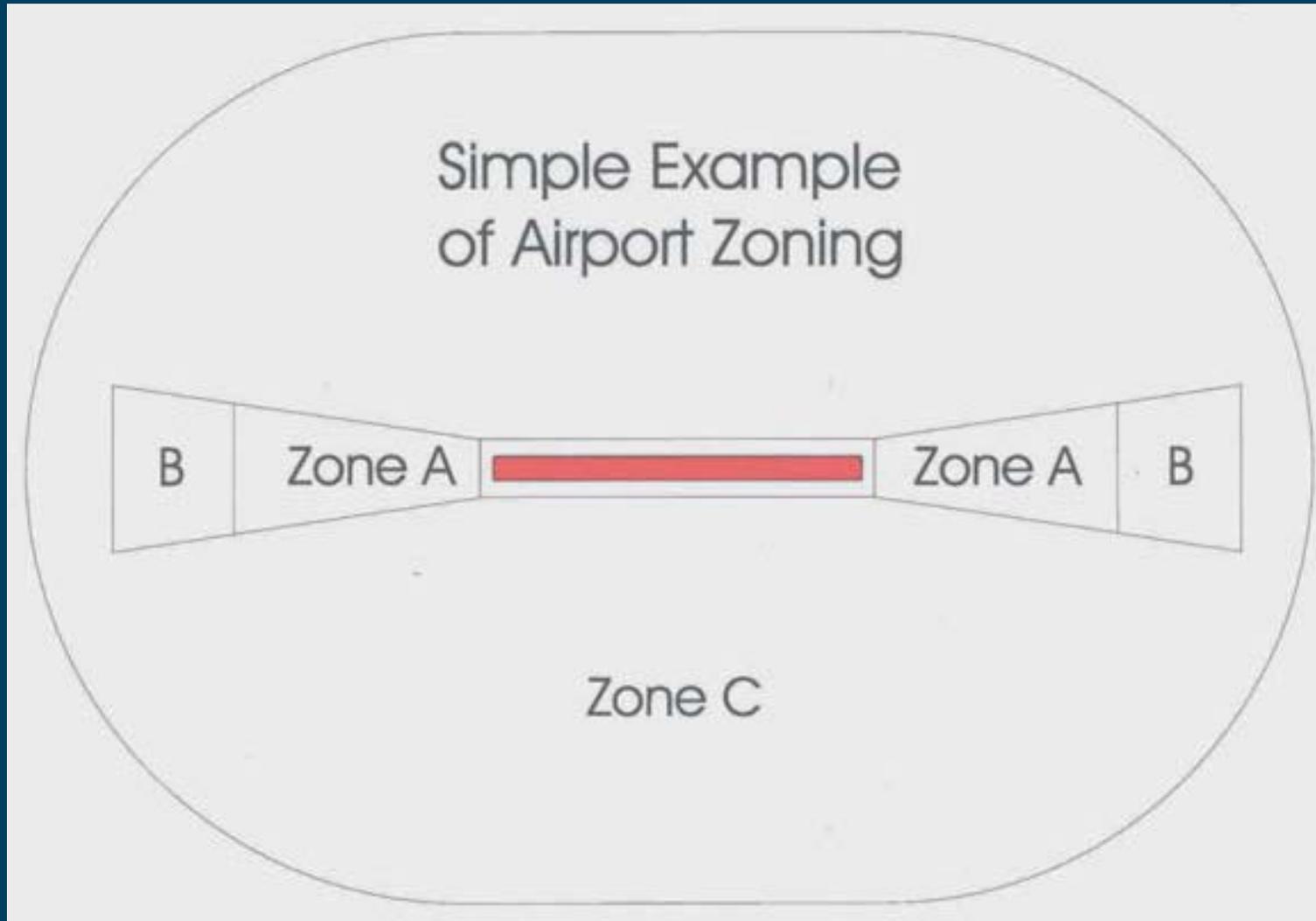
Photo: MN Historical Society



Airspace Zoning



Land Use Zoning



Compatible Land Use

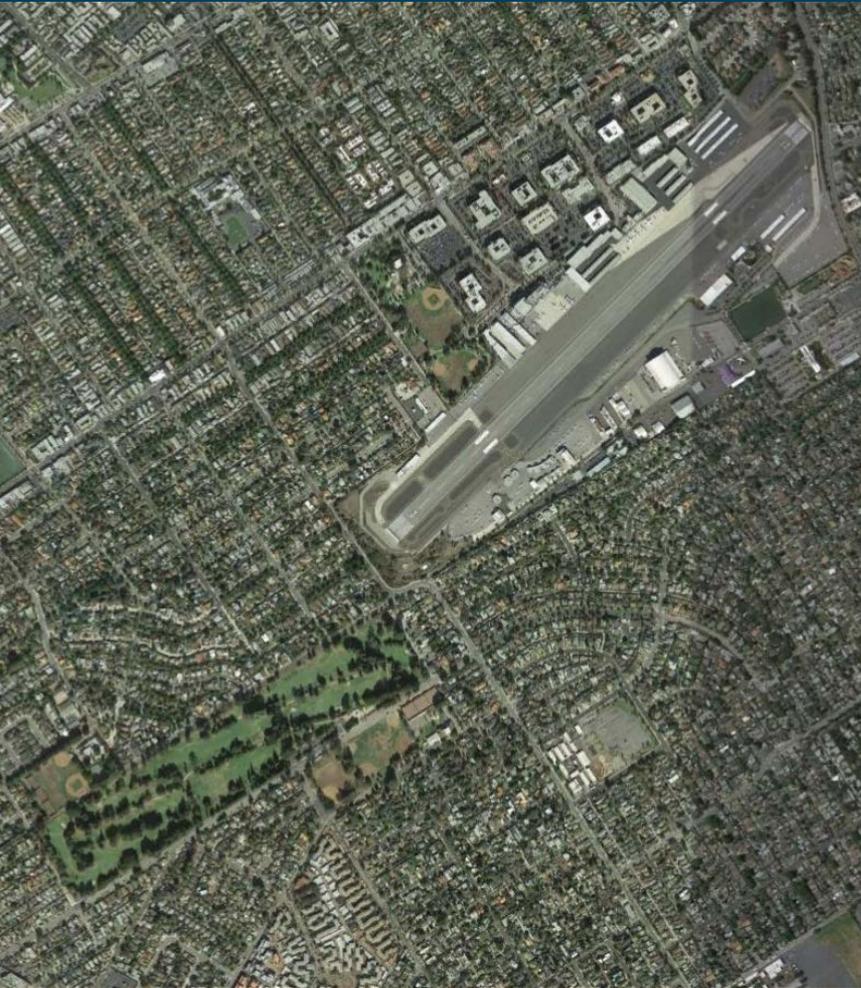


Photo: Google Earth



Accident Distribution

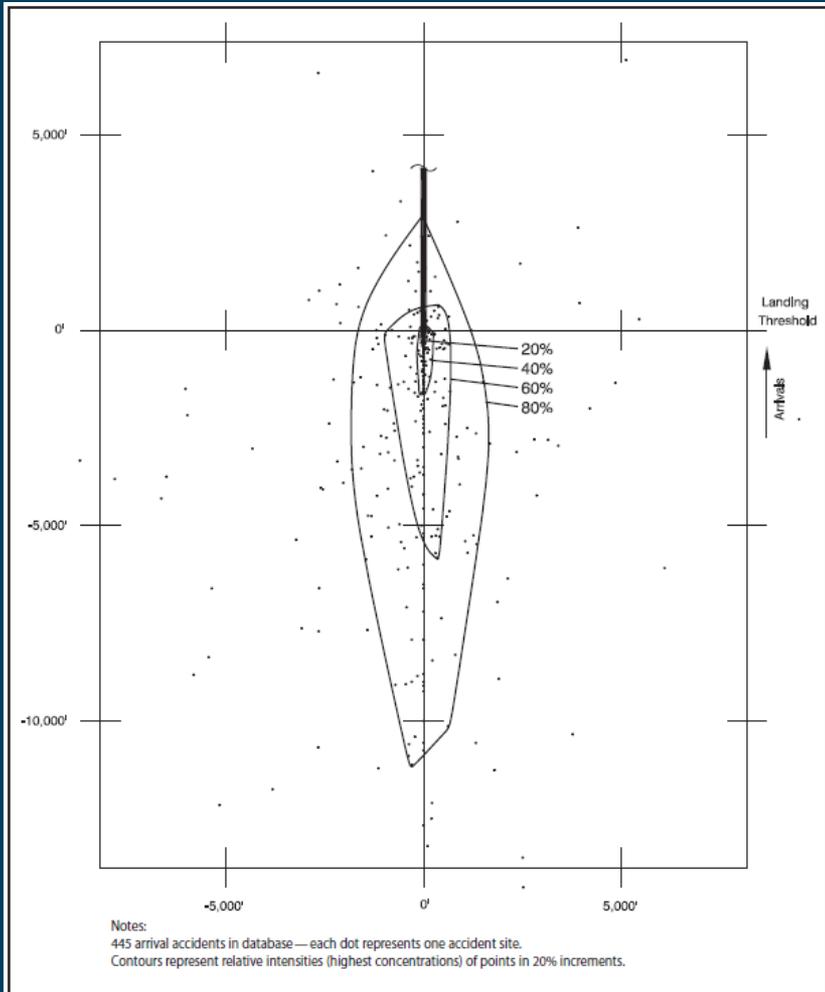


FIGURE F2

General Aviation Accident Distribution Contours – All Arrivals

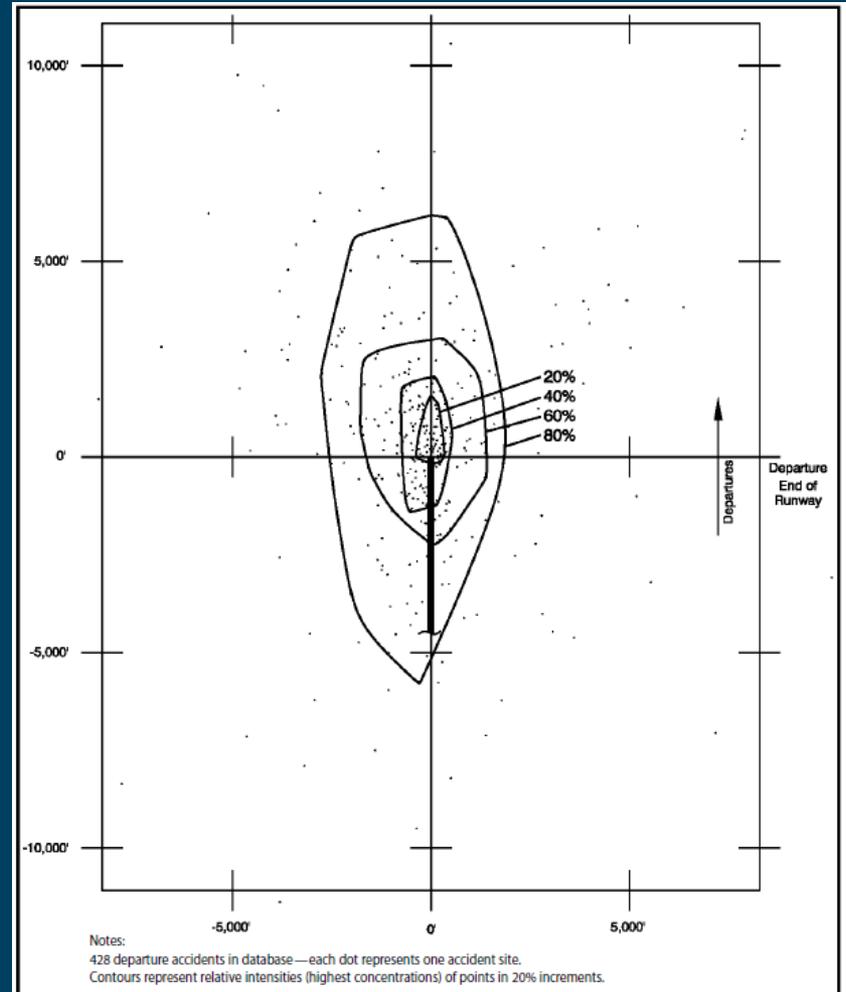
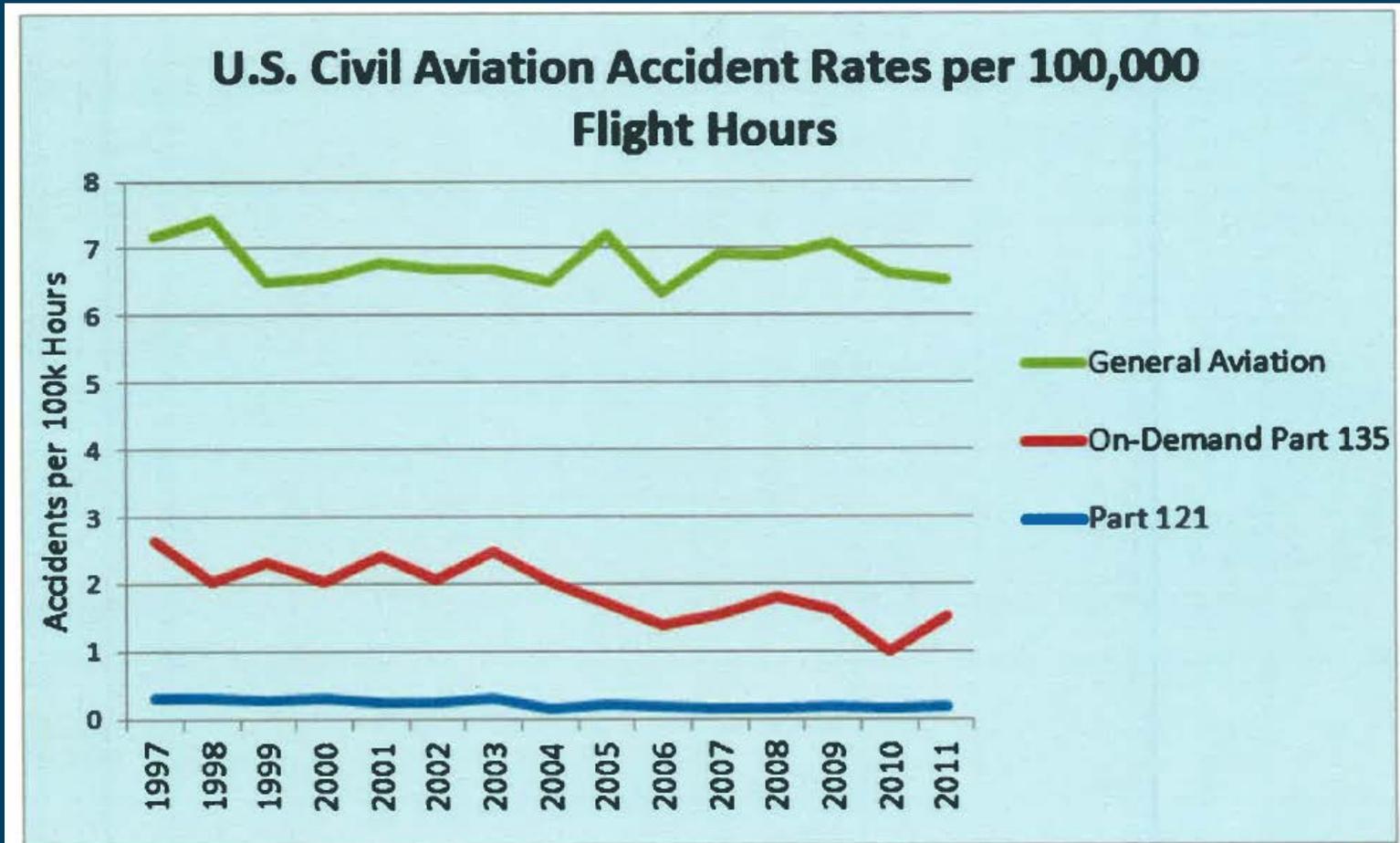


FIGURE F3

General Aviation Accident Distribution Contours – All Departures



Accident Trends



Source: NTSB





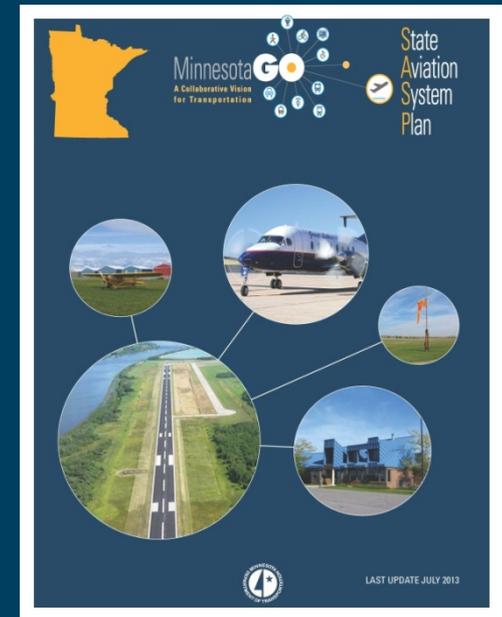
Introductions
Airport Zoning History
Purpose of Airport Zoning
Current Airport Zoning
Issues/Solutions
Next Steps

We all have a stake in **A**  **B**



State Aviation System Plan

- ▶ 2012 SASP: received comments that we should take a fresh look at the zoning rules and statutes
- ▶ Resulted in a commitment to evaluate the rules and statutes to more appropriately balance public safety and economic development opportunities near and around airports.



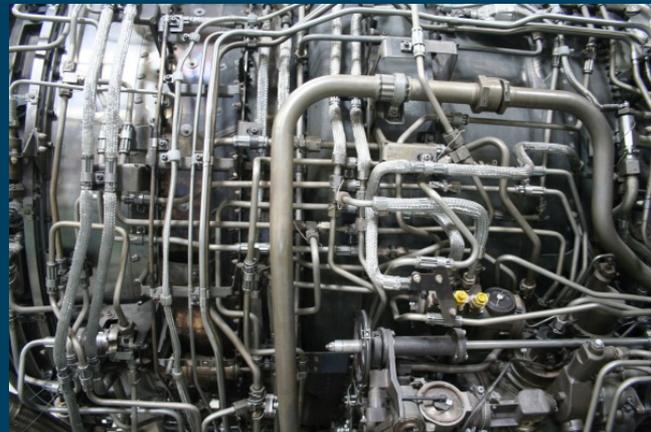
Updating MN Zoning Laws

- ▶ Convened advisory group Nov 14, 2013
- ▶ Purpose is to inform statute changes and build consensus
- ▶ Consisted of:
 - Airport managers
 - City/county zoning officials
 - Pilot groups
 - League of Minnesota Cities
 - Minnesota Assn. County Planning and Zoning Administrators
 - Minnesota Council of Airports
 - Metropolitan Airports Commission
 - Regional Development Commissions
 - Metropolitan Planning Organizations
 - American Planning Association



Issues

- ▶ Cumbersome Process
 - Different from normal zoning processes
- ▶ Existing airport zoning forgotten
 - Not shown on planning documents or official controls
- ▶ Law allows for no flexibility



Goals of statute changes

▶ Integration

- Streamline process for enacting an Airport Safety Zoning ordinance
- Making it easier for local officials to understand roles
- More closely integrating airport zoning with other local zoning and planning processes

▶ Flexibility

- Remove references to sizes and shapes to allow for unconstrained rulemaking
- Create a framework for enacting a custom ordinance



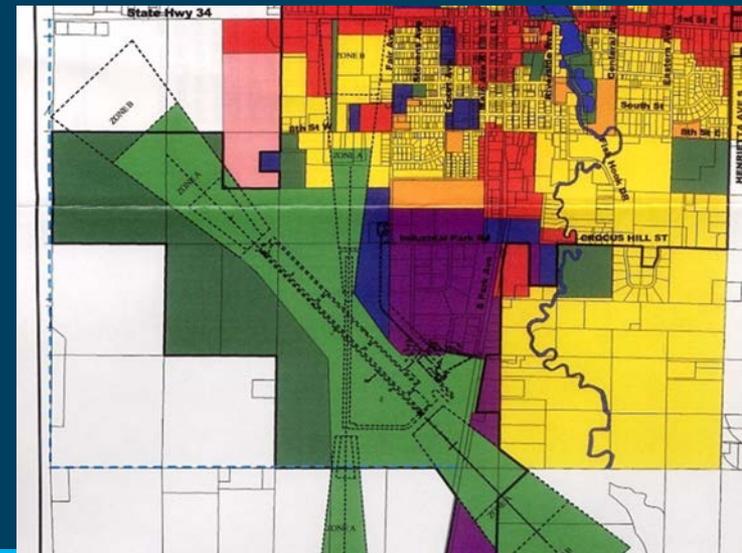
Overview of Proposed Changes

- ▶ Integration
 - Changes to County and Municipal planning sections
 - Simplified process
- ▶ Flexibility
 - Basic and Custom
- ▶ Unresolved Issues
 - Established Residential Neighborhoods
 - Funding Requirement



Integration: 394 County – 462 Municipal

- ▶ Comprehensive plans must “consider the location and dimensions of airport safety zones...”
- ▶ Added airport safety zone compatibility to goals and objectives section
- ▶ Airport safety zones must be included on maps depicting official controls



Integration: Simplified Process

- ▶ Made 360 process more like 394/462
 - Notification requirements
 - 2 hearings reduced to 1 (if no changes made)



Flexibility: Basic and Custom Zoning

- ▶ Created a framework to enact zoning different from a basic design outlined in rules
- ▶ Structural separation between basic and custom design



Unresolved issues

▶ Established Residential Neighborhoods

- Would like to update ERN's to allow more flexibility
- How to improve ERN without negating the benefits of zoning?

▶ Funding Requirement

- Airport must be zoned to receive state/federal funding
- Created an exception for safety
- Have no way to hold surrounding communities accountable



Other

- ▶ Consolidated language
- ▶ Removed references to zone names, sizes and uses to allow unconstrained rulemaking
- ▶ MnDOT has a 120-day review period



Next Steps

- ▶ Continue to refine proposed statutory changes
- ▶ Begin rules update process



Timeline for Statutory Changes

- Jul. Deadline to submit proposal forms to Government Affairs
- Sept. Deadline to submit draft legislation to Government Affairs
- Sept. – Oct. MnDOT leadership reviews legislative proposals
- Oct. Legislative initiatives submitted to Governor's Office and MMB
- Oct. 31 By law, drafting requests not submitted to the Revisor of Statutes by this date must be accompanied by a letter from the Commissioner certifying that the request is an unforeseen emergency
- Oct. – Jan. Legislative initiatives reviewed by Governor's Office and MMB
- Jan. 2016 legislative session begins
- Early 2016 Begin rulemaking process



Questions

- ▶ Have you participated in enacting airport zoning?
 - What problems did you encounter?
 - What went well?
- ▶ Who enforces airport zoning at your airport?
 - Does the ordinance adequately protect the airport?
- ▶ Does your comp plan consider the airport?
 - How could it better reflect the needs of both the community and airport?
- ▶ What should we consider when adjusting sizes/uses allowed in zones?
- ▶ What criteria should be considered when preparing a custom ordinance?



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- <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/aero/planning/zoning.html>

