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September 27, 2021

Colleen D'Alessandro
New England Regional Administrator
1200 District Avenue
Burlington, MA 01803-5299

Dear Ms. D'Alessandro,

We write to voice our concerns about the Block 2 recommendations. The proposal does not address the concerns that have been voiced by our community.

We are disheartened by the denial by the FAA to support departure flight track dispersion that the community has been advocating for, for a great deal of time. We do not seek to move all concentrated flight path noise to other communities. Instead, we seek to share the noise burden equitably. We all benefit from the relative proximity to Logan International Airport and must share the burden equitably. The second block of the MIT RNAV Study is concluding without a suitable proposal to amend the existing Runway 33L Standard Instrument Departure (SID). Our communities asked for dispersing 33L departure operations to equitably share the burden but instead the proposal that FAA put forward was another concentrated RNAV (area navigation) procedure that does little for our residents or sensitive areas such as public schools and historically disadvantaged neighborhoods. The proposal moves concentrated flight paths around but does not disperse them equitably. Future studies will be important, and their outcomes may lead to meaningful improvements, but we cannot continue to wait indefinitely. We need systematic and equitable dispersion of the departure flight tracks soon. Our residents are not acclimatizing to this dramatic increase in noise. As our society adapts to the next normal and more residents work from home, we expect that the restoration of pre-pandemic air traffic levels will lead to an even greater negative public health toll on residents.

We look forward to continuing the conversation about this matter.

Sincerely,

Arlington Select Board

