



## STUDY SESSION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Members of City Council

**FROM:** Carl Castillo, Chief Policy Advisor  
Natalie Stiffler, Acting Director for Transportation and Mobility  
John Kinney, Airport Principal Project Manager

**DATE:** January 12, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Discussion of council's interest in applying for city membership in the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport Community Noise Roundtable

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council is being asked to consider a staff recommendation to apply for city membership in the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport Community Noise Roundtable (CNR). The purpose of the CNR is to “provide for and promote a regional, coordinated approach to collaborate on and address the noise impacts to the community surrounding the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport.” The members of the CNR are the following local governments: Arvada, Boulder County, Jefferson County, Lafayette, Louisville, Superior, Westminster.

The city's participation in the CNR would require appointment of a city council member. The CNR meets monthly at the RMMA terminal building from 9:00 am to 10:00 am on the second Monday of each month. Virtual participation is allowed.

### Questions for Council

1. Is council interested in applying for city membership in the Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport Community Noise Roundtable?
2. Does council have a member willing to serve as the city's representative should the city be granted membership?

### BACKGROUND

The city's absence from the CNR may allow decisions to be made that negatively impact Boulder residents. One example is the recent Pilot Project to implement VFR

Arrival/Departure Flight Path Changes. Boulder lacked a voice in the design stage on that decision. The flight paths were identified and implemented without our input or awareness. Moreover, based on reported noise complaints, staff estimates that pilot practice areas above Boulder are being used approximately 50% of the time by RMMA flight schools. These practice areas should be reviewed as to options to relocate to undeveloped farmlands away from homes. This is particularly relevant given that RMMA is on an aggressive growth trajectory and is seeking to schedule additional service. The city's participation on the committee would allow it to raise these issues in a venue recognized by state and FAA local offices.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Should council express interest in applying for membership, Boulder would need to submit a letter of interest to Broomfield Council Member Devin Shaff and follow up with a presentation to the CNR making the case why it should be allowed to join. The CNR would then vote on whether to allow Boulder to join. If the city was offered membership council would then need to appoint a representative and approve an IGA.