



MADISON F35 COMMUNITY CONNECTION PROJECT

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

FEBRUARY 1-3, 2024

SUMMARY NOTES

Three community listening sessions were held February 1-3, 2024. Over 180 people attended these sessions. These notes represent a summary of the raw material collected and represent the comments made on the reporting sheets at each of the listening sessions.

Learn more at on the project portal:
[madisonf35.com](https://www.madisonf35.com)

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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»»»» 1.0 | NOISE

Noise was seen as the major issue by listening session attendees, with lots of discussion on this topic at each session. Below are bullet point responses from the reporting sheets.

- 105db with windows closed and house shakes. F35 louder than other planes.
- Mitigation is pointless unless residents stay inside all day with windows closed. Life to be scheduled around flying schedule.
- Concern about potential louder noise in the future - louder than currently.
- Noise reporting telephone numbers are confusing - 2 or 3 numbers to call. How does the general public know which one to call and how often? How is the data from the calls used?
- Concern about afterburners. Can this be reduced.
- Need measures such as ear protection as this noise damages hearing. NB: Sustained noise 85db and intermittent levels of 110db plus 'impulse sound'. Day - Night averages do not measure impulse sounds that are the most damaging to hearing.
- Concern about the impacts of noise on children (including those with development/ neuro diverse issues). The impact can result in emotion/mental problems and poor school performance. Noted observed trauma to students at Hawthorne School (no air conditioning, windows must be open, teachers have to stop talking)
- Concern about impacts on noise on adults with anxiety, high blood pressure, etc
- General impact on residents' quality of life
- Environmental impact and degradation regarding disturbance to animals, wildlife, nesting, breeding and a thriving environment
- Recognition that helicopters and F16s are also a problem regarding noise
- Are employers following OSHA hearing protection over 85 decibel?





»»»» 2.0 | SAFETY

Safety was also seen as an important topic to discuss at the listening sessions. Below are bullet point responses from the reporting sheets.

- Crash concerns with new untested planes.
- Carcinogenic fires if there is an accident which could impact resident's health and take a long time to put out the fires. Carbon fiber body may burn longer.
- Concerns about other types of materials that could burn in a fire.
- Lack of preparation for residents if there is a crash/fire. There is a need for data regarding preparation in such an event. There is a need for a test study.
- Concern about impact of a potential crash on the city.
- Nuclear concerns when 'sound of war' invade residents sleep in morning/evening.
- F35s and manned fighter planes viewed by some residents as extremely dangerous to pilots also. Perceived use of old technology.
- Crisis from US-Mexico border, climate refugees, coastal floods, pandemics, etc mean that we do not have the luxury of sacrificing Madison. We have higher safety priorities now and Wisconsin will be asked to accept many more people in the near future.





»»»» 3.0 | SOCIAL JUSTICE

There was much discussion on social justice issues at the listening sessions. Below are bullet point responses from the reporting sheets.

- Low income residents cannot afford noise mitigation or to move from area.
- Educate the low income residents regarding fish and pollution in lakes.
- Madison has always been a place of progressive peace and justice. The presence of F35s is contrary to the wellbeing of Madison.
- People do not have the funds to move home because of the interruption.
- Need to include marginalized communities in the communication about the process.





»»»» 4.0 | PERCEIVED MISINFORMATION

Misinformation was discussed at the listening sessions. Below are bullet point responses from the reporting sheets.

- Lack of agreement amongst some residents that military base is indispensable economic contribution to the community
- Concern that residents were told that had to accept F35s or lose the base because the F16s were being phased out - when apparently F16s are still being used around the world
- Pilots are regular Air Force and some residents do not believe that they are part of the community or Air Guard community and that they are here temporarily.





5.0 | OTHER ISSUES (NOT COVERED BY THIS PROJECT)

There was much discussion on PFAS and water (topics that are not covered in this project but covered in other initiatives). Below are bullet point responses from the reporting sheets.

5.1 | PFAS

- Give complete scientific updated information on the PFAS clean-up efforts
- National Guard to organize public meetings to update residents on status of PFAS contamination investigations and clean up.
- Noise mitigation used as a distraction from impact of PFAS

5.2 | WATER

- Fresh water is world resource - cannot handle polluting the water
- Swimming in lakes is less possible due to pollution
- PFAS water pollution is a big concern
- Need to monitor the creek, lakes and fish in the water for pollution due to PFAS and show on website (noted in solutions section of this document)



6.0 | SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED DURING LISTENING SESSIONS

There was much thoughtful discussion on potential solutions. Below are bullet point responses from the reporting sheets.

- Residents need flight schedule and how many possible flights per day. Need to know how many F35s are currently in Madison. Need to list these for residents.
- Need to know mitigation options (especially for mobile home park near airport, which is expanding). People moving to the area need to know the options.
- Move F35s to less populated areas (such as Tomah).
- Move F35s to Volk (money spent here for noise mitigation channelled there for infrastructure and staff)
- Drones to replace F35s as more compatible with urban environment.
- Move the wing. Just because it was a good idea 75 years ago, doesn't mean that it is still a good idea.
- Change ANG use to cargo flights (medical, etc). Change the mission.
- Need to know full safety profile in light of crash risk and how to protect lakes.
- Fly less
- Give information and findings from the F35 Community Connection project to all City Alders, Dane County Supervisors and neighborhood groups and make this information public.
- Establish a network of noise monitors and website to display real-time data (and history) of noise levels. Evaluate this on a regular basis to reduce problems. List the flights for each day/time on the website (see bullet point 1) and produce email list so that teachers and others know when flights will happen. Perhaps Facebook page showing daily updates.
- Hold regular meetings with neighborhood and environmental groups to give updates and answer questions
- Need a real dialogue between Base and Community.
- National Guard to go into schools and experience the impact of noise. Also speak with teachers and students about the reason for the F35 disruption. Preferably in civilian clothing.
- National Guard to talk to neighborhoods about training schedule and the reasons for the repeat flights in over populated areas.
- Produce App with phone numbers for logging incidents, live streaming and real time data
- Ascertain the unique challenges regarding communicating issues.
- Research how the under 50 years old population feel about the F35s.
- Online complaint form to be updated to provide app, boxes for frequent problems, regular summary reports of noise complaints
- National Guard and Airport need their own noise monitoring and regular reports
- Evaluate noise complaints with health effects unit.
- Make the phone system user friendly and make public announcements on flights
- Decrease the impact on lower income families/residents
- Compensate property value that has been affected by noise





»»»» 6.0 | SOLUTIONS (CONTINUED)

- Double training time for pilots from 8m to 16m - will lessen impact of noise. Increase training times on simulators.
- Schedule flights that have less impact on the community and add on the ground training during the remainder of time. Have schedule driven by prevailing wind directions.
- Need on going comprehensive sound monitoring in real time with citizen input and access. This will create mutual learning.
- Collaborative research with University of Wisconsin on noise impacts
- Fly over fields rather than homes (fly North for take-off and landing)
- Review power levels of pilots when taking of/landing to assist with noise
- Funding for noise abatement to be organized via priority - sooner for schools, etc. However don't allow minimal funding to be a talking point for success.
- Fly higher - it is noted that the F35s fly lower than commercial and that they fly close to the tree tops on Ridgeway Hill
- Incorporate studies and changes with helicopters also.
- Build new airport further out/ away from residential areas.
- Need maps showing decibel levels by geographic area and observations to date.
- Communication regarding timeframe of noise mitigation and expediate mitigation.
- Show work done/research carried out by other bases (i.e. Burlington) regarding same issues.
- Childcare at the listening sessions/ future meetings would be useful.
- Expand on the positives for the community in relation to the F35s being based here.
- Put air conditioning and insulated windows into schools
- Have transient aircraft fuel at Volk/Fort McCoy and discourage Navy refuelling in Madison
- Reduce building additional homes in 'red' zone and buy out current properties deemed incompatible with noise level.
- Adopt Manhattan project approach to mitigation (3-5 year plan)
- Warning app on phone with warning before take off
- Fund soundproofing for new construction of multi units being built in the 65 decibel zone
- Remove superfluous displays (i.e. 4th of July and September 11) and limit to military need
- Use grant money to investigate losses in productivity, student learning and property values
- Improve email communication around flight schedules.
- Need feedback on complaints made on the 115th website
- Provide Q and A sessions, alongside listening sessions





7.0 | NEXT STEPS

There will be opportunities to further engage in this project with in person events being scheduled for March 22-23, 2024.

Learn more at on the project portal:
madisonf35.com

7.1 | MORE INFORMATION

LESLIE WESTMONT
Grant Program Manager
Department of Military Affairs
Leslie.westmont@widma.gov

DAVID BEURLE
Chief Executive Officer
Future IQ
612.757.9190
david@future-iq.com

