

—TOWN OF—  
**MIDDLETON**  
*Wisconsin*

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January 19, 2022

Gurdip Brar, Mayor, [mayor@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:mayor@cityofmiddleton.us)

Kathy Olson, Common Council President, Alder District 1; [District1@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:District1@cityofmiddleton.us)

Robert Burck, Alder District 2; [District2@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:District2@cityofmiddleton.us)

Katy Nelson, Alder District 3; [District3@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:District3@cityofmiddleton.us)

Emily Kuhn, Alder District 4; [District4@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:District4@cityofmiddleton.us)

Luke Fuszard, Alder District 5; [District5@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:District5@cityofmiddleton.us)

Susan West, Alder District 6; [District6@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:District6@cityofmiddleton.us)

Dan Ramsey, Alder District 7; [District7@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:District7@cityofmiddleton.us)

Mark Sullivan, Alder District 8; [District8@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:District8@cityofmiddleton.us)

Re: Town of Middleton Preliminary Morey Airport Expansion Survey Results

Dear Mayor Brar, Common Council President, and Alders:

This correspondence will provide you with the Town of Middleton preliminary survey results (attached) of its Town residents regarding the City of Middleton Municipal Airport – Morey Field (“Morey Airport” or “C29” or “Airport”) master plan for expansion of C29.

The Town of Middleton (“Town”), via the U.S. Postal Service, mailed 2,876 Town Airport postcard surveys with five questions to its residents in property tax bills in early December 2021. As of 1/17/22, the Town has received 925 responses (32.16%), many with comments.

*Town of Middleton Postcard Airport Survey Preliminary Results*

Statement #1: I do not support any expansion of Morey Airport.

# of Responses Selecting this Statement:     **610 (66%)**

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Statement #2: I do not have enough information to make an informed decision.

# of Responses Selecting this Statement:     **147 (15.9%)**

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Statement #3: I support expansion of Morey Airport.

# of Responses Selecting this Statement: 162 (17.5%)

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Statement #4: I live within 5 miles of Morey Airport.

# of Responses Selecting this Statement: 563

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Statement 5: I live more than 5 miles from Morey Airport.

# of Responses Selecting this Statement: 223

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### *Town of Springfield Survey*

The Town of Springfield had a 33.6% response rate to its independent survey. 56.4% of those responses did not support any expansion of Morey Airport. 26.9% did not have enough information to provide an opinion on expansion, and 15.3% supported some expansion of the Airport.

It is clear that a significant majority of the citizens of the towns of Middleton and Springfield do not support any expansion of Morey Airport. This is consistent with the stated position of a majority of the members of the City's Airport Master Plan Advisory Committee ("AMPAC") and the City's current survey results.

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### *Comments regarding City of Middleton Airport Survey released on 1/11/22.*

A 2016 Middleton City-wide referendum found that 81% of the citizens wanted the Middleton City Council to reduce the risks of climate change through its policy decisions and actions. That referendum also endorsed a strategy to reduce carbon and other pollutants in the environment. The City's current Airport survey responses are very consistent with the 2016 referendum. In fact, a large majority of those responses support no expansion of any kind at Morey Airport keyed directly to environmental pollution.

Survey respondents stated it was important to avoid negative impacts on groundwater quality (92%), air quality (81%), and noise pollution levels (86%). It is also significant to note that 70% of the survey respondents do not believe any EPA mandated assessment will preclude negative environmental impacts. If this survey is truly representative of the entire population of three municipalities (31,535), then over 22,000 residents are telling the City Council as a representative body it cannot expand this Airport where it is currently located without causing additional environmental damage.

The City's survey also confirms that Morey Airport is not an airport of necessity. It is primarily a recreational facility that is used by a very small number of people, many of whom do not live in one of the three municipalities impacted by Airport operations.

Any Airport expansion will inevitably cause some increase in Airport takeoffs and landings and will include somewhat larger airplanes. It is clear from the City survey that a large majority of respondents are absolutely opposed to either type of increase. Two survey questions go directly and specifically to this point.

Figure 9 (page 15) of the survey asks if it is important to avoid an increase in the size of planes. 62% responded it was important, and another 18% said it was somewhat important.

A second question asks if it is important to avoid an increase in the number of takeoffs and landings. 55% responded it was important, and another 21% said it was somewhat important.

The responses to these two questions establish that significant majorities of the populations of three municipalities are opposed to any activity increases of any kind at Morey Airport. These responses would also indicate that most people are very much opposed to any fly-in special events that cause planes from other areas to land or takeoff at Morey Airport. Any such activities necessarily increase environmental pollution which, as noted, is opposed by huge majorities of the citizens of all municipalities.

### *FAA Safety Concerns with 5G Telecommunications*

An additional problem involving 5G telecommunications systems is an additional factor that renders any Airport expansion plan at this time inappropriate. RTCA, Inc., produced a report dated 10/7/2020, titled, “*Assessment of C-Band Mobile Telecommunications Interference Impact on Low Range Radar Altimeter Operations*” ([https://www.rtca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SC-239-5G-Interference-Assessment-Report\\_274-20-PMC-2073\\_accepted\\_changes.pdf](https://www.rtca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SC-239-5G-Interference-Assessment-Report_274-20-PMC-2073_accepted_changes.pdf)). The Executive Summary of this report, page i, states, “The results presented in this report reveal a major risk that 5G telecommunications systems in the 3.7-3.98 GHz band will cause harmful interference to radar altimeters on all types of civil aircraft – including commercial transport airplanes; business, regional, and general aviation airplanes; and both transport and general aviation helicopters...Further, the impacts are not only limited to intentional emissions from 5G systems in the 3.7-3.98 GHz band, but also the spurious emissions from such systems within the protected 4.2-4.4 GHz radar altimeter band directly. In this latter case, the worst-case exceedance of the safe interference limit is 28dB for business, regional, and general aviation airplanes...and 12 dB for helicopters...”.

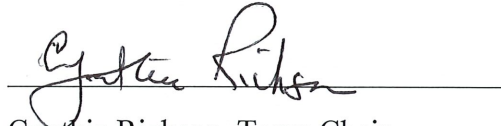
“The vast majority of the ‘off-airport’ accidents occur within five miles of the airport runway” (Wis. DOT, BOA, Wisconsin Airport Land Use Guidebook (2011)). The FAA has acknowledged the danger of 5G telecommunications to aviation and has negotiated buffer zones in connection with approximately 50 airports in the U.S., including Chicago’s O’Hare Airport ([www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov)). Dane County Regional Airport apparently does not have activated 5G systems around it at this point, and will undoubtedly be able to obtain a buffer zone before any such systems are activated.

Publicly available data already shows 5G currently being transmitted at and around Morey Airport. It is unlikely Morey Airport will be able to shut down current 5G transmissions or obtain any kind of buffer zone for its primarily recreational flight activity. This creates an unanticipated, but very significant danger to pilots and all residents on the ground in the vicinity of Morey Airport. There are thousands of people and homes and many schools and playgrounds within five miles of Morey Airport.

AMPAC did not recommend any expansion of Morey Airport. A significant majority of respondents in all three surveys (City of Middleton, Town of Middleton, and Town of Springfield) are opposed to Airport expansion or increased Airport activity. It will be not only inappropriate, but reckless for the City Council to authorize any increase of any kind in activity at Morey Airport.

Sincerely,

Town Board, Town of Middleton, Wisconsin



Cynthia Richson, Town Chair

Approved by the Town Board of the Town of Middleton, and authorizing the Town Chair to sign on behalf of the Town Board on January 18, 2022, approved by a vote of 5-0.

Cc: Rebecca B. MacPherson, Regional Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Great Lakes Region; [Rebecca.MacPherson@faa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.MacPherson@faa.gov)

Governor Tony Evers; [EversInfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:EversInfo@wisconsin.gov)

Maggie Gau, Governor Evers Chief of Staff; [Maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Maggie.gau@wisconsin.gov)

Brian Weaver, WI DHS, Governor Evers Lead Policy Advisor;  
[brian.weaver@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:brian.weaver@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

Craig Thompson, Secretary, Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation;  
[craigm.thompson@dot.wi.gov](mailto:craigm.thompson@dot.wi.gov)

David Greene, Director, Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics;  
[david.greene@dot.wi.gov](mailto:david.greene@dot.wi.gov)

State Senator Jon Erpenbach; [Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov)

State Representative Dianne Hesselbein, Assistant Minority Leader;  
[Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Jim Pulvermacher, Town of Springfield, WI, Town Board Chair;  
[chairperson@town.springfield.wi.us](mailto:chairperson@town.springfield.wi.us)

**TOWN OF MIDDLETON SURVEY RESULTS: As of 1/17/2022**

1. I do not support any expansion of Morey Airport.	2. I do not have enough information to make an informed decision.	3. I support expansion of Morey Airport.	4. I live within 5 miles of Morey Airport.	5. I live more than 5 miles from Morey Airport.	<b>Comments (optional)</b>
Response_Q1	Response_Q2	Response_Q3	Response_Q4	Response_Q5	
610	147	162	563	223	I live next to the Town Hall. Thx
<b>2876</b>	<b>Surveys</b>				City of Middleton snuck the last expansion past affected residents 3 yrs after I bought my house. NOT AGAIN!
<b>925</b>	<b>Returned</b>				We support the airport - just NOT expansion!
<b>32.16%</b>					Unacceptable for expansion of this airport. Larger crafts go to Dane Co. Regional Airport. Period.
					City is taking this over from the township. They want, we don't. Stop the takeover!!
					Lived in Town of Middleton for 34 years. The airport was here before me and I would expect, like all forms of transportation, improvements and modernization get made. Do think the powers overseeing the airport should have reached out to ToM.
					This entire project has been void of input from the community. The plan commission for this is a joke when they solicit input!!
					Airport expansion is good for West Madison, Middleton & surrounding business.

We built a home in the town for peace and quiet and current increase in air activity is already disturbing - especially with private jets. More noise pollution will be a great detriment to the area - not to mention property values of hundreds of homes.

This must be stopped!

I enjoy watching the planes fly overhead.

They are poisoning our water supply - our health- our world. What about the future, our health, and the coming generations.

Please keep fighting the expansion of Morey Airport.

use unleaded fuel by mandate

The expansion is not for bigger planes. The airport has been there longer than the houses. If you don't like the airport, don't buy the house.

The noise pollution from this airport is already awful. Any expansion will only make it worse. Don't expand this airport. CLOSE IT

I have never understood how in this state a city can expand its boundaries without a vote by the citizens in the area being taken over. It is called annexation w/out permission.

Below are our two major issues with expansion: 1) Lead Pollution, 2) Noise Pollution

Very poor survey. These questions are way too broad and misleading. Support for expansion by some folks might really be support for some but not all possible expansion items and a "do not support any" response totally ignores non-supporters who may support some items proposed in expansion.

Allowing an expansion will increase safety.

Stop trying to force the expansion down our throats.

We have 5 children and are very concerned about the lead.

Not good for property values!

Limited support

It's unnecessary - We already have a larger airport in close proximity (MSN).

We strongly oppose any expansion.

If I wanted more air traffic over my house I would move to the east side of Madison. I lived in a Chicago suburb for 15 years and the air traffic gave us air pollution that led to paint deterioration on and in our home.

Airplanes cause pollution and are bad for our health and for the environment.

The proposal to expand the airport is an abomination. It will only benefit a few outsiders at the expense of long-time residents.

We live 2 miles from airport on the flight path which is fine!

No expansion!

Use Dane County airport. Close to Morey.
Too much misinformation from Town Chair to know what's going on.
Planes fly directly over my house at tree top level.
We live less than a mile from the airport and have concerns about the flight path changing/ effecting our quality of life. Any organization by the Town to halt expansion is appreciated - and I'd be willing to help.
Noise and air pollution damage the health and safety and quality of life of all living in the dense residential areas surrounding the Morey airport. Expansion of either the runway, or addition of more hangars will increasingly deteriorate quality of life for area residents. We oppose any expansion. Dane County regional airport is just minutes away.
If re-routing Schneider Rd, please also do hanger build alternative 2, which connects Springton South to Lexus dealership. Otherwise Parmenter becomes only exit to our neighborhood, isolating us.
Leaking of lead from fuel into watershed; expansion of airport/runways conflicts with increase home development
No - due to lead pollution

Studies have shown: 1) use of leaded aviation gas contaminates surrounding neighborhoods, 2) exposure to even small amounts of lead can cause life-long damage. Children are at high risk.

The way the City and airport commission has handled this issue is despicable. The airport degrades the quality of life in the Town and has us considering moving out.

I think the airport needs more hanger space for light aircraft. I would NOT like to see bigger planes (passenger jets).

Pollution is unacceptable and it's over my home.

It is like a race track above my house. It has never been this bad, but in the last 5 years it is terrible inside and outside with the noise mainly because they are flying within 500 ft of the ground.

Lead is terrible for our environment

NO Expansion; large planes already TOO frequent!!

NO additional airborne noise, NO additional airborne pollution. NO eminent domain actions.

Amazon, EPIC, UPS can drive to the other side of town!  
TOO MUCH NOISE NOW!  
DON'T RUIN THE FARMLAND.  
BIG PLANE NEED TO USE TRUAX!

Morey Airport should be closed. This area is too populated for small planes and student pilots flying overhead at low altitudes with disruptive noise and avgas lead emissions harm.

Feels to us like more aircraft are being directed south now, which takes them right over our house.

We are all in favor and fully support Morey Airport, its expansion, its commercial input to the community and all of the small and large business to which it is key! It also plays a key reliver airport to Dane Co. Airport in its community VALUE!

WOW, this is really slanted to vote no. Probably won't count this vote anyhow. The pollution is going to occur some where, funny you don't have a problem if it's else where.

Due to the biased nature of this survey, I seriously doubt my comments will be counted.

noise, safety, property values, congestion

Morey should teach students with electric planes

Expansion would mean greater convenience, greater economic potential for the area.

Aircraft using leaded fuel should be prohibited from using this airport.

The reasons underlined below are only some of the reasons this expansion must be rejected. Noise pollution, water contamination, potential for accidents, the list goes on!

There are too many planes buzzing my house as it is.

We live between 6-7 miles.

Any short-sighted economic and privileged convenience for some will result in permanent losses/damage for all in terms of negative consequences-air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, decreased property value, loss of farm land, decreased autonomy, decreased green space, decreased wildlife habitat. Let us not end up like our neighbors in Verona, Mt. Horeb. Destroyed by development.

Approx. 5.5 miles

The DNR has determined that current Morey Airport operations produce 32% of all airborne lead pollution in D.C. is not true. B.S. You need to include on your website or theirs the plan, cause & affect., or It's your opinion against COM.

4 - 0.5 mi.

The phrasing in this survey is ridiculous and one sided. Any results have been tainted by intentionally negative wording.

I used google maps to measure and turns out we're (Cherrywood) just under 5 miles. Guess we'd better pay more attention.

Your bias is showing - this is inappropriate

I think the main problem is the flight schools because those are the flights that go round and round and round

**NO Expansion!**

The airport was very small when we first moved to Middleton 17 years ago. We were not disturbed at all by the airplane/noise, but now it's unbearable at times. The planes' path is directly over our house and fairly constant especially on weekends when you're trying to enjoy your property.

I find it laughable that this small-scale airport needs to expand for a few supporters and for tax revenue. There is a large airport within 20 miles! \* will decrease safety & property values, if expanded.

I am very concerned with the environmental impact of the airport. Especially since it is so close to a wetland we need to keep our water clean & safe. Thank you!

Not in support of the airport expansion at all. Commercial aircraft can use Dane County Airport. Leaves Morey for small private aircraft. Doesn't help anyone but small aircraft owners!!

I don't think it's wise to increase the amount of lead pollution by expanding Morey Airport. Especially when the airport is within 5 miles of 6 of our communities schools.

I've filled out survey w/ more comprehensive feedback.

What would the benefits be? You only mention negative.

I tried to complete the online survey and spent 20 min doing that only to have them require me to setup an account. I did not complete the survey. Waste of time!

The Airport is big enough right now. Dane County Airport is close by for larger planes. There is no room for expansion. Keep it rural.

Oppose at all costs! Seriously SUE if necessary.

I am opposed to Morey Airport Expansion!

Expansion of the Airport under the direction of Hulzick, Morey & Hoefeldt will not only continue to destroy the health & safety of the Middleton community, but their relationships as well.

Lead pollution is a problem! 3 miles of the airport. One school is <1/2 mile. Need to eliminate the lead fuel. Eleven (11) Wisconsin airports sell unleaded fuel. Morey should only allow unleaded!

This Airport should be closed.

Thank you!

I am greatly concerned about the pollution Morey Airport produces

The airport has been there before the development. And they are trying to solve some of the problems. Give them a chance.

Thank you for helping us with this. I am elderly, with cancer & have lived here since 1988. The noise is hurting my health!

Not a valid survey with this "bias". Lead is being phased out! I've noticed reduced Town services. Is the town funding this anti-airport campaign?

Certain members of Town are making way too big a deal about this. Stop catastrophizing!

I live right next to the airport and strongly oppose expansion!

Already too many pilots who don't follow the rules, flight patterns!

Airplane noise is sometimes too loud. Private planes, especially jets, have very high relative carbon emissions.

The negatively biased statements above will influence responses, show the results, and reader conclusions suspect. Jets using a larger runway don't use leaded fuel, only small props.

Airport Road is loud enough - We DON'T need additional noise & traffic for this useless expansion!!!

If the expansion is for a longer safer runway ONLY then I support it. If it brings in larger aircraft & more pollution - NO!

We have lived in the Town of Middleton for the past 5 years and noticed a significant increase in air traffic & noise in the last few years. Many times it feels planes are flying lower than 1000 ft as they fly over our backyard :(

I do not support any expansion of Morey Airport!

Support for Morey Airport expansion depends on not increasing the lead pollution from the airport.

#1 and #4 above.

People are living 80+ years that have lived with lead paint, pipes, gas etc.

Dane County is so close there is no need for another large airport so close.

2 people at this house

This survey is not neutral given the paragraph above. Results are compromised. Quit wasting resources.

The noise from significant increase of flights over the last 5 years has seriously effected our quality of life and after 53 years in the town seriously considering moving!

The sound pollution that is associated with the airport is already disruptive on a daily basis.

The whole thing is so muddled & sketchy feeling. Cynthia Richson need to stop with "picking fights!"

The noise increased traffic of low flying planes is disturbing even inside the house. Over the past few years, my dog has started barking at increased plane noise.

Please stop this!

I. !!!

NO!!!

No benefits to residents!

We are constantly getting flights over our house under 400 feet. Not safe anymore!

1. Too much airplane noise already! 4. Across the rd. from Morey Airport. 20 year resident. Every year it is getting noisier here. Property values will be negatively effected if expanded.

I feel that the city of Middleton does not care about the surrounding communities and won't.

Friedland, too many noisy disruptive planes now.

3. Towards Schneider!

The more I research this the mor disturbing it becomes.

5. 5.3 miles. I strongly oppose the expansion of Morey Airport!

I am pro - progress.

The DNR has determined that current Morey Airport operations produce 32% of all lead pollution in Dane Cty. More Than Dane County Regional Airport?? Morey airport is an asset to this region.

1. Max current use rate please. Who owns? Is there a conditional use permit? Where does the other 68% come from?

1. Except N-S runway expansion.

Prairie Homes Estates - We constantly have low flying small jets flying directly above our home, so low we can sometimes see the numbers on the tail. Smaller planes are fine.

I would not want scheduled commercial flights.

Lived here 16 yrs. - Planes are getting lower and louder, along with tourism flights and training flights some days non-stop!

no response

Single engine planes are constantly less than 300 ft. above homes on Summit Ridge Rd. Flight path for student pilots should be changed back to take off west to Bronner, south along power lines to Hwy 14 , Hwy 14 to Hwy 12 and loop back to touch down.

There is an airport 10 mi. away that serves all the functions they intend with, The expansion, federal tax dollars are by no means "free money".

No expansion!

Will expanding the airport increase the lead pollution?

We believe it should stay the size it is now.

Too many low flying planes as is.

1. !!!

A great business asset to Middleton & historic, 80 years old!

We see pros and cons.

5. 1 mi. You forgot to give the URL for the DNR study so I can read the information for myself.

No response

<p>I don't support taking farmland to create more air and noise pollution.</p>
<p>What is the need/benefit of expansion? Is Dane county's lead pollution level at a dangerous measure?</p>
<p>Existing &amp; proposed maps would be informative.</p>
<p>Big enough for now. Dane County Airport less then 10 miles away.</p>
<p>Your comment regarding airborne lead biases the poll. Besides, while possibly true it's insignificant relative to many more serious pollutants.</p>
<p>Airport expansion is acceptable as long as jet aircraft volume does not increase.</p>
<p>Completely against expansion. Noise &amp; environmental pollution &amp; safety reasons to name a few.</p>
<p>Grow Dane County Airport first before expanding other airports.</p>
<p>No need to expand. Dane County Airport is close enough.</p>
<p>Improving the airport improves the local economy. The airport has been there longer than any of the homes surrounding it.</p>
<p>5. We live on Highwood Circle, about 1/4 mi. from airport. The plans to shut down Schneider Rd are not good for my family. This is why we do not support.</p>
<p>Publish the amount of money that the Town has spent on this effort.</p>

We need to be cutting back on things like this that only add to global warming & pollution, without providing significant benefit to the general population.

4. I would be against this regardless of where I live in Middleton. Thank you to Cindy & many others who have tirelessly advocated against the expansion behalf of the Town of Middleton residents.

This card and on-line info seem intentionally negative. What are the proposed components and potential benefits?

no response

I wish the Town would take building waste pond as seriously!!!

The language used in this survey is biased and misleading. The behavior of those "opposed" to the airport has been appalling & unprofessional. I don't know if I would support or not support what the airport is doing, based on survey wording, made most appropriate choice.

no response

no response

Please do not expand over existing subdivisions.

The expansion of the airport would significantly reduce the quality of life in our area in many ways.

We do not call the noise reporting number because of the news article years ago about them pinpointing those people and belittling them.

We have 3-4 planes fly over our house daily at low altitude. (Think it's flight school.) Don't need more or bigger!

5. 5.2 miles

The reduction of property values and health to community far out weighs any potential benefit.

3. North/south strip only.

I find it alarming the airport generates so much pollution. Why do we need an airport in Middleton, we already have one in Madison.

Unnecessary!

It would be significantly more efficient and appropriate to direct airport expansion funds to the Dane County Airport, not Morey Airport.

There is already too much small airplane traffic in the town of Middleton.

Don't feel super strongly about it.

I do not support the expansion and live within 1 mile of the airport!

4. As the plane flies.

If built, offer effected residents an incentive/tax reduction/bonus or something as a compromise.

If the expansion would decrease the current pollution, I would be more favorable. But would not support more environment pollution.

How will affect our taxes?

2. Details of expansion proposal.

5. 7 miles

<p>Planes fly over house everyday. Why don't they expand runway north to south: No houses to fly over!!!</p>
<p>I would support added hangers but, not added runway length.</p>
<p>I have different opinions regarding each of the expansion plans.</p>
<p>My family has property within a mile of the airport and it will devalue it if approved. I will have to deal with it down the road when I inherit the land. It will be worth less to me. Not a fan!</p>
<p>Until av gas is no longer used for recreational flight, we shouldn't add any capacity here. Lead is extremely toxic and should be banned.</p>
<p>5. 6 mi.</p>
<p>I fully support the Town in it's effort to fight the expansion. There is way too much development surrounding this airport. This affects so many homes &amp; business.</p>
<p>Seems like this project is getting pushed on us for the benefit of two companies. Not right.</p>
<p>The traffic of low flying flights from the flight schools has become almost unbearable. A single plane may fly 5 to 6 times in a row at less then 1000 feet and noise is greater then 60db. I sometimes have 1000 fly overs per day. Terrible!!</p>
<p>4. Enchanted Valley Estates.</p>
<p>No response</p>

We do support any eminent domain action for the changes proposed. Dane Cty Airport can be used by larger planes. We support actions to decrease pollution - not increase it!

Most area residents drive no benefit what so ever from Morey Airport.