



NO to LaGuardia North

STOP Westchester County Airport Expansion & Privatization

Citizens must take action now to prevent expansion & privatization that will lead to environmental harm and the loss of accountability at the airport.

Not only is the Westchester County Board of Legislators considering bids to privatize Westchester County Airport, but the final draft of the airport master plan calls for a dramatic expansion in airport traffic. If the airport is privatized, this may be citizens' last chance to guide the future of the airport.

How can I keep the airport a good neighbor?

- Find and contact your representative on the Board of Legislators to tell them their constituents are against expansion and privatization of the airport: <http://westchesterlegislators.com/>
- Vote on November 7th. All members of the Board of Legislators and the County Executive are up for re-election
- Join our mailing list by signing our petition: <http://tinyurl.com/savehpn>
- Attend meetings on privatization around the county
- Attend monthly county Airport Advisory Board meetings in the airline terminal. Parking in the airport garage will be validated: <http://airport.westchestergov.com/airport-advisory-board>
- Attend a public meeting on the airport master plan in July, date / time / place to be announced

Follow us for updates: <http://sierralowerhudson.org/westchester-county-airport>

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The airport master plan calls for dramatic expansion

- Predicts a **68% increase** in airline flights on large jets by 2032 by ignoring laws that limit airline traffic.¹
- Calls for a **50% increase** in overnight parking for airliners to facilitate more early morning departures.²
- Reserves space next to the terminal for "future modernization"³ and recommends **adding two gates**.⁴
- Calls for **\$153 million** in public funds to build and renovate facilities for corporate jets.
- Calls for **\$49.5 million** in public funds to build two new parking garages next to the airline terminal with about 1700 spaces⁵

Privatization will cause harmful conflicts of interest and may cause a loss of accountability

- Privatization will incentivize the county to maximize profits at the airport, perhaps by increasing traffic, decreasing security, or decreasing environmental protections. The county could change laws to accommodate a private operator.

¹ Westchester County Airport Final Draft Master Plan. Page 3-41

² Ibid. Page 5-20

³ Ibid. Page 5-23

⁴ Ibid. Pages 4-25, 4-26 and 4-30

⁵ Ibid. Pages 5-20, 7-11, 7-16, and 7-18



- Privatization may fundamentally change the relationship between the airport and the community. Depending on the terms of the lease, the next 30-40 years of decisions at the airport could be made in private rather than being subject to regular and continuing public oversight.
- The private operator will maximize profits, perhaps at the expense of the community. Regulatory oversight of for-profit enterprises is difficult and prone to cheating, as we saw in the financial crisis.

Privatization will likely accelerate expansion and cause increased noise

- Current law restricts airlines to 240 passengers and 4 arrivals or departures per half hour, but airlines could schedule 2.6x the number of flights today without any change in the law.
- There are no constraints on the number of private flights. These flights account for **85-90%**⁶ of airport operations and most noise complaints and curfew violations.⁷
- The easiest way to profits is by increasing aircraft traffic. Private operators want to make “capacity enhancing capital expenditures” to realize at least 9-11% returns on our “underutilized” airport.^{8 9}
- Private traffic could shift to Westchester from Teterboro Airport in NJ, which has strict noise restrictions that we do not have.¹⁰ If all of the flights at Teterboro came to Westchester, we would have **double** the flights we have today.¹¹
- Expansion will increase aircraft noise, air pollution, motor vehicle traffic, and the threat of contamination of groundwater and of the Kensico Reservoir.

Privatization may threaten our drinking water and put the county at financial risk

- Some stormwater from the airport flows into the Kensico Reservoir, which supplies 90% of the water in NYC and much of Westchester. Over 9 million people get their drinking water from the reservoir, which is **not filtered** before it is delivered to taps.¹² Under county control, millions have been spent to minimize and monitor the flow of airport stormwater into the Kensico Reservoir.
- A filtration plant to deal with contamination of the Kensico Reservoir could cost over \$12 billion. The potential proceeds from privatization are insignificant by comparison.
- The private operator is required to maintain only \$5 million per incident and \$10 million total of pollution insurance.¹³ This is inadequate to clean up a chemical or fuel spill into the Kensico Reservoir.

⁶ FAA Air Traffic Activity System, 2006-2017

⁷ Westchester County Airport Monitor

⁸ Oaktree Capital Managing Director Emmett McCann at the Westchester Board of Legislators Budget & Appropriations Committee Meeting, November 21, 2016

⁹ Wilson, David McKay. “Tax Watch: Perils of Westchester airport privatization.” The Journal News, December 8, 2016.

¹⁰ Teterboro Airport Noise Abatement Programs and Procedures

¹¹ FAA Air Traffic Activity System, 2006-2017

¹² Rueb, Emily S. “How New York Gets Its Water.” The New York Times, March 24, 2016.

¹³ RFP Seeking a Public-Private Partnership for the Lease, Management, Operation, Maintenance, and Improvement of Westchester County Airport, page 50.