

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER GOVERNOR JAMES H. TROGDON, III
SECRETARY

February 19, 2019

Michael Riesman Deputy Executive Director Asheville Regional Airport 61 Terminal Dr. Suite 1 Fletcher, NC 28732

Mr. Riesman,

Thank you for informing the NCDOT – Division of Aviation about the potential for a residential development under the approach surface to Runway 35 at the Asheville Regional Airport. The Division shares your concerns about the land use compatibility of the Tap Root subdivision in the proposed location identified by the enclosed Tap Root Subdivision Master Plan. The encroachment of incompatible land use poses a major threat to the long-term viability of our airports in North Carolina.

While the proposed location of the Tap Root subdivision appears to be outside of the Runway Protection Zone, it is located approximately 4,500 feet from the Runway 35 threshold and directly under the extended runway centerline. This location places the Tap Root subdivision directly beneath the approach surface for Runway 35 and within the area of "Limited Development" per the 2015 North Carolina Airport System Plan Update.

Enclosed is an Airport Influence Areas map excerpt from the 2015 North Carolina Airport System Plan Update for the Concord Regional Jetport to provide you with a graphical depiction of what the limited development area looks around an airport of similar size. I provided this specific example because this study did not generate these drawings for the commercial service airports, only the GA airports. Your airport would have comparable areas based on your similar runway characteristics to Concord.

Residential development within the limited development area is generally discouraged due to the potential for quality of life reduction caused by the noise impacts of aircraft using the airport and, in this case, flying directly overhead. A residential development in this location can also undermine the Asheville Regional Airport's growth opportunities and increase the risk of potential litigation.

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The Division of Aviation encourages the Asheville Regional Airport staff to continue to engage with the local communities, counties, and planning organizations in an effort to ensure appropriate land use decisions and zoning ordinances are implemented to protect all stakeholders involved.

Sincerely,

Jonathan L. Arnold, PE, MPA

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Deputy Director

NCDOT – Division of Aviation

Enclosures



