CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2026 **ITEM NUMBER:** 9.**B**

SECOND READING:

TYPE OF ITEM: General Business

PRESENTED BY:
Levi Brown, Airport Manager, Levi.Brown@longmontcolorado.gov

SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:
Presentation Of Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures (VNAP) Baseline Assessment Findings And Recommendations By Airport Monitoring Systems (AMS) For Vance Brand Municipal Airport

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
In response to sustained community concerns regarding aircraft noise and ongoing City Council interest in the effectiveness of the airport's noise management program, staff engaged Airport Monitoring Systems (AMS) to conduct a Baseline Assessment of the Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures (VNAP) at Vance Brand Municipal Airport (KLMO). This engagement was also informed by City Council's October 7, 2025, discussion of the airport's VNAP and the draft Saturated Pattern Policy, during which Council expressed interest in better understanding the program's effectiveness and opportunities for improvement. AMS has completed its assessment and is prepared to present its findings and recommendations to City Council at this meeting. Their report includes items such as a recommendation to expand flight tracking and operations analytics to measure VNAP conformance and publish regular transparency reports on operations. A representative from Airport Monitoring Systems will be in attendance to deliver the presentation.

COUNCIL OPTIONS:
This is a presentation only. Some recommendations from the VNAP will require Council direction and additional funding to move forward. Additionally, specific changes to the VNAP in the future will be reviewed by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:
N/A

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:
N/A

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:
Vance Brand Municipal Airport has maintained a Voluntary Noise Abatement Program (VNAP) since 2015. The VNAP provides voluntary guidance to pilots on preferred flight procedures to minimize noise impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. The program is distributed through multiple channels,

including the airport's website, flight schools, the Fixed-Base Operator (FBO), noise abatement posters, the Chart Supplement, digital electronic flight bag (EFB) formats, airfield signage, and Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) broadcasts.

While the VNAP represents a longstanding and documented commitment to community noise management, the City had not previously conducted a formal, independent assessment of the program's structure, effectiveness, or opportunities for improvement. The engagement of Airport Monitoring Systems was intended to address this gap through an objective, expert review. They have made several recommendations in their final report, including:

Operational Procedures

- Adopt the full Airport Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) Noise Awareness Steps, replacing outdated "no aerobatics over houses" language
- Study Runway (RWY) 11 vs. RWY 29 touch and go impacts using ADS-B/AMS data, and use that data to define preferred routing, visual landmarks, and altitude guidance for arrivals, departures, and pattern work
- Develop a voluntary, Technical Advisory Group (TAG) led congested traffic pattern management program

Conformance Monitoring and Analytics

- Expand flight tracking and operations analytics to measure VNAP conformance by operator, flight school, and flying club, shifting discussions from anecdote to evidence
- Launch a public dashboard/leaderboard showing trends over time and recognizing high performers; keep underperformer data internal for engagement
- Set measurable success targets against the 2025 baseline, accounting for factors outside airport control
- Integrate VNAP guidance into EFB platforms for in-cockpit access

Aircraft Operator Collaboration

- Establish a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of pilots, flight schools, AOPA, and FAA, reporting to Council through the Airport Manager, with specialized working groups stood up as needed

Community Education and Outreach

- Separate pilot-facing and community-facing website content, anchored by a dedicated resident information page
- Conduct briefings for Council, leadership, and residents, packaged for web, live, and print use
- Hold regular public forums and targeted neighborhood briefings for the most affected groups
- Implement a Noise Alert system for temporary changes

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Noise Complaint Management and Transparency

- Expand the complaint form with structured fields and a formal tracking/analytics workflow with resident feedback loop
- Publish regular transparency reports on operations, VNAP conformance, and complaint trends

Land Use Planning and Real Estate Coordination

- Publish homebuyer/renter materials on the Airport Influence Area and noise expectations, and engage real estate professionals on consistent disclosure
- Strengthen coordination with planning agencies for formal airport review of proposed land use/zoning changes in the influence area

Additional Support and Continuous Improvement

- Evaluate dedicated staffing or contracted consultant support for noise program administration, and establish post-implementation monitoring using the AMS platform

ATTACHMENTS:
Att 1 - Noise Program Assessment Baseline Report
Att 2 - Noise Program Assessment - Opportunities and Recommendations
Att 3 – Comparison of Average Altitude of Vance Brand Downwid Leg: 2025 vs. 2026