



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

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August 30, 2022

Heidi Miller, County Attorney
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Adams County Planning Department
4430 S. Adams County Parkway
Brighton, Colorado 80601

Re: 1988 Intergovernmental Agreement on a New Airport
DEN's 2021/2026 Noise Release Study

Greetings:

Enclosed (or attached if delivered electronically) please find a copy of DEN's 2021/2026 Noise Release Study. Section 4.5.3 of the 1988 Intergovernmental Agreement on a New Airport between Denver and Adams County requires that, "Every two years, Denver shall conduct noise studies complying in form with the provisions of 14 C.F.R., part 150, subparts A and B (1985) for the purpose of determining whether Noise Release Conditions have occurred." Though not required by the IGA, this copy of the 2021/2026 Noise Release Study is being provided to you by the DEN Noise Office for your information and files.

The report also will be posted on DEN's noise management web page.

Sincerely,

Debra Overn
Assistant City Attorney

cc: DEN Noise Office

Encl.



DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2022 IGA NOISE RELEASE STUDY
AUGUST 26, 2022



INTRODUCTION

This Noise Release Study was prepared pursuant to Section 4.5.3 “Noise Studies” of the Intergovernmental Agreement dated April 21, 1988 between Adams County and the City & County of Denver related to the Denver International Airport (“airport”). Section 4.5.3 provides that the airport shall conduct a noise study complying in form with 14 CFR 150, subparts A and B, for the purpose of determining whether Noise Release Conditions have occurred with respect to land use in Adams County adjacent to the boundaries of the airport. The first study of this type by the airport under the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement (“IGA”) was completed and transmitted to Adams County on February 28, 2000. Subsequent studies, per IGA requirements, were completed in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020. This current study (2022) thus continues the mandated every-two-year schedule.

Part 150 is a regulation developed under the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979 (49 USC 2101 et. seq.) and addresses noise compatibility planning activities of operators of all public use airports. The Denver International Airport is a public use airport. Subpart A covers the general scope of Part 150, and its purpose and Subpart B covers the development of noise exposure maps and noise compatibility programs. The purposes and process of both subparts have been modified to comply with the objectives of the IGA as it relates to Noise Release Conditions as that term is defined within the IGA.

DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT STATISTICS

Denver International Airport is located approximately 23 miles northeast of downtown Denver. The airport and its access corridor occupy 53 square miles of land which had previously been used primarily for agricultural purposes.

DEN currently has six operating runways, five of which are 12,000’ long, with the sixth at 16,000’ in length. The airport also currently has a 1.5 million square foot main terminal building, with three remote concourses of varying sizes. Both the airfield and the terminal/concourse complex can be expanded to accommodate future growth. DEN has been designed to ultimately support as many as 12 runways, as well as a doubling of the current size of the main terminal, and the construction of two additional concourses.

DEN opened on February 28, 1995, replacing Stapleton International Airport as Denver’s primary commercial airport. DEN is served by a variety of domestic and international air carriers and is the second largest hub for United Airlines. DEN is also the home and hub for Frontier Airlines, as well as a hub for Southwest Airlines. Passenger traffic at DEN continues to recover from passenger downturn due to the pandemic, with 58,828,552 passengers passing through the airport in 2021. This 2021 passenger total for DEN represents a 15% decrease from the 69,015,703 passengers who used the airport in 2019. The continued recovery has been due to the strong demand for travel and an increase in the share of connecting passengers and places DEN among the top recovering markets of peer large-hub airports worldwide. The total number of aircraft operations for 2021 was 599,996. This was a 6.3% decrease as compared to the 640,098 recorded in 2019.¹

¹ January 31, 2022, DEN Media Press Release <https://www.flydenver.com/sites/default/files/downloads/22-09%202021%20Passenger%20Traffic.pdf>



LAND USES

The current land uses within the Adams County Noise Overlay Zone are agricultural and rural residential. Two residential subdivisions, Van Aire and Green Estates, lie within the Noise Overlay Zone (please see 2000 Noise Release Study - Figure 1). The outside boundary of the Noise Overlay Zone was based on the projected 60 L_{dn} contour for the airport. Both subdivisions continue to remain outside of the airport's operating 60 L_{dn} contour.

The Adams County 2012 Comprehensive Plan states as a matter of policy that agricultural uses will be encouraged within the 60 L_{dn} contour. See enclosed Noise Exposure Maps (Figures 1 & 2) for depictions of existing land uses as approved by FAA per FAR Part 150 process.

NOISE MEASUREMENT METHODOLOGY

For the purposes of this study, the City and County of Denver contracted with HNTB Corporation to prepare a set of Noise Exposure Maps (NEM). These maps illustrate the location of the 55, 60, and 65 L_{dn} contour lines for the years 2021 and 2026.

HNTB prepared the contour maps using the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Aviation Environmental Design Tool (AEDT) version 3e released May 9, 2022. AEDT is a computer model that uses aircraft operations data, correlated with known acoustical information for each type of aircraft, to calculate noise contours. Contours for the 2021 base case were generated based upon actual 2021 DEN operations data. For the 2026 contour projection, HNTB utilized flight operations and fleet mix data developed by the FAA for its March 2021 TAF (Terminal Area Forecast).

NOISE CONTOURS

Figure 1 and Figure 2 in this 2022 Study Report illustrate the location of the 55, 60, and 65 L_{dn} noise contours for the years 2021 and 2026.

Each of the contour lines encloses a geographic region within which the same average annual sound level (due to aircraft) exists. These levels are expressed in terms of a measurement unit called L_{dn} (also sometimes referred to as DNL). These L_{dn} levels represent the average annual aircraft-produced sound exposure within each contour line. Additionally, the L_{dn} metric includes a 10-decibel weighting factor which is applied to any events which occur during the nighttime hours, defined for this purpose as 10:00 pm to 7:00 am.



LAND USE IMPACTS 2026

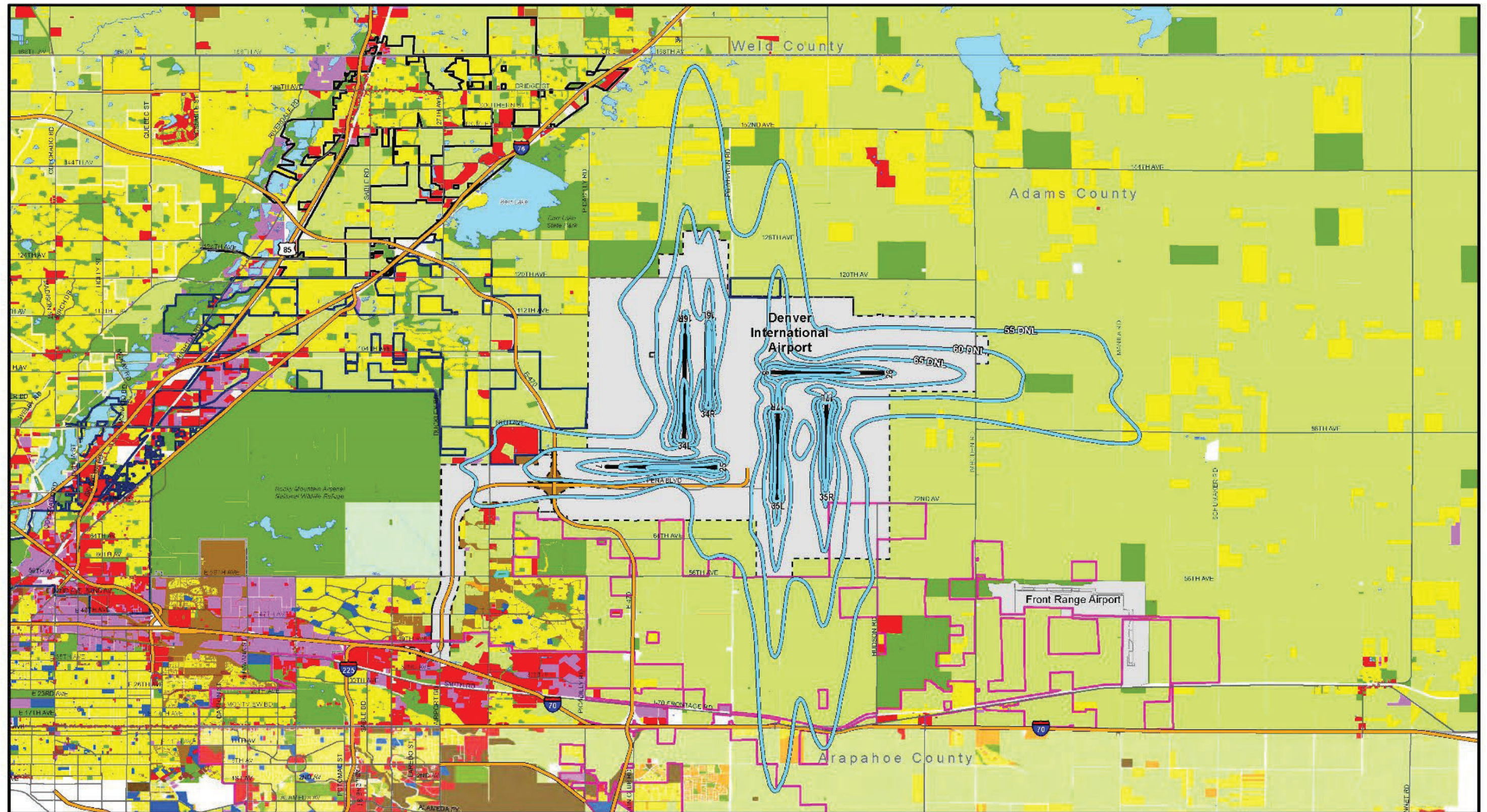
The projections for 2026 indicate that the contours will expand very slightly in all directions as compared to 2021. It should be noted that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) projections were based on the airport operating at full capacity with 12 runways; therefore, the current contour of the Noise Overlay Zone should be maintained until full build-out of the airport.

It should also be noted that on both the 2021 and 2026 contour maps, numerous areas to the east and north of the airport are colored yellow, indicating residential land use. Most of the areas so designated are not residentially zoned but are rather agricultural zones within which Adams County permits one home to be built on a parcel of land having a minimum size of 35 acres. The source of all Adams County land use data used on these maps is Adams County.

FIGURE 1

2021 IGA DNL NOISE CONTOURS

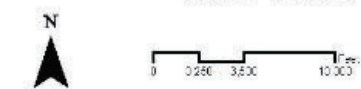
Denver International Airport



Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2021 Base Year Noise Contour | Commercial | County Boundary |
| Airport Property | Industrial | Aurora Jurisdiction |
| Residential | Public / Institutional | Commerce City Jurisdiction |
| Agricultural | Vacant Residential | Brighton Jurisdiction |
| Exempt / Parks / Open Space | Vacant | Thornton Jurisdiction |

Figure 1
2021 Base Year Noise Contours

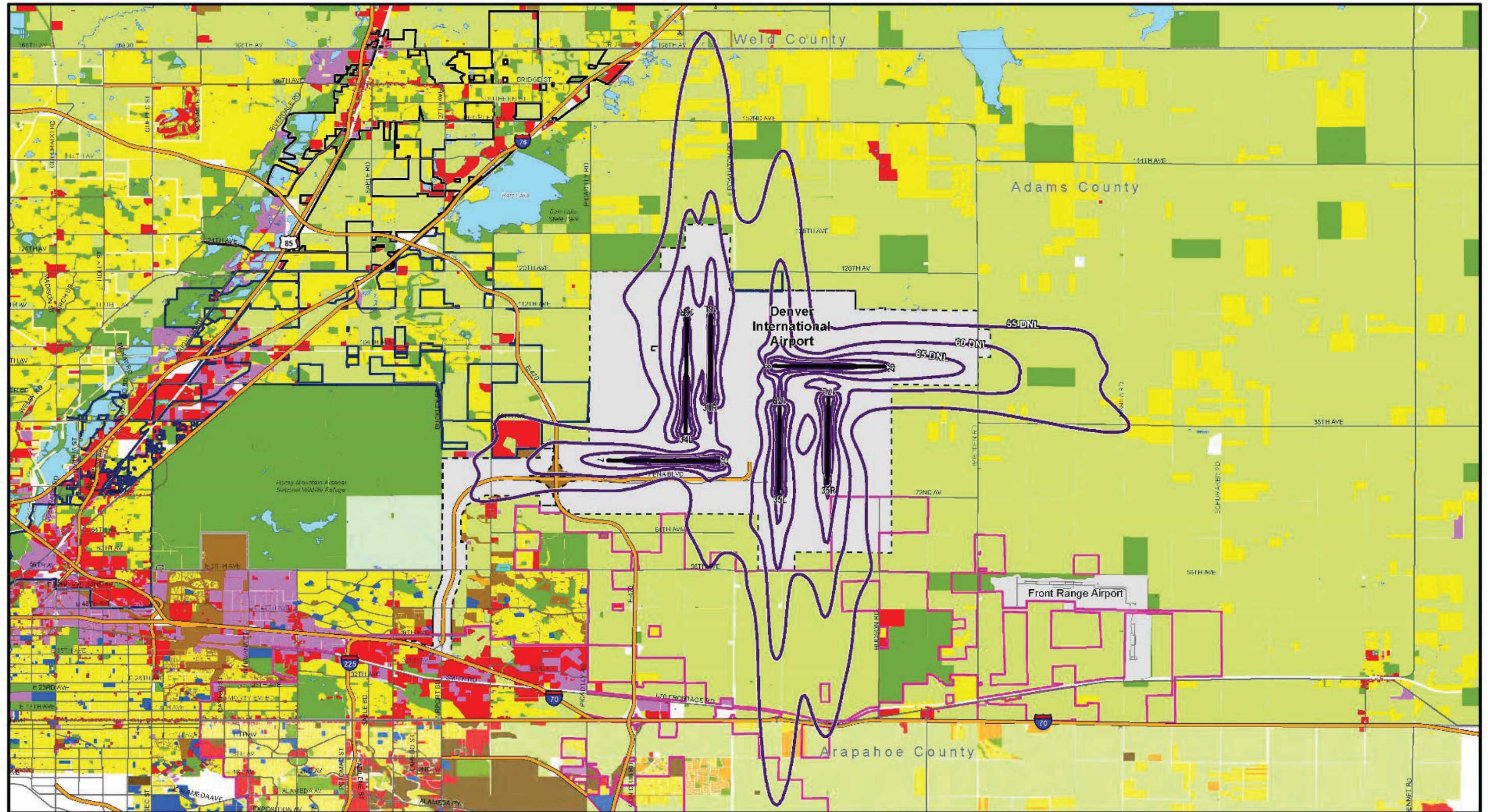


Sources: Adams County GIS, Weld County GIS, City of Denver GIS, Arapahoe County GIS, and NPS

FIGURE 2

2026 IGA DNL NOISE CONTOURS

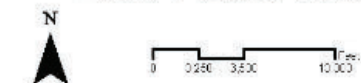
Denver International Airport



Legend

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2026 Future Scenario Noise Contour | Commercial | County Boundary |
| Airport Property | Industrial | Aurora Jurisdiction |
| Residential | Public / Institutional | Commerce City Jurisdiction |
| Agricultural | Vacant Residential | Brighton Jurisdiction |
| Exempt / Parks / Open Space | Vacant | Thornton Jurisdiction |

Figure 2
2026 Future Scenario Noise Contours



Sources: Adams County GIS, Weld County GIS, City of Denver GIS, Arapahoe County GIS, and NPS