

The Columbus Dispatch

VOTE TODAY

Airport neighbors in line for sonic relief

69 houses to be soundproofed in last leg of project

By *Kate Jacobson* THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Helen Carter moved into her 13th Avenue house near Port Columbus 60 years ago.

Since then, she's endured sonic booms, day flights, night flights and runway extensions.

But now, she might get a little peace and quiet.

Carter, 82, could be one of the last residents in the area to have her house soundproofed.

"It's not bad — you just get used to it," she said. "When a stranger comes over and a plane flies over, they duck."

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority has been insulating houses to keep the noise down since 1988. Federal funding has come and gone, and the project grew to 10 phases and 703 houses.

Today, the authority is to vote to soundproof an additional 69 houses on 12th Avenue, 13th Avenue, N. Cassady Avenue and Drake Road. The \$1.8 million project will be funded by a Federal Aviation Administration grant.

David Whitaker, a spokesman for Port Columbus, said this 11th phase is the last planned soundproofing.

A few years ago, this phase involved 270 houses. Then federal guidelines changed, and the number dropped to 84. Guidelines are tied to the number of takeoffs from an airport, which have declined at Port Columbus since 2007.

Fifteen property owners declined to have insulation added to their houses.

Bill Adams, a member of the East Columbus Civic Association, said the airport and its neighbors have had a bumpy relationship.

Adams said he wasn't told about the soundproofing extension and is frustrated with the airport.

"They're not very good neighbors," he said.

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