

# The Columbus Dispatch

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## Airport won't build unpopular sound wall

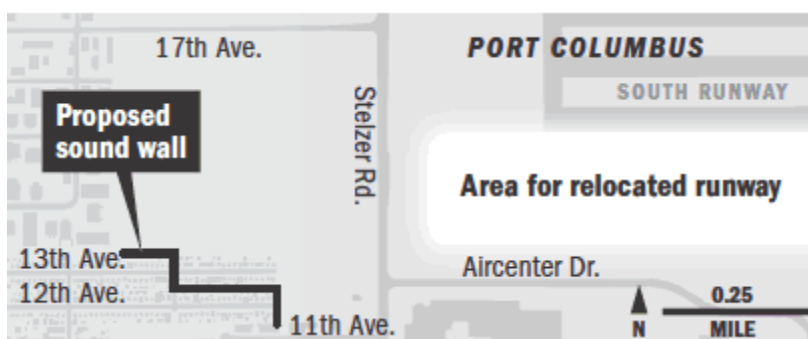
### Port Columbus' neighbors instead want more homes soundproofed

By Mark Ferenchik THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Residents near Port Columbus don't want the airport to build a sound wall near their houses.

So the airport won't.

The \$1.7 million wall would have screened out noise for homes west of the airport's relocated south runway, which is scheduled to open in 2013.



Of the 38 people who commented at a July 15 meeting or later wrote the Columbus Regional Airport Authority, 35 opposed the wall. Some considered it ugly.

“It was pretty much clear they were not interested in that option,” said airport spokeswoman Angie Tabor.

The airport is sending letters to residents in October.

Tabor said the airport could build the wall after the runway opens, if residents want it then.

But what they really want is for the airport to soundproof more houses in the area, said Bill Adams, vice resident of the East Columbus Civic Association. The airport had planned to soundproof 274 homes in the area, but now is soundproofing 84.

“If they had money to divert to plans to build a wall, why not soundproof?” Adams said.

Tabor said federal guidelines concerning insulation are strict and are tied to the number of takeoffs. The airport had planned on insulating the larger number of homes after Skybus boosted daily departures at the airport to close to 200 beginning in May 2007, Tabor said. But the low-cost airline ceased operations less than a year later, and the number of overall departures fell, Tabor said.

Today, about 150 flights depart daily from Port Columbus.

The airport had planned to place a 10-foot-high wall of stamped concrete panels on top of a 10-foot earthen berm near E. 12th and E. 13th avenues. That would have shielded the neighborhood from jets taking off toward the east and provided a visual buffer.

The airport has been demolishing 35 homes along E. 13th Avenue to provide a federally required runway-protection zone.

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