



Traffic Noise Evaluation Process

NOISE STUDY PROCESS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Existing traffic noise levels are loud in our community, why hasn't a noise study been done for us and a noise barrier constructed?

The Federal Highway Administration provides funds for noise barrier consideration when the following occurs:

- A new roadway is proposed
- New travel lanes are added to an existing road
- An existing roadway alignment is significantly altered

Currently, there is no funding available to construct a noise barrier unless one of these conditions is met. New through lanes are being analyzed for I-75 near your residential or neighborhood area. Therefore, a Noise Study is being conducted that will determine if the noise levels meet the federal impact criteria and if noise barriers can meet the standards to reduce the noise adequately and at a reasonable cost.

How long will it take to reach a decision to construct a noise barrier?

There are five phases to a transportation improvement project:

1. Planning
2. Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study
3. Engineering Design
4. Right-of-way Acquisition
5. Construction

The noise study will be done during the second phase, PD&E Study, and recommendations for noise barriers will be made in the Noise Study Report. We are currently in this phase, and expect to be completed by 2011.

The recommended noise barriers will be verified during the Engineering Design phase when sufficient roadway design information is available to ensure that the noise barriers will reduce noise adequately. If they do, affected residents will be contacted to receive information regarding the height and length of the noise barrier and will be asked to respond in favor or against construction of the noise barrier. This phase of the project is expected to be completed by 2014, if funding is available. The Construction Phase of the project could possibly begin in 2015, if funding is available.

What does the decision to construct a noise barrier depend on?

If traffic noise levels are at least 66 decibels (dBA) at your residence, you will be considered for a noise barrier through the I-75 Noise Study Report. The next step will be to assess the effectiveness of a noise barrier with a federally approved computer noise model, to determine whether an adequate noise reduction can be achieved by the barrier and that it meets the cost criteria. If all of the criteria are met, a noise barrier is recommended in the Noise Study Report to be verified in Engineering Design phase of this project, when the necessary engineering information is available.

How can we be involved and have a say regarding noise barriers?

There are numerous public meetings that will be conducted throughout the PD&E phase that can be attended. Staff will be available at these meetings to answer any questions. In addition, your group or community may request a briefing by the Florida Department of Transportation with regard to your specific situation. A website is available at www.I-75Vision.com with study information, and numerous newsletters and fact sheets will be available throughout the study to keep you up-to-date and aware of when meetings are scheduled.

If a noise barrier is found to be feasible and reasonable for your community through the noise study process, you will also be contacted during the Engineering Design phase for your response in favor or against the construction of the noise barrier.

