XI. **Noise Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

1. If a noise wall is proposed adjacent to the roadway shoulder, consider the use of fiberglass material.
2. When noise walls must be placed behind existing or proposed guardrail, the proposed noise wall should be placed as close to the guardrail as possible in order to maximize wall height and acoustic protection. Utilize a guardrail system that allows for minimum deflection.
3. In the analysis phase, coordinate the placement of a noise barrier with maintenance, utility and construction experts as much as possible. This helps to eliminate or minimize issues in the design and construction phases.
4. ODOT strongly discourages the use of dark colors on noise walls.
5. ODOT highly recommends the use of light neutral colors on noise walls.
6. ODOT encourages leaving the posts uncolored. Only color the panels.
7. For large noise wall projects, ODOT encourages scoping the general contractor to hire a qualified noise wall inspector to oversee the noise wall process from cradle to grave.
8. ODOT highly recommends a final walk thru of a newly constructed noise wall with Central Office and District personnel.
9. ODOT encourages inviting the noise wall supplier and ODOT Noise Coordinator to the ODOT Preconstruction meeting.
10. ODOT encourages holding a conference call between ODOT, the general contractor, and the noise wall supplier before noise wall manufacturing begins to go over ODOT’s expectations.
11. ODOT strongly discourages the use of sound absorptive noise walls in harsh freeze/thaw areas.
12. ODOT encourages not coloring the panels or posts as an option. Only texturing the panels.
13. Relative to noise wall texture, ODOT recommends the use of large rounded patterns, and no sharp edges.
14. ODOT encourages informing the public of noise wall color and texture and soliciting comments. This simplifies the noise PI process.
15. ODOT strongly recommends a conference call or meeting between the noise public involvement consultant and ODOT should be held to discuss the proposed noise public involvement strategy, expectations, and deliverables, prior to conducting noise public involvement.
16. After the decision has been made as to whether or not a noise wall will be constructed, a notification should be mailed to the benefited receptors informing them of the decision.

17. Conduct pre and/or post noise wall construction noise public involvement.

18. The use of the brick texture is not recommended. However, if brick must be used, it should only be on one side of the wall (not both sides) and rounded edge brick formliners should be used. This is based on feedback from noise wall contractors and suppliers.

19. The same noise wall texture and/or color on both sides of a proposed noise wall is highly recommended and to our advantage relative to pricing and ease of manufacturing and results in a better chance for a better overall finished product. Also, keep in mind that we have the flexibility to offer the public one texture and one color or even NO color. The advantages of using no color are lower cost, no peeling paint concerns, no fading color issues, chips won’t be noticeable, and graffiti removal would be simplified.

20. Ensure that the noise wall plans specify if the integral post cap or panel cap should have an overhang or not. OES recommends the panel cap overhang but no post cap overhang.

21. Peeling paint on posts at the edge of shoulder has been a concern on recent projects. Use no color on the posts for proposed new noise walls at the edge of shoulder to avoid the issue. Apply a clear sealer to the posts.

22. Add a plan note to the noise wall construction plans to not allow over certain percentage (SF each panel) of a new wall to be repaired and add QC at the noise wall plant.