

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Public Meeting to Discuss Proposed Noise Wall along Western Avenue

May 19, 2016

Overview

- ① **Introduction**
- ② **Project History**
- ③ **Noise Analysis Report**
- ④ **Next Steps**
- ⑤ **Comments, Questions, and Discussion**

Introduction

- ④ ODOT Staff
- ④ Information Sheet and Displays
- ④ Survey Forms and Comment Sheets
- ④ Recording
- ④ Copies of Noise Analysis Report
- ④ NEPA Assignment Pamphlet

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Project History

☉ Summer '15

- ☉ Community expressed concerns about highway noise

☉ August '15

- ☉ ODOT conducted a Noise Analysis

- ☉ Noise issue? ✓
- ☉ Community pre-dates highway expansion? (Type II Community) ✓
- ☉ Noise wall a feasible and reasonable solution? ✓

Project History

🕒 October '15

- 🕒 ODOT confirmed the community qualifies for noise wall
- 🕒 ODOT informed the community they need > 50% support from benefitted receptors
- 🕒 Community circulated petition to demonstrate support

🕒 November '15

- 🕒 ODOT received signed petition with > 50% support from benefitted receptors
- 🕒 ODOT determined funding availability

What is a “Benefitted Receptor”?

- ④ A residence (or school) whose noise levels reach or approach the Noise Abatement Criteria of 67 decibels is “impacted”
- ④ A residence (or school) whose noise levels would decrease by 5 decibels or more after installation of a noise barrier is “benefitted”
- ④ 5 decibels is considered to be a substantial or “noticeable” change to the human ear

Project History

🕒 November and December '15

- 🕒 ODOT received numerous questions and comments from the community
 - 🕒 Stressed the desire to have a public meeting
- 🕒 ODOT received requests to have names removed from the petition
 - 🕒 Stressed the need to re-survey the benefitted receptors

Project History

🕒 January '16

- 🕒 In response to community feedback, ODOT decided to host a public meeting and re-survey benefitted receptors
- 🕒 ODOT will use survey results and comments received to determine future action

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Noise Analysis Results

- ④ Prepared by ODOT in 2015
- ④ 114 homes were studied (within 500' of US68)
- ④ 20 homes were “impacted” (noise levels were above the FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria of 67 decibels)
- ④ 14', 15', 16', 17' noise wall heights were “modeled”
- ④ 16' height is recommended based on cost and benefits
- ④ Estimated noise wall length is 4340'
- ④ Proposed noise wall location is between US68 and Western Ave near ODOT's right-of-way fenceline

Noise Analysis Results

- ④ 16' wall height benefits 73 homes (>5 decibel reduction)
- ④ 5 decibel reduction is “substantial”
- ④ 10 decibel reduction is reducing the noise in half
- ④ Approximately 15 homes will experience a noise reduction of 8-10 decibels
- ④ Preliminary estimated cost of the noise wall is \$1.7 million at \$23,700/benefited receptor (<\$35,000 threshold). *Potential utility issues still yet to be studied in detail*

Noise Analysis Results



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Next Steps

- ① ODOT is re-surveying the benefitted receptors
- ① Survey includes 6 choices for wall textures



Next Steps

- 📧 **Surveys due by June 20, 2016**
- 📧 **ODOT will review survey results**
 - 📧 Will reach out again to non-responders
- 📧 **ODOT will issue a follow-up letter to benefitted receptors, press release, and website update indicating the results**

Next Steps

- ④ If less than 50% of benefitted receptors approve:
 - ④ Will be considered lack of interest – ODOT will not develop the project
- ④ If greater than 50% of benefitted receptors approve:
 - ④ ODOT will proceed with the project development process

Next Steps

- ④ **Project Development Process (PDP)**
 - ④ Developing design plans
 - ④ Assessing environmental impacts
 - ④ Assessing utility impacts
 - ④ Will include additional public involvement
 - ④ Assessing cost/feasibility
- ④ **PDP ultimately decides if project would be built**
 - ④ If no substantial issues exist, construction will occur in summer of 2019

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Comments, Questions, and Discussion

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