

Noise Barrier Public Involvement Summary

CUY- Cleveland Innerbelt (PID 77510)

CUY – 90 – 14.90 WB Design Build (PID 85531)

October 15, 2009

A Noise Analysis was prepared by URS Corporation for the Cleveland Innerbelt Corridor in August 2006. The ODOT Office of Environmental Services approved the Noise Analysis on February 7, 2007. The Noise Analysis concluded that noise barriers were justified in the Tremont neighborhood between the IR-71/IR-90/IR-490 Interchange and the Cuyahoga River. These are labeled as Barrier 3 and Barrier 4 on Figure No. 8 from the Noise Analysis (Attachment A). Another noise barrier, Barrier 5, was also justified in the Noise Analysis and is located east of East 22nd Street on the south/east side of IR-90 to protect the Cedar Central Apartments.

The first Innerbelt Construction Contract, CUY-90-14.90 (PID 85531), will include the area of Barrier 3 in Tremont. The areas of Barrier 4 and 5 will be included in future projects. Therefore, the remainder of this summary will only pertain with Barrier 3, the area west of the Innerbelt in Tremont between IR-71/IR-90/IR-490 and University Road. The Noise Analysis identified sixty-four (64) homes on the west side of the Innerbelt that would receive a 3 dBA noise reduction if Barrier 3 were constructed. Therefore, 64 homes were used in the determining if Barrier 3 met the cost reasonableness threshold. Barrier 3 does meet the cost reasonableness threshold.

Stake Holder Meeting – June 23, 2009

ODOT presented the findings of the Noise Analysis and the possible noise abatement options to local stakeholders on June 23, 2009 at the Tremont West Development Corporation Office. The attendance sheet is attached (Attachment B). The stakeholders had the following questions that needed further investigation.

1. What is the cost of noise barriers?
2. Can the money be spent on landscaping instead of noise barriers?
3. How much heat will be created behind the noise barriers?
4. Is there lighting behind the noise barriers?
5. Can ODOT provide maintenance at existing underpasses?
6. Can the current truck detour off the bridge be made permanent?
7. Can ODOT place 'No Jake Brakes' on the Innerbelt?

District 12 responded to these questions in an e-mail on July 2, 2009 (Attachment C).

The stakeholders also asked that ODOT present the noise information to the Block Clubs that abut the Innerbelt.

Lincoln Heights/Scranton-Starkweather Block Club Meeting – July 9, 2009

ODOT presented the Noise Analysis and noise barrier options at the July 9, 2009 Lincoln Heights/Scranton-Starkweather Block Club meeting held at Zion Church. Since the Auburn Block Club's next meeting was not until September, the residents were invited to the Lincoln Heights Block Club meeting. The attendance list is enclosed (Attachment D).

Mark Carpenter and Natalie Conley presented noise abatement information and answered questions. The power point presentation that was presented can be viewed on the Innerbelt website. The attendees filled out questionnaires marking whether they were in favor of noise barriers or against noise barriers. The majority of these responses were against noise barriers being built, however, many of these residents lived outside the noise sensitive area within 600-feet of the Innerbelt. There were a few residents that lived within the noise sensitive areas that were in favor of noise barriers on the east side of the Innerbelt. The written responses were compiled with all the questionnaires received from all the public involvement activities (Attachment E & F).

North of Literary Block Club Meeting – July 21, 2009

ODOT presented the Noise Analysis and noise barrier options at the July 21, 2009 North of Literary Block Club meeting held at Lago Resteraunt. Mark Carpenter presented noise abatement information and answered questions. The power point presentation that was presented can be viewed on the Innerbelt website. The attendees filled out questionnaires marking whether they were in favor of noise barriers or against noise barriers. The majority of these responses were against noise barriers being built, however, many of these residents lived outside the noise sensitive area within 600-feet of the Innerbelt. There were a few residents that lived within the noise sensitive areas that were in favor of noise barriers on the east side of the Innerbelt. There was one residence from the west side of the Innerbelt that was present and submitted written support of a noise barrier on the west side (Treska). The written responses were compiled with all the questionnaires received from all the public involvement activities (Attachment E & F).

First Noise Abatement Questionnaire Mailing – August 12, 2009

The District mailed out an invitation to the August 27, 2009 public meeting and a Noise Abatement Questionnaire on August 12, 2009. It was sent out to the 79 first row receptors on both sides of the Innerbelt. Enclosed are the invitation (Attachment G) and Questionnaire (Attachment H). The letter requested the residents to return the questionnaire at the public meeting or to send it in directly to the District. Eleven (11) questionnaires were received at the District prior to the August 27th public meeting. The written responses were compiled with all the questionnaires received from all the public involvement activities (Attachment E & F).

Noise Abatement Public Meeting – August 27, 2009

A public meeting was held on August 27, 2009 at the Our Lady of Angels/St. Joseph's Center. In addition to the invitation letter that was sent out, the meeting was advertised in The Plain Dealer on August 20, 2009. (Attachment I).

Twenty-four people signed in at the public meeting. Sign-in sheet is enclosed (Attachment J). The Noise Analysis and pictures of noise barrier options were presented. The written responses were compiled with all the questionnaires received from all the public involvement activities (Attachment E & F).

Second Noise Abatement Questionnaire Mailing – September 8, 2009

The written comments were compiled and the result was about even between those that wanted a noise barrier and those that did not want a noise barrier. The Lincoln Heights/Scranton-Starkweather Block Club notified the District that some residences did not receive the mailing and were not notified of the public meeting or questionnaire. The Lincoln Heights Block Club and the Tremont West Development Corporation helped the District identify all the properties between Scranton Road and IR-77. ODOT decided to send the questionnaire out again to these properties. On September 8, 2009, 126 questionnaires were mailed out asking for a response by September 25, 2009. A copy of the letter is enclosed (Attachment K). The written responses were compiled with all the questionnaires received from all the public involvement activities (Attachment E & F).

Compilation of Comments

The written comments for the west side of the Innerbelt were separated out and are enclosed (Attachment E). The written comments from the residents on the east side of the Innerbelt are also enclosed (Attachment F).

On the west side, a total of forty (40) written comments representing 62% of the benefitted residences were received. Twenty-three (23) residents did not want noise barriers to be built. Fifteen (15) residents did want a noise barrier to be built. Two (2) residents did not have a preference either way. The written responses are enclosed (Attachment E). The main concern against noise barriers is the loss of trees, and that barriers would be an intrusion on Tremont. Having visibility from the Innerbelt is important to them. The main concern for noise barriers was the increased noise and vibration expected from new bridges. However, the majority of all the residents would accept vegetative screening.

Community Organizations

In addition to the residents, several community organizations also provided written comments on noise barriers in the Tremont area. These letters are enclosed (Attachment L).

Lincoln Heights/Scranton-Starkweather Block Club, July 24, 2009 - The Block Club voted against noise barriers but did support a 'green alternative' including removal of dead trees and vegetation, tree trimming, landscaping, litter abatement, and maintenance of drainage systems.

North of Literary Block Club, August 28, 2009 – The Block Club voted unanimously against any form of concrete or solid barrier. The Block Club is extremely upset with the fact that beautiful, historical Tremont would disappear behind these barriers. The Block Club also voted unanimously for a 'green alternative' such as trees and bushes.

Auburn Block Club, September 2, 2009 – The Block Club consensus is in favor of a 'green alternative' consisting of trees and bushes. The members of the Block Club felt that concrete barriers would not be aesthetically pleasing and would be a target for vandalism such as graffiti.

Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC), September 4, 2009 – TWDC agrees with the three Block Club's opposition to noise barriers. TWDC also stated the opposition from Councilmen Cimperman, Santiago, and Cummins; that noise barriers are not consistent with the current Tremont West Development Corporation Master Plan and Strategic Investment Initiative; and that noise barriers would effect the integrity of the historical identity of the community.

In Summary, TWDC concluded that noise barriers will further divide the community, deter the vitality of growth both commercially and residentially, make Tremont less visible, and erode the vibrancy they have worked so hard as a community to achieve.

Tremont West Development Corporation (TWDC), September 24, 2009 – TWDC sent the resolution passed at the September 17, 2009 Tremont West Development Corporation Board Meeting. The resolution stated:

H. Senyak made the motion that the TWDC Board support the position of the Committee in opposition to the noise barriers and that the Board submit a letter stating such to ODOT. K. Bulava seconded the motion. Discussion took place regarding the need for property owners adjacent to I-90 to submit letters regarding the same. The board approved unanimously.

The Old South Side Community Coalition, September 15, 2009 – The Coalition unanimously voted in opposition of noise barriers and voted unanimously in favor of vegetative greenspace. The Coalition felt that Tremont as a whole should have been asked their opinion on whether or not a noise barrier would be acceptable.

Councilman Cimperman Objection, October 14, 2009 - Upon review of the written responses from the residents and personal contact with the community, Councilman Cimperman officially objected to noise barriers in Tremont. Councilman Cimperman's letter is enclosed (Attachment M).

Councilman Cimperman does support vegetative screening and asked that a committee including TWDC and Block Club members be formed to provide input as to how to accomplish the vegetative screening.

Conclusion

Based on the comments of the residents within the noise study area on the west side of the Innerbelt noise Barrier 3 will not be built.

As preferred by the residents, vegetative screening will be included in the project, in accordance with ODOT's Noise Abatement Policy. Coordination with the Tremont West Development Corporation will continue to define the vegetative screening to be implemented.