

Traffic Noise Summary

The NCDOT Traffic Abatement Policy contains provisions that limit state and federal responsibilities for traffic noise reduction to locations where development existed, or for which building permits were issued, on or before the "Date of Public Knowledge."

The "Date of Public Knowledge" of a proposed highway project is the approval date of the final environmental document, which for this project, is the Federal Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD was completed and signed on December 6, 2007.

- After this date, the federal and state governments are no longer responsible for providing noise abatement measures for new development within the noise impact area of the proposed highway project.
- The criteria (i.e. trigger date) for determining when undeveloped land is "planned, designed and programmed" for development will be the approval date of a building permit for an individual lot or site.
- It is the responsibility of local governments and private landowners to ensure that noise-compatible designs are used for development permitted after the Date of Public Knowledge.

Therefore, noise reduction measures, such as noise walls, will only be considered along the US 64 Asheboro Bypass for buildings permitted before December 6, 2007.

Once a final determination is made on the location of any noise barriers during final design, NCDOT will contact all property owners and tenants who are expected to receive at least 5 decibels noise reduction due to a proposed barrier. Each owner and/or tenant will be provided a ballot so they can vote their preference for or against a noise wall. Proposed noise barriers will be constructed unless a simple majority vote by these property owners/tenants indicates they do not prefer noise wall construction.

Buildings were considered for noise reduction measures if they were permitted before December 2007, which is the Date of Public Knowledge for this project. NCDOT has determined that the following two neighborhoods may qualify for noise reduction measures, such as a noise wall:

- Along US 220 Bypass north of Miller Street
- Along Cedar Grove Road/Cedar Grove Drive east of Fayetteville Street (US 220 Business)

More information about noise walls and other potential noise abatement measures is available at the Federal Highway Administration's website, www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise.