

SECTION C -2-ENVIRONMENTAL

NOISE ABATEMENT

In order that all factors are considered in reaching a decision on the installation of noise abatement, a joint committee comprised of members from the Federal Highway Administration and the Department will use the following flow chart in reaching decisions related to noise abatement features. During the development of the plans and the review of the noise abatement features by the Noise Committee, it will be the designer's responsibility to:

1. Provide cost for various walls as requested by the Committee.
2. Note on Right of Way plans that noise abatement is being considered affecting specific parcels and until final decision is reached, acquisition should be held in abeyance.
3. If the locations being considered for noise barriers are known prior to field inspection, they should be shown on the plans in the approximate location and be labeled possible noise barrier.

NOISE ABATEMENT DECISION FLOW PROCESS

Preliminary Plan Review

The District environmental specialist participates in this preliminary plan review for the purpose of identifying noise sensitive activities in this early stage of project development where engineering solutions to potential noise problems may be possible.

Draft EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement presents existing and future noise levels and identifies the potential need for noise abatement. Potential location and approximate geometry of noise abatement features are shown. Preliminary cost data for abatement features are submitted to the engineering divisions for incorporation into the total project cost.

Location Public Hearings

The district environmental staff (with assistance from Environmental Division noise staff as necessary) would respond to noise related inquiries. Plans depicting the abatement features and a copy of the Draft EIS are made available for public review.

Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Generally the noise section of the Final Environmental Impact Statement consists of a reorganization of the existing data for the selected alternative. Additional noise sensitive land use development in the project corridor or revisions to the highway alignment may require an update of the noise analysis and abatement considerations. Abatement features determined to be not prudent are deleted from the project proposal.

Field Inspection and Final Design of Abatement Features

The details of noise abatement features are reviewed on the site. Included in this review are such items as abatement material and design construction techniques and value engineering considerations. Abatement features and alternatives to noise mitigation such as vegetative screening and privacy fences are discussed. The participants in this field inspection should include representatives from FHWA, L & D, ED, the district and the city, if applicable. Following this field inspection, the final design of the abatement features is completed and cost data for specific abatement materials and designs are developed.

Design Public Hearing

Plans and pertinent data for probable abatement features are made available for review at the public hearing as an element of the overall project proposal.

Public Interaction

Probable noise abatement features and non-noise mitigation measures are presented to involved citizens and their input is sought, unless such input has been otherwise obtained.

Decision

Noise abatement related decisions are reached on the basis of acoustical, engineering and socio-economic data acquired to this point. The team decision should include a recommendation on whether the abatement features should be included with the project contract or be advertised as a separate contract.

Approval of The Noise Study

For projects which do not fall under Certification Acceptance, noise study, the abatement proposals and exception requests are submitted to FHWA for approval. For projects which fall under Certification Acceptance, the approval is rendered by the Director of Planning and Programming.

Right of Way

The Right of Way and Utilities Engineer is advised of the need for noise abatement related right of way by the State Location and Design Engineer.

Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS & E)

If a significant time period has elapsed between the approval of the noise study and submission of the PS & E assembly, it may become necessary to update the abatement related data in the noise study, reevaluate abatement costs, and resubmit it to FHWA with the PS & E.

Construction Review

The Department and FHWA review the abatement features with the contractor during construction.