

## **West Corridor Noise Walls (9-23-08)**

Since the receipt of the West Corridor FONSI in November 2007, the following changes have taken place regarding noise walls. In addition to the following changes, there are a number of noise walls that have been eliminated due to the property owners 'opting out' –these noise wall opt outs are not included.

- I. In April 2008, it was brought to our attention that the language in the Noise and Vibration Technical memorandum regarding noise walls by severely impacted properties stated "the wall will extend 100' past the property line" as opposed to 100' past the residence, which is what the noise barrier locations were based on. This change was made in seven locations, and because of the joining of walls 23 and 24, the total number of noise walls was changed from 26 to 25.
  1. Noise barrier 24 was extended 100' past the property line to the east – joining it with Noise barrier 23 (on the west side, there is a crossing at Oak, so the wall ends there).
  2. Noise barrier 23 was extended 100' past the property line to the west which joined it with Noise barrier 24
  3. Noise barrier 26 was extended 100' past the property line to the east.
  4. Noise barrier 19 was extended 100' past the property line to the east
  5. Noise barrier 18 was extended 100' past the property line to the west.
  6. Noise barrier 14 was extended 100 past the property line to both the east and the west.
  
- II. During the preparation of the EA (summer 2007) there was a request from community members to add a pedestrian crossing at Nelson Street. It was deemed technically possible and was included in the 65% design plans – which showed the noise walls separating at Nelson Street. There was a barrage of opposition to this pedestrian crossing from the adjacent community and therefore the pedestrian crossing was eliminated following the completion of the EA and receipt of the FONSI. The elimination of the pedestrian crossing causes noise walls on both sides of the track to join – Noise barriers 22 and 23 (on the north side) and Noise barriers 25 and 26 (on the south side). Due to this change, the total number of noise barriers changed from 25 to 23.
  
- III. In August 2008, it was brought to our attention that Receptor #308 was incorrectly categorized as a 'severe' impact, that the receptor was placed on a garage and not a residence. This information was given to KMChng, the noise consultant, and was reanalyzed. The property in question was changed from a 'severe' impact to a 'moderate' impact and was in the lower 50% of moderate. According to the Moderate Impacts Noise policy adopted by RTD and approved by FTA, this impact was eliminated from further consideration.

The change in impact for Receptor #308 eliminated approximately 800' of noise barrier 22 from the east end. Originally, noise barrier 22 was in place from Nelson Street to the east for 1093 feet. It covered three severe impacted properties (including receptor 308), three moderate impacted properties and four properties with no impact (after application of the moderate impact policy). It fit the criteria of cost-effectiveness (\$30, 968 per affected property) and was over 800 feet long.

Once the impact for Receptor #308 was adjusted, and the other changes to the wall were made based on items I and II above, the wall was no longer cost effective at the eastern end, since the severe impact had been removed.

The wall was then shortened per the noise wall policy to reflect the elimination of the impact at Receptor #308. Letters were sent to the seven property owners who would no longer have a wall (2 moderate impacts and five no impacts) informing them of the change.

This change does not affect the number of noise walls (total of 23) but the number of 'severe' impacts is reduced from 50 to 49

- IV. In August 2008 it was also brought to our attention that Receptor 186 was incorrectly categorized. It is noted as a 'severe' impact based on a structure being directly adjacent to the right-of-way. In fact, there is a concrete pad that sits adjacent to the right-of-way and the actual structure is quite a way back from the right-of-way. KMChng reanalyzed this information as well and it was determined that there was no impact at Receptor 186.

This change doesn't affect any noise wall lengths since there is a severe impact directly to the east of Receptor 186 and therefore the noise wall extends across the property to the west (receptor 186). What it does change is the impacted properties who have a say in 'opting out' of noise barrier #9. After this change there is only one impacted property by Noise Barrier 9, and they would have 100% of the decision to keep the wall or not.

This change does not affect the number of noise walls (total of 23) but the number of 'severe' impacts is reduced from 49 to 48

- V. There is one 'severe' impact identified in the noise analysis – Receptor 2005 – that is located on property that RTD will be acquiring for the West Corridor project. There is no noise barrier in the analysis based on the acquisition, but it is identified as a severe impact. If so, this brings the number of severe impacts from 48 to 47.

In conclusion, the number of severe impacts has changed from 50 in the EA to 47 now. The number of noise walls has been reduced from 26 to 23, but the total linear feet of noise wall has increased, from 16,522 feet in the EA to 17,448 feet now.

This information has been provided to the public in the following ways:

- Individual affected property owners were notified of the changes that affect them
- This document will be posted to the Web site

This change in impact calculations and noise mitigation does not constitute a new significant impact from that identified in the FEIS and modified by the EA. FTA has concurred with this conclusion.

Attachments–

- a. Letter from Community member stating inconsistency regarding '100 feet past property line vs. 100' past affected residence
- b. Revised noise barrier maps
- c. Letters to property owner who had wall removed due to Receptor 308
- d. Letter to property owner at Receptor 186