

NOISE POLICY IMPLEMENT

- Currently being revised
- In effect since 12/30/93
- Substantial revisions underway – Expect to be implemented in July, 2011

PURPOSE

- Provide guidelines which enable determination of whether it is reasonable and feasible to construct a noise barrier.
- Determine whether costs of noise barrier construction are eligible for federal participation.

ISSUES

- Impacted noise receptors
 - Model noise level in project future design year
 - Receptors counted by occupancy units
- Ability to noticeably reduce noise impacts
 - Modeling must show that noise levels can be reduced by defined level
- Type I Project
 - New alignments
 - Added capacity
 - Changes in vertical or horizontal alignment

PREPARATION

- Noise study prepared during environmental process
 - Need to consult with impacted property owners and residents
 - Undeveloped land must be counted if development approval is received from County prior to environmental document approval
 - Noise study can be updated as design modifications occur

APPLICATION

- Adjacent land uses are categorized as to appropriate level of noise impact by “activity category”
- Noise readings typically taken outside
- Noise readings generally taken or modeled under “worst case scenario”
 - Time of day
 - Time of year

REASONABLENESS

- Determine number of impacted receptors that could be benefited from construction of noise barrier
- Determine cost to construct an appropriate noise barrier
- If cost per benefited receptor meets a stated level (\$25,000), then noise barrier should be constructed. (If no objections from impacted receptors).

THIRD PARTY CONTRIBUTIONS

- Third parties (individuals, businesses, legislators) cannot make up the difference in cost, if construction of the noise barrier does not meet the reasonableness factor on its own.
- If the construction of the noise barrier is reasonable, then third parties can add funds to enhance the functionality of the barrier (aesthetic enhancements, access doors, absorptive treatment, etc.)