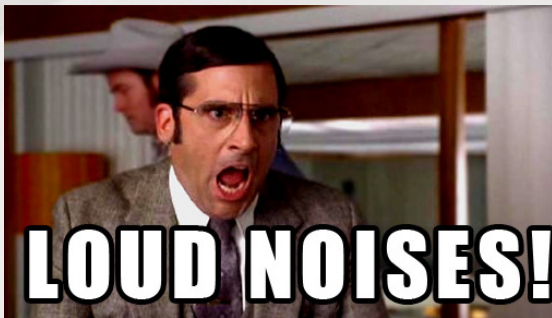


NHDOT Noise Policy

Jon Evans

Air & Noise Program Manager
NHDOT Bureau of Environment



Overview

- Regulations
- Policy Requirements
- Questions

Regulations

- Title 23, Part 772 of the Code of Federal Regulations (23 CFR 772)
 - Requirements:
 - Identification of highway traffic noise impacts
 - Examination of potential abatement measures
 - Incorporation of reasonable and feasible highway traffic noise abatement measures into the highway project
 - Coordination with local officials to provide helpful information on compatible land use planning and control
 - Identifies three types of highway projects; Type I, Type II & Type III

Regulations

- Types of highway projects
 - Type I
 - A project involving:
 - Construction of a new highway
 - “Substantial” alteration of either the vertical or horizontal alignment of the roadway
 - Addition of 1 or more through traffic lanes or auxiliary lanes (Including weave, HOV, HOT and truck climbing lanes)
 - Addition of interchange lanes or ramps
 - Addition of a weigh station, rest stop, park & ride or toll plaza
 - All state highway agencies are required to have a Type I highway noise policy detailing their policies and procedures for maintaining compliance with 23 CFR 772
 - All Type I projects must comply with the State’s noise policy as a prerequisite for receiving Federal-aid highway funds

Regulations

- Types of highway projects (cont.)
 - Type II
 - A proposed project for noise abatement on an existing highway where no highway improvements are programmed
 - Type II abatement is eligible for Federal-aid highway funds if the agency has an approved Type II Noise Policy
 - Participation in the Type II abatement program is voluntary
 - NH Type II policy implemented November 2016
 - Currently unfunded
 - Available only along Tier 1 divided/limited access highways

Regulations

- Types of highway projects (cont.)
 - Type III
 - Projects that are not a Type I or Type II
 - Do not require assessment of noise impact & abatement

Noise Policy Requirements

- Noise impact and abatement assessment process:
 - Identification of receptors
 - Identification of noise impacts
 - Examination of potential abatement measures

Noise Policy Requirements

- Identification of receptors
 - All receptors within or adjacent to the project area
 - Includes future development if final approval for development has been received by the date of public knowledge

Noise Policy Requirements

- Noise Impacts
 - Design year noise levels must approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria
 - or
 - Design year noise levels must exceed existing conditions by at least 15 dBA

Noise Policy Requirements

- Abatement
 - Must be both feasible and reasonable
 - Feasible:
 - Must provide at least 5 dBA reduction at one impacted receptor
 - Barrier cannot exceed 25 ft
 - Can it be built (Engineering, safety, access, environmental concerns)

Noise Policy Requirements

- Abatement
 - Reasonable:
 - Noise Reduction Design Goal – Minimum 7 dBA reduction at one benefitted receptor
 - Views of the benefitted receptors – 51% support
 - Effectiveness – Base criteria of 1,500 s.f. per benefitted receptor.
 - Adjusted up or down based upon the dates of development of the benefitted receptors or municipal adaptation of noise compatible planning and development regulations

Noise Policy Requirements

- Effectiveness (Cont.)

- Type I projects:

- » Date of development: Base EC lowered by the following values according to the percentage of benefiting receptors permitted for development after November 30, 2017

| Properties permitted for development after November 30, 2017 | Adjustment factor subtracted from base EC |
|--|---|
| 1-25% | 100 s.f. |
| 26-50% | 200 s.f. |
| 51-75% | 300 s.f. |
| 76-100% | 400 s.f. |

- » Noise compatible planning: Base EC increased by 200 s.f. in communities which have enacted noise compatible planning and development regulations

Questions?