



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

BDE PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM

NUMBER: 17-11

SUBJECT: BDE Manual Revision – Chapter 26

DATE: May 17, 2017

Chapter 26 is being updated due to a 5-year review of the Department's noise policy. Please see Chapter 26 of the BDE Manual on-line to view the revisions.

Background

As part of a 5-year review, BDE incorporated the following into the revised noise policy:

- practices from national noise policy institutes,
- lessons learned from projects that required a noise analysis,
- data from noise wall inventories, and
- policy clarification from FHWA.

Specifically, the following sections and figures were revised in Section 26-6:

- Section 26-6.05(a), the addition and clarification of definitions.
- Figure 26-6.A, The Noise Abatement Criterion Table, was clarified.
- Figure 26-6.B, Potential Benefited Receptor Units, was reorganized and clarified.
- Section 26-6.05(d)3 was revised such that the feasibility criterion "shall be achieved for at least two impacted receptors." Previously the feasibility criterion was to be achieved for at least one impacted receptor.
- Section 26-6.05(d)4, the unit cost used by the Department to determine the estimated build cost for noise barriers was raised from \$25 to \$30 per square foot. Similarly, the allowable noise abatement base value cost was raised from \$24,000 to \$30,000 per benefited receptor, and base cost adjustment factors were similarly revised. The net result better reflects actual costs, yet the numerical relationship between the cost factors and decision factors remain essentially the same.

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- Section 26-6.05(d)4, provisions for cost averaging and third-party funding were more clearly presented.
- Section 26-6.05(d)4, the requirements and methods for obtaining the viewpoints of benefited receptors were revised and more clearly described.
- Section 26-6.07 was revised to allow Districts to determine whether the viewpoints of benefited receptors are best obtained during Phase I or Phase II of the project.
- Section 26-6.09 was revised to provide specific language for the statements of likelihood that appear in noise analysis reports.

Lastly, this revised policy has been approved by the FHWA in conformance with 23 C.F.R. 772 "Procedures for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise and Construction Noise" and take effect immediately. However, if a noise analysis is completed by May 31, 2017 under the previous policy, it does not need to be revised.



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