



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**



Noise Basics

Major Objectives of the Traffic Noise Analysis Process:

- Identify areas where possible traffic noise may occur
- Determine existing traffic noise levels and predict future noise levels
- Identify the possible traffic noise impacts
- Consider and evaluate abatement measures to mitigate highway traffic noise impacts
- If warranted propose implementation of feasible and reasonable noise reduction measures
- If mitigation is feasible and reasonable, then approach affected property owners to determine if mitigation is desired.
- Communicate the results to the public and local officials

IDOT policy identifies general criteria that must be met before a noise barrier shall be recommended for implementation. These include the following:

- Noise barriers shall be evaluated to address the identified traffic noise impacts
- Noise barriers shall be cost effective (may not exceed the allowable noise abatement cost)
- Noise barriers shall achieve the noise reduction design goal
- Noise barriers shall be deemed desired by a majority of the benefited receptors

Other points:

- Highway traffic noise is not usually a serious problem at distances:
 - greater than 500 feet from heavily traveled freeways or;
 - more than 100 to 200 feet from lightly traveled roads
- Noise abatement shall be evaluated for traffic noise impacts on undeveloped, permitted lands
- The objective of the traffic noise analysis is to predict the worst hour traffic noise conditions

For more information, visit the project website at:

www.dot.il.gov/ilroute3/