

Community Noise Engagement Process Goals and Objectives:

1. Provides a two-way communication tool between community and project team, before the public comment period.
2. Provides a greater understanding of the noise evaluation process to those most impacted by noise abatement decisions, especially residents near modeled walls that do not meet criteria.
3. Strives for customer inquiries related to noise abatement decisions to be received prior to the environmental document being finalized.
4. Provides feedback to City Council and communicates information to the neighborhood residents.
5. Helps with voter turnout for the noise barrier voting process, if barriers are proposed.

The flow chart on the next page illustrates the overall noise engagement process and steps. This process is required as part of any noise analysis which has adjacent residential land uses located within 500 feet of the project.

If you have questions please contact the Office of Environmental Stewardship's Modeling and Testing Unit or the Office of Public Engagement

Community Noise Engagement Process guidance:

If a citizen committee is selected, the purpose and timing of the 2-3 meetings is recommended to be:

- First meeting
 - * Purpose: Provide noise background information and explain MnDOT's Noise Requirements. The consultant or project manager should also explain the project and project history (if necessary).
 - * Timing: After the consultant (if required) is hired but before noise measurements\analysis have started.
- Second meeting
 - * Purpose: Present the preliminary noise level modeling results and locations where noise walls are being considered and likely to be feasible/reasonable. Seek input from committee about preliminary modeling work.
 - * Timing: After selection of project Build Alternative and start of noise modeling work.
- Third meeting (if required)
 - * Purpose: Provide updates based on input received from the committee and present revised noise modeling work. Explain the noise barrier voting process and timeline (if necessary).
 - * Timing: After noise mitigation is modeled and prior to any required noise barrier voting.

If the project is quite large you might want to consider breaking into areas and hold a separate meeting(s) for each area.

Make sure that you have someone take meeting minutes and if questions are asked, have answers to those questions by the next meeting.

It's highly recommended to have a project website where information is easily available for the general public and committee members about the noise engagement process.

All presented noise analysis should be considered "draft" or "preliminary" until it is reviewed and approved by MnDOT OES and FHWA as part of the environmental document (NEPA) process.

Allow 14 days (2 weeks) notice of any meetings.

Community Noise Engagement Flowchart

