



Vernon Avenue bridge replacement and intersection improvements

Why are you receiving this information

Hennepin County recently conducted a noise analysis along Vernon Avenue and determined a noise wall constructed along Highway 100 and Vernon Avenue would reduce the traffic noise level at your property unit or business by at least 5 decibels.

Vote on the proposed noise wall

Property owners and residents who will experience a 5-decibel reduction in noise as a result of a noise wall can vote for against the proposed wall along the project area.

Your vote can make a difference

Cast your vote on the noise wall that affects you by completing the enclosed voting ballot and mailing it back by **December 22, 2021**.

How voting works

You can vote for or against the noise wall that affects your property, unit or business. Hennepin County uses a weighted voting system to ensure residents and property owners are given appropriate influence on the outcome of the noise wall. How much you influence the outcome of the noise wall is based on how much your property/unit is affected by the noise wall and whether or not you own the property/unit.

Proximity to Noise Wall	Points Awarded		
	Resident	Owner	Both
Property/unit is immediately adjacent to the noise wall	2	4	6
Property/unit is no immediate adjacent to the noise wall	1	2	3

If 50 percent or more of all possible voting points from eligible voters are received after the first request for votes, the majority of points (based upon the votes received) determine the outcome of the noise wall. If less than 50 percent of the possible voting points for a wall are received after the first request, a second ballot will be mailed to the eligible voters who did not respond.

If 25 percent or more of all possible points for a wall are received after the second request for votes, then the outcome will be determined by the majority of votes received. If less than 25 percent of total possible points for a noise wall are received after the second request for votes, then the wall will NOT be constructed. If there is a tie, where there are equal number of points for and against a noise wall, the noise wall WILL be constructed.

Upcoming neighborhood noise wall meeting

When: December 1, 2021 at 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Virtual; visit project website to register: <https://www.hennepin.us/vernon-avenue>

If you have questions or issues registering contact: transportation@hennepin.us or 612-348-8448



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What will the noise wall look like?

The noise wall will be approximately 20' tall, built with wood. The visuals below are based on the information available as of November 2021 and should not be interpreted as an exact design of the project.



Existing

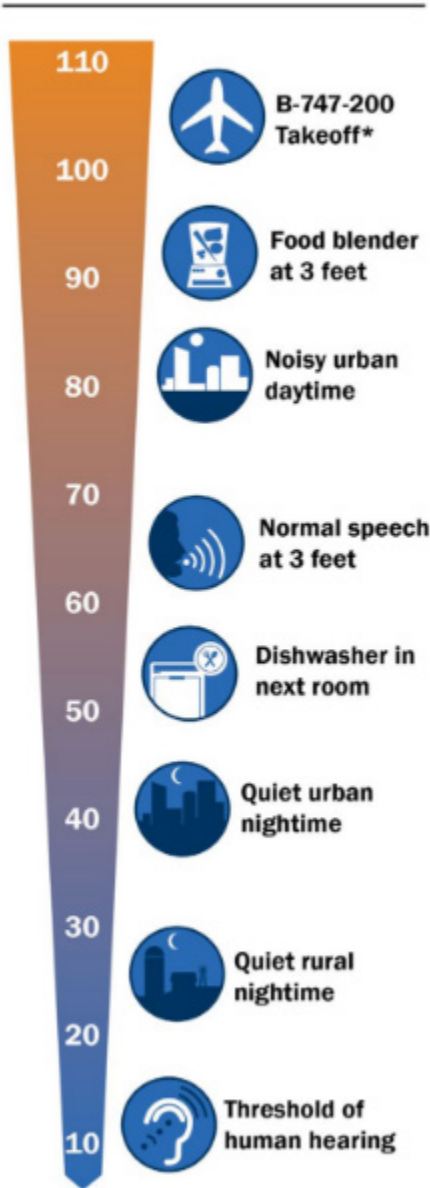


Proposed



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COMPARISON OF NOISE LEVELS Measured in dB(A)



* As measured along the takeoff path 2 miles from the overflight end of the runway

Frequently asked questions

Why are noise walls being proposed as part of this project?

Hennepin County conducted a noise study along Vernon Avenue to determine if noise walls would reduce the level of noise in the community adjacent to the project. Currently, traffic noise along Vernon Avenue approaches and/or exceeds the Federal Highway Criteria and a noise wall would reduce the noise levels at certain locations in the community by at least 5 decibels. Hennepin County must comply with the noise limit requirements set by the Federal Highway Administration (23 CFR 772).

Why does MnDOT conduct noise studies?

MnDOT assesses existing noise levels and predicts future noise levels and noise impacts of proposed construction projects. If noise impacts are identified, MnDOT is required to consider noise mitigation measures, such as installing noise walls. All traffic noise studies and analyses must follow the requirements established by federal law, Federal Highway Administration Noise Abatement Criteria, and MnDOT’s Noise Requirements and noise analysis guidelines.

How does MnDOT determine if a noise wall should be proposed?

Construction a noise wall must be feasible and reasonable. Feasibility and reasonableness are determined by cost, amount of noise reduction, safety and site considerations. Noise mitigation is not automatically provided where noise impacts have been identified. Decisions about noise mitigations are made according to MnDOT’s Noise Requirements.

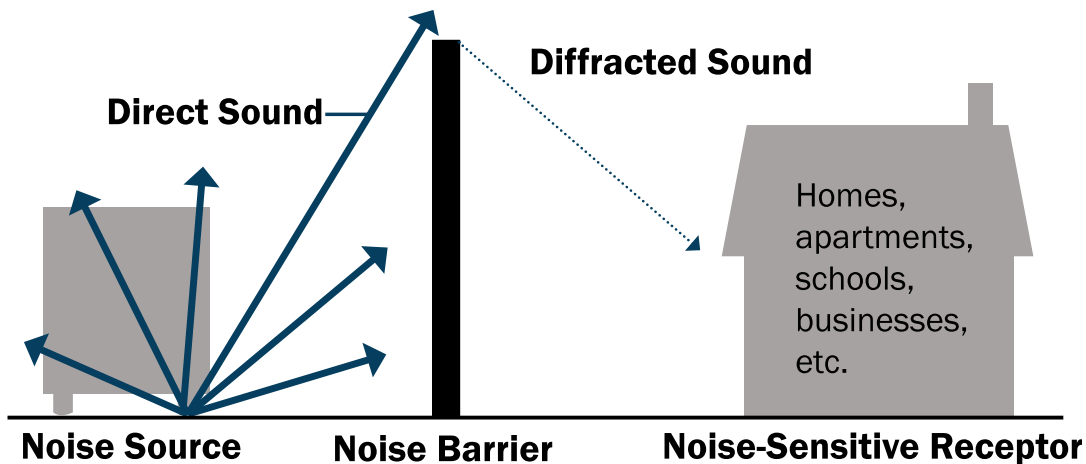
When will the noise wall be installed?

The noise wall would be installed as part of the overall construction project, which is anticipated to begin in 2023 (tentative schedule - subject to change depending on funding and project delivery method).



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Noise walls do not eliminate all noise. Noise walls reduce noise by blocking the direct path of sound waves to a home or business. **To be considered effective, a noise wall must reduce noise levels by at least 5 decibels.**



Can noise levels increase as sound waves pass over a noise wall?

No, noise levels do not increase as sound waves pass over a wall. Noise levels are reduced the further the sound waves travel.

Could trees be planted to block traffic noise?

There is not enough space to plant the amount of and size of trees needed to reduce traffic noise. To effectively reduce traffic noise there needs to be room for at least 100 feet of dense evergreen trees that are 15 feet tall or more. Additionally, if trees are used to reduce traffic noise, they need to be maintained. MnDOT lacks the necessary resources to maintain trees or other vegetation.

How is the location of the noise wall determined?

MnDOT studied various location options to determine the height, length and location which provides the greatest level of noise reduction.

Do noise walls affect property values?

There have not been any studies that link property values to the presence of noise walls.

Where can I find more information about MnDOT's noise policy?

Visit MnDOT's noise website at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/environment/noise/policy/index.html>

Where can I find more information about the Vernon Avenue Bridge project?

Visit Hennepin County's project website at: <https://www.hennepin.us/vernon-avenue>