



WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE I-290 NOISE WALL PROCESS

Where are we now?

In the fall of 2015, IDOT completed a traffic noise analysis for the project. The analysis concluded that certain areas along the expressway could benefit from a noise wall. IDOT hosted and participated in informational forums for property owners and occupants in October, November and December of 2015. View the [presentation](#), [exhibits](#), and [noise wall simulation video](#) presented at the forums. In November, IDOT initiated the noise wall voting process, which is anticipated to be completed by the end of February 2016.

How does the noise wall voting process work?

As established by the Federal Highway Administration regulations, property owners are able to vote for or against noise walls in their area. **In order for a person to be eligible to vote, the noise wall must decrease the noise level at the property by at least 5 decibels, which is a readily perceptible change in noise (typically homes within 300 feet of a noise wall).** Anything less than 5 decibels is barely detectible by the human ear, therefore a noise wall would not provide any perceptible benefit. For more information about how the noise analysis was conducted, [view the traffic noise analysis report](#). IDOT has identified all of the properties that could benefit from noise walls and has notified those residents and property owners of their voting eligibility. A map depicting these properties can be found [here](#).

If more than 50% of the votes received are in favor of a wall, a wall will likely be included in the project. A response rate of at least 33% of eligible voters is desired. **If the response rate from the initial ballot mailing is less than 33%, a second ballot will be mailed for residents in those areas only to the residents and property owners who did not vote in the first round.**

Voters who are in the “first row” of receptors (who share a property line with the highway) will be counted and weighed as two votes. All others will be single votes. For rental properties, each occupant will count as one vote and the owner counts as one vote *per unit*. A final decision on the installation of abatement measures will be made upon completion of the project’s final design and the public involvement process.

Who pays for the noise walls to be constructed?

If the benefitted receptors* vote in favor of a noise wall, the standard construction cost will be borne by IDOT as part of the overall I-290 project. Non-standard features, or enhanced aesthetics, will be subject to municipal cost participation. Individual property owners would not be asked to pay for a noise wall.

*Benefitted receptors are residents and property owners who benefit from a noise wall.

Who pays for maintenance?

IDOT will be responsible for maintaining the structural integrity of the wall, and the appearance of the “expressway” side of the wall (i.e., graffiti removal). Each local municipality would be asked to maintain the appearance of the “community” side of the wall, in addition to any non-standard or enhanced features.



Questions?

Visit the I-290 [FAQs page](#), submit your questions and comments using the [online form](#), or send comments to:

Illinois Department of Transportation-Region One/District 1
Attn: Mark Peterson
201 W. Center Court
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

Or call Mark Peterson at 847.705.4569.

Before & After: Noise Wall Slideshow



[Click here](#) to view a before and after noise wall slideshow.

Before & After: Noise Level Simulation Video



[Click here](#) to listen to a before and after noise level simulation.

For more information, visit www.EisenhowerExpressway.com.