



STIP PROJECT NOS. I-4400/I-4700 I-26 WIDENING HENDERSON AND BUNCOMBE COUNTIES

PUBLIC MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING OCTOBER 13, 2016

TRAFFIC NOISE

NCDOT Traffic Noise Policy

The NCDOT Traffic Noise Abatement Policy contains provisions that limit state and federal responsibilities for traffic noise reduction to locations where development existed, or for which building permits were issued, at the "Date of Public Knowledge".

The "Date of Public Knowledge" of the location and potential noise impacts of a proposed highway project will be the approval date of the final environmental document.

1. After this date, NCDOT is no longer responsible for providing noise abatement measures for new development within the noise impact area of the proposed highway project.
2. The criteria for determining when undeveloped land is permitted for development is the approval date of a building permit for an individual lot or site.
3. NCDOT encourages local governments and private landowners to ensure that noise-compatible designs are used for development permitted after the Date of Public Knowledge.

The "Date of Public Knowledge" for this project will be the date of the approved Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). The FEIS/ROD is currently expected to be completed and signed in spring of 2017.

Project Noise Study Areas

Six noise study areas were identified on this project. Within these six areas, ten noise barriers were preliminarily proposed based on the justification criteria in the Noise Policy and will be further studied during final project design. The noise study areas are shown in red hatching on the public hearing maps displayed at tonight's meeting.



Ex. Noise Study Area from Hearing Map, Sheet 4

Once a determination is made on the location of the noise barriers during final design, NCDOT will contact all property owners and tenants who are predicted to receive at least 5 decibels noise reduction due to the proposed barriers. Each owner and/or tenant will be provided a ballot so they can vote their preference for or against the noise barrier. The noise barriers will **not** be constructed unless a simple majority vote by the identified property owners/tenants indicates they **do** prefer noise barrier construction. Therefore, it is very important to vote.