



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways/District 1
201 West Center Court/Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

Project and Environmental Studies
I-55 at Lemont Road
Noise Abatement Request
Woodridge

November 5, 1997

Mr. Philip J. Modaff
Director of Public Works
Village of Woodridge
1900 West 75th Street
Woodridge, IL 60517

Dear Mr. Modaff:

Thank you for your letter dated October 22, 1997 forwarding a resident's concern about highway traffic noise along I-55 at Lemont Road in Woodridge. We share the residents' concerns about the noise levels and recognize that these levels are objectionable to the affected residents.

Highway traffic noise is a concern on virtually all of the major arterial highways in the Chicago Urban area as well as a number of other locations around the state. An enormous commitment of funds would be required to address traffic noise issues on construction and reconstruction projects and all of the locations along existing highways that could warrant consideration of abatement measures based on the federal criteria. Noise abatement projects compete for available dollars highway dollars with all other highway project needs. Just as we must determine priorities and make choices on the selection of highway projects to include in our program, we must do the same in regard to the expenditure of funds for noise abatement.

Currently, it is our practice to consider noise abatement measures only in relation to "Type I Projects," as defined in the federal noise regulation. A Type I project is "...a proposed federal or federal-aid highway project for the construction of a highway on a new location or the physical alteration of an existing highway which significantly changes either the horizontal or vertical alignment or increases the number of through lanes." Currently, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority has plans to construct noise barriers in the northwest quadrant of I-55 and Lemont Road as well as in the southeast quadrant as part of the southern extension of I-355. At this time no barriers are planned in the northeast quadrant because there is no plans to change the configuration of the interchange in that area.

The federal noise regulations allow for, but do not require, consideration of "Type II" noise abatement projects. A Type II project is defined in the federal noise regulation as "...a proposed federal or federal-aid project for noise abatement along existing highways." The department does not currently have in place a program, policy or funding for Type II noise abatement projects. Also, the Federal Highway Administration no longer participates in the funding of Type II noise abatement projects where the highway pre dates the residential development. This means that the department would have to assume the total cost of noise abatement in your area if a Type II program existed. Given current funding levels and the high cost of effective abatement measures, we do not believe we can reasonably undertake a program for existing highways at this time. In our view, such an initiative would unacceptably impair our ability to keep pace with the growing backlog of other competing highway and metropolitan needs.

Thank you again for forwarding your resident's concerns to us. We will keep your letter on file for future reference.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Patrick J. Pechnick, Project and Environmental Studies Section Chief, (847) 705-4104.

Very truly yours,

Duane P. Carlson, P.E.
District Engineer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken Macander".

By:
Ken Macander, P.E.
Engineer of Program Development