

Biggert Secures \$1.4 Million for Darien Sound Barrier

Clarendon Hills, IL – Thanks to \$1.4 million in funding secured by U.S. Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL-13), Darien area residents will be sleeping a little easier these days. The funding will be used to begin construction of a new sound barrier along Interstate 55 (I-55) between Lemont Road and Cass Avenue in Darien, Illinois.

“This project is critical to protecting the health of area residents and maintaining their quality of life,” said Biggert. “Traffic levels on I-55 continue to grow as the population in the Chicagoland area spreads further south and west. With increased traffic comes a greater need to separate residential areas from the busy interstate.”

A sound study conducted by the City of Darien determined that noise generated by the interstate exceeds established standards.

The study concluded that residents who live along a five mile stretch of I-55 between Lemont Road and Cass Avenue are subjected to noise that exceeds acceptable decibel levels. The study also determined that a sound barrier would alleviate the problem and improve living conditions for area residents.

The federal funding secured by Biggert will provide the city with the resources needed to match a State of Illinois grant program for the installation of sound barriers. Illinois' grant program will cover up to fifty percent of the total project cost. This means that the project could see as much as \$2.8 million for construction. The City of Darien already has funded and completed the engineering phase of this project.

In March, Biggert wrote the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies asking for assistance for the City of Darien to begin construction on a new sound barrier. The project was included in the Omnibus Appropriations Bill passed by both the House and Senate on Saturday.