

I-205 IMPROVEMENTS

Stafford Road to OR 213



SOUND WALL INFORMATION | APRIL 2021

BACKGROUND

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is designing the I-205 Improvements Project to address earthquake readiness, traveler safety and congestion on a seven-mile stretch of I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213.

A Project noise study determined that adding a third lane in each direction on I-205 will slightly increase the levels of noise along the highway in the Project area. When noise reaches a certain level, ODOT assesses the benefits of constructing a sound wall. If the assessment reveals that a sound wall will provide benefits based on ODOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards, ODOT considers construction of a sound wall to reduce noise generated from the highway. Ultimately, construction of a sound wall depends on the outcome of a vote that is posed to eligible property owners and residents who would benefit from the wall.

Sound walls are the most common tool used to mitigate noise. ODOT has identified a location for a sound wall in your area that provides required benefits and meets ODOT and FHWA standards. Eligible property owners and residents can vote to determine whether or not to construct the proposed sound wall in **April 2021**.

What size would the sound wall be and what would it look like?

The height and length of the sound wall is determined by modeling how effective different sizes would be at reducing sound levels. The proposed sound wall in your area would be between 8–18 feet tall and 1,385 feet long. Sound walls are generally constructed at the edge of the roadway to maximize noise reduction. The walls are typically made of concrete post and panel, concrete masonry block or steel panels. Selecting the materials type will occur later in the project.



How does ODOT decide who gets to vote on a sound wall?

Only benefitted residents and property owners are eligible to vote on a sound wall. A benefitted resident or property owner is one who lives on or owns a property at which noise levels will be reduced by five decibels if the proposed sound wall is built. These standards are set by ODOT and FHWA.

How does the voting process work?

If 50% or more of the eligible voters submit a ballot, then the votes are counted to determine whether or not to construct a sound wall. More than half of the votes received by ODOT must be "YES" for a wall to be built. A tie vote means no sound wall.

If the voter response is less than 50%, the voting deadline will be extended. Once the extended voting window closes, the outcome will be determined by majority vote, regardless of the final percentage of voter response.

The sound wall will be constructed if the tally of "YES" votes exceeds the tally of "NO" votes.

How are votes counted?

In multi-unit dwellings, all eligible resident votes will be tallied to equal one collective vote and the property owner also gets one vote. For each sound wall, collective resident votes and individual property owner votes are tallied to determine if a wall is constructed or not. The sound wall will be constructed if the tally of "YES" votes exceeds the tally of "NO" votes.

What are the anticipated changes in noise levels?

Today, noise levels at properties near I-205 in your area range from 43–71 decibels. After the project is built, noise levels close to the highway will range from 45–72 decibels. ODOT evaluates noise mitigation at residential properties that exceed 65 decibels. For this project, noise levels are only expected to increase by up to 5 decibels at any given location and 1–2 decibels near the southbound lanes of exit 9, but there are several properties where noise levels currently exceed 65 decibels.

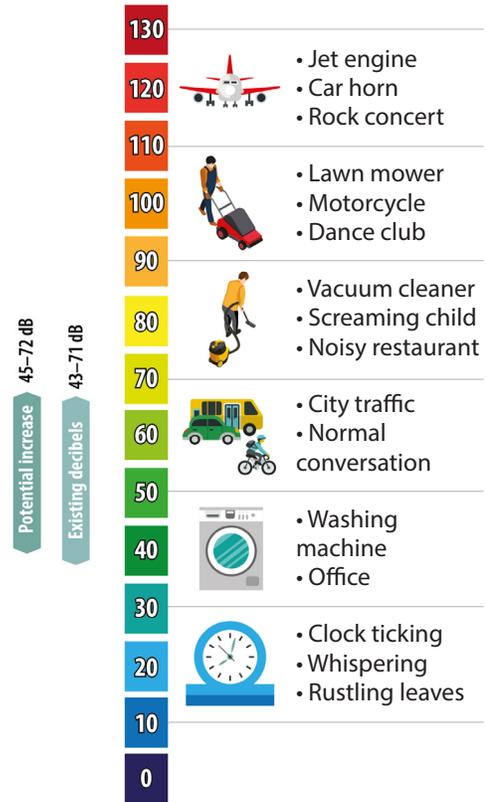
What are the impacts of sound wall construction to properties?

If there is existing vegetation or fencing where the wall would be built, crews will remove it prior to

construction. Construction of the wall would cause temporary noise impacts and limited access. Sound walls can cause shading to surrounding areas, such as yards. ODOT would maintain the wall and any adjacent vegetation on the I-205 side of the wall. Property owners are responsible for maintaining vegetation on their property along their side of the wall.

WHAT IS A DECIBEL?

This chart gives examples of sounds at each decibel level. The existing sound levels and the sound levels expected with the planned improvements are noted on the left. A sound wall would slightly reduce the sound level with the planned improvements.



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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