

I-205 WIDENING & SEISMIC IMPROVEMENTS

Stafford Road to OR 213



APRIL 2019 - UPDATED

SOUND WALL INFORMATION

The highway changes in the I-205 Widening & Seismic Improvements project will result in a slight noise increase, impacting some property owners and residents close to the highway. Sound walls are the most common tool used to mitigate noise. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has identified sound walls that provide the required benefits and meet ODOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards. A vote among eligible property owners and tenants to determine whether or not to construct these sound walls will be held in **February-April 2019**.

BACKGROUND

ODOT is designing the I-205 Widening & Seismic Improvements Project to address congestion and traveler safety issues on a seven-mile stretch of I-205 between Stafford Road and OR 213. The project adds a third lane in each direction, upgrades the Abernethy Bridge and replaces eight other I-205 bridges in the project area to withstand a major earthquake. During a noise study, the project team learned that the highway widening will slightly increase the levels of noise from the highway along both sides of I-205 within 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 adequate benefits based on ODOT and FHWA standards, construction of a sound wall to offset noise generated from the highway is considered. Ultimately, construction of a sound wall depends on the outcome of a vote that is posed to eligible property owners and tenants who will benefit from the wall.

What size would the sound walls be and what would they look like?

Sound walls range from 12-18 feet in height (subject to topography) and may vary in length depending on the needs of their locations. Sound walls are generally constructed at the very edge of the roadway to maximize noise reduction. The walls are made of either concrete post and panel or concrete masonry block. Final type selection will be made later in the project.



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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 5 decibels if the proposed sound wall is built. These standards are set by ODOT and FHWA.

How does the voting process work?

More than half of the eligible voters must submit a ballot to move forward with the sound wall construction during the initial voting outreach. Each benefitted property owner or tenant gets one vote. More than half of the votes received must be "YES" for a wall to be built. A tie or 50/50 vote means no wall.

If the initial voter response is less than 50%, a second round of voter outreach will be conducted. A majority vote will then determine the outcome, even if less than 50% of the eligible voters submit a ballot.

How are votes counted?

Each property owner gets one vote. A tenant residing at a single-family residence also gets one vote. In multi-unit dwellings, all eligible tenant votes will be tallied to equal one collective vote and the property owner also gets one vote. For each wall, collective tenant votes and individual property owner votes are tallied to determine if a wall is constructed or not.

What are the anticipated changes in noise levels?

Today, noise levels at properties near I-205 range from 56-74 decibels. After the project is built, noise levels close to the highway will range from 58-75 decibels, potentially increasing 1-5 decibels. ODOT evaluates noise mitigation at properties that exceed 65 decibels.

What are the impacts of sound wall construction to properties?










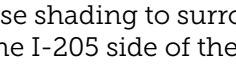
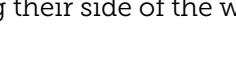






If there are existing materials or items where the wall would be built, such as vegetation or fencing, crews will remove it prior to construction. Construction of a wall will cause some noise and limited access. Sound walls can cause shading to surrounding areas, such as yards. ODOT will maintain the 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?

A decibel is a unit used to measure sound levels. Decibels help us understand and define how loud or quiet something is.

Note: Humans do not usually notice a change in noise of three decibels or less.

Noise Levels (decibels)

	130	Jet engine
	120	Car horn
	110	Rock concert
	100	Lawn mower
	90	Motorcycle
	80	Dance club
	70	Vacuum cleaner
	60	Screaming child
	50	Noisy restaurant
	40	City traffic
	30	Normal conversation
	20	Dishwasher
	10	Washing machine
	0	Office
		Refrigerator
		Whispering
		Clock ticking
		Rustling leaves



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

Contact **Ellen Sweeney**, Community Affairs Coordinator

(503) 731-8230 | Ellen.Sweeney@odot.state.or.us

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