



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 18, 2023
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
FROM: Dave Perrault, City Administrator
SUBJECT: Sound Barrier Discussion

Budgeted Amount:	Actual Amount:	Funding Source:
N/A	N/A	N/A

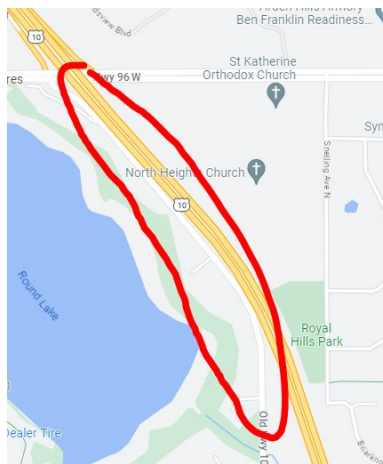
For Council Consideration

Council should consider providing direction on pursuing an application with MnDOT for a potential sound barrier.

Background

On a number of occasions, the City has discussed pursuing a potential sound barrier (noise wall) in the city, typically along Old Highway 10 (Highway 51 and Glenhill area were also discussed, too). Annually, MnDOT requests applications from interested cities for their metro area standalone noise barrier program; while Council did discuss this last year, MnDOT, due to limited funding, did not accept applications last year. MnDOT is accepting applications this year through December 31st for 2029 sound barrier projects. Should the City want to submit an application and be awarded a project, the City would be responsible for 10 percent of the cost. The scoring for the program is based on a number of factors, such as number homes served, decibel levels, and cost feasibility. A quick summary is below of the two areas recently discussed:

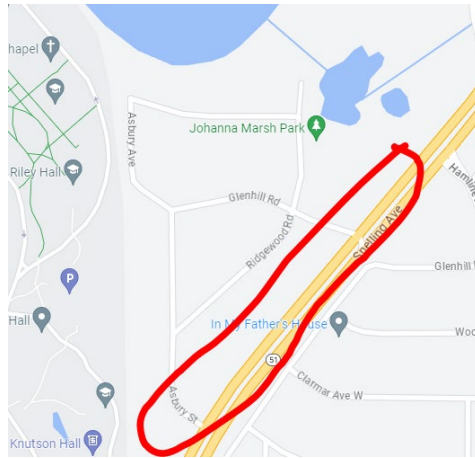
Old Highway 10 from Highway 96 to South of Wedgewood Circle



This area was studied as part of a previous 2019 MnDOT Noise Study and it was found the noise level in the area measured 71.2 decibels during the reading period, the threshold for a sound barrier

is 65 decibels. Based on MnDOT’s scoring, the selected area did not score high enough to receive a noise wall. The estimated cost for a noise wall at the time was \$2,700,000, equating to a cost to the City of \$270,000. It can be assumed the cost in today’s dollars is closer to \$3,000,000 with a \$300,000 City cost.

Highway 51 and Glenhill Area

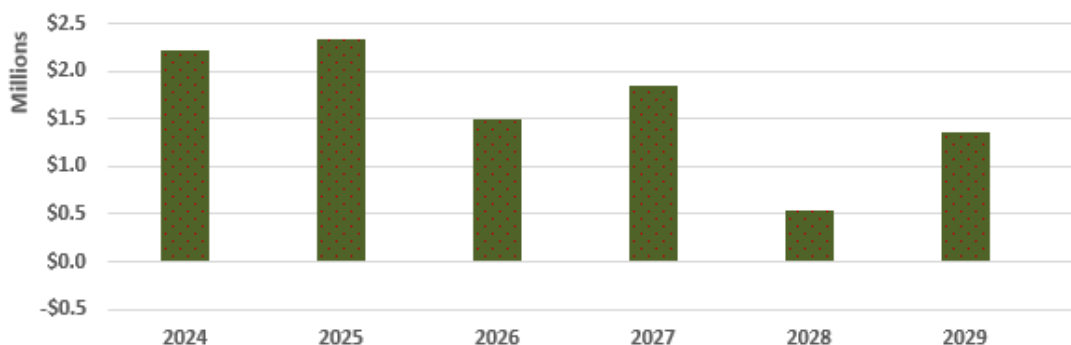


This area was not part of previous noise study, but did have a noise measurement taken coming in at 67.1 decibels, which is also over the threshold. Since it was not part of a previous study, we do not have a cost estimate for this section, but MnDOT did note a short wall here likely isn’t cost effective, and a longer wall would require cooperation with Roseville as it would likely stretch into their City.

The actual application for a future noise wall is simple to complete, but would require a resolution of support from the City Council. Should the City decide to submit an application, MnDOT will then update noise studies for the areas of the submitted applications and based on their criteria will score each application. It will be important should the Council want Staff to submit an application to give direction on the area(s) it would like to submit for.

Budget Impact

Assuming a cost to the City of \$300,000, there is not currently money set aside for a 2029 noise wall. The projected balance for the PIR fund is below, you’ll note it could absorb \$300,000 but other projects may need to be cut or new projects not added in the future. The City may pursue other funding mechanisms, such as, assessments, too.



Attachment
N/A