

Noise Mitigation Measures for Moderate Impacts

The following section identifies a process for evaluating the need to mitigate for moderate noise impacts for the FasTracks program. Within each of the corridor's final decision document or environmental evaluation, mitigation measures must be developed for each impact to ensure compliance with Federal, State and Local regulations.

Noise mitigation on the FasTrack corridors will be a very sensitive issue during not only the environmental planning process, but during final design and construction. Any mitigation measures committed to in the final decision document or environmental evaluation must be implemented during final design and construction; therefore, the measures and resulting effectiveness must be carefully evaluated, accepted with the community, and the implementation ensured.

RTD is committed to providing some sort of noise mitigation to all noise locations predicted to experience a "Severe" noise impact, unless there are truly extenuating circumstance which may prevent it. RTD is also committed to evaluating reasonable noise mitigation for areas predicted to experience a "Moderate" noise impacts.

This policy addresses the issue of noise mitigation, specifically "Moderate" impacts, and will provide all corridors with an overall policy or direction for committing to reasonable mitigation measures for "Moderate" impacts. Noise impacts designated as "Moderate" require consideration and adoption of mitigation measures when it is considered reasonable. Because noise mitigation is very site specific, each corridor project team must take every situation and treat it as appropriate. Not every situation will or should result in the same standard mitigation measure. The project team must look at each situation and understand the impacts, the community needs, and balance the costs associated with implementing the measure with the effectiveness of the measure.

Implementing mitigation measures for "Moderate" noise impacts must be reasonable. The most common noise mitigation measure is the noise barrier, so these guidelines are specific to the installation of noise barriers. The following steps, determined to be reasonable, will be used for evaluating the use of noise barriers for a "Moderate" noise impacts:

1. Is the noise impact within the top 50% of the "Moderate" impact range; and,
2. Is the cost range for the noise barrier within \$20,000 to \$35,000 (2002 dollars) per benefited residence; and,
3. Is the minimum number of affected parcels at least 10; or the length of a noise barrier at least 800 feet

Then:

4. Does the community approve of implementation (75% of all affected parties)

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Section 4(f) and Section 106 properties with "Severe" or "Moderate" noise impacts will require mitigation and will not be subject to these guidelines, and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The following guidelines must be utilized during the noise analysis and identification of mitigation measures for "Severe" and "Moderate" noise impacts:

- Mitigation of Noise Impact: *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*, FTA-VA-90-1003-06, May 2006.
- CDOT's Noise Analysis and Abatement Guidelines, December, 2002.