

§ 772.15 Information for local officials.

In an effort to prevent future traffic noise impacts on currently undeveloped lands, highway agencies shall inform local officials within whose jurisdiction the highway project is located of the following:

- (a) The best estimation of future noise levels (for various distances from the highway improvement) for both developed and undeveloped lands or properties in the immediate vicinity of the project.
- (b) Information that may be useful to local communities to protect future land development from becoming incompatible with anticipated highway noise levels, and
- (c) Eligibility for Federal-aid participation for Type II projects as described in § 772.13(b) of this chapter.

§ 772.17 Traffic noise prediction.

(a) Any analysis required by this subpart must use the FHWA Traffic Noise Model (FHWA TNM), which is described in “FHWA Traffic Noise Model” Report No. FHWA-PD-96-010, including Revision No. 1, dated April 14, 2004, or any other model determined by the FHWA to be consistent with the methodology of the FHWA TNM. These publications are incorporated by reference in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51 and are on file at the National Archives and Record Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA call (202) 741-6030, or go to http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html. These documents

are available for copying and inspection at the Federal Highway Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, as provided in 49 CFR part 7. These documents are also available on the FHWA’s Traffic Noise Model Web site at the following URL: <http://www.trafficnoisemodel.org/main.html>.

(b) In predicting noise levels and assessing noise impacts, traffic characteristics which will yield the worst hourly traffic noise impact on a regular basis for the design year shall be used.

[47 FR 29654, July 8, 1982; 47 FR 33956, Aug. 5, 1982, as amended at 70 FR 16710, Apr. 1, 2005; 74 FR 28442, June 16, 2009]

§ 772.19 Construction noise.

The following general steps are to be performed for all Types I and II projects:

- (a) Identify land uses or activities which may be affected by noise from construction of the project. The identification is to be performed during the project development studies.
- (b) Determine the measures which are needed in the plans and specifications to minimize or eliminate adverse construction noise impacts to the community. This determination shall include a weighing of the benefits achieved and the overall adverse social, economic and environmental effects and the costs of the abatement measures.
- (c) Incorporate the needed abatement measures in the plans and specifications.

TABLE 1 TO PART 772—NOISE ABATEMENT CRITERIA
[Hourly A-Weighted Sound Level—decibels (dBA)¹]

Activity Category	Leq(h)	L ₁₀ (h)	Description of activity category
A	57 (Exterior)	60 (Exterior)	Lands on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important public need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose.
B	67 (Exterior)	70 (Exterior)	Picnic areas, recreation areas, playgrounds, active sports areas, parks, residences, motels, hotels, schools, churches, libraries, and hospitals.
C	72 (Exterior)	75 (Exterior)	Developed lands, properties, or activities not included in Categories A or B above.
D	Undeveloped lands.
E	52 (Interior)	55 (Interior)	Residences, motels, hotels, public meeting rooms, schools, churches, libraries, hospitals, and auditoriums.

¹ Either L₁₀(h) or Leq(h) (but not both) may be used on a project.