



# Noise walls

## State Noise Abatement Policy

### I. Policy.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulates highway traffic noise impact analysis, abatement procedures, criteria, coordination requirements, and reporting guidance in Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 772 (23 CFR 772) and published guidance. All transportation improvement projects developed in conformance with the Virginia Department of Transportation's guidelines shall be in conformance with those federal highway traffic noise impact analysis and abatement procedures and guidance mandated by FHWA.

Whenever the Commonwealth Transportation Board or the Department plan for or undertake any highway construction or improvement project and such project includes or may include the requirement for the mitigation of traffic noise impacts, first consideration should be given to the use of noise reducing design and low noise pavement materials and techniques in lieu of construction of noise walls or sound barriers. Vegetative screening, such as the planting of appropriate conifers, in such a design would be utilized to act as a visual screen if visual screening is required.

### II. Administration of State Noise Abatement Policy.

The Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner or his designee, on behalf of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, is authorized to issue administrative procedures and additional guidance as may be necessary to implement this policy.

The Chief Engineer, on behalf of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, is authorized to make the final determination on all noise abatement related issues and will consult with the FHWA when those determinations involve federal regulation, policy and guidance.

The Chief Engineer will brief the Commonwealth Transportation Board members on all proposed changes to the Highway Traffic Noise Impact Analysis Guidance Manual.