

Noise Attenuation Guidelines for Provincial Highways Under Provincial Jurisdiction within Cities and Urban Areas

Definition:

Noise is defined as the sounds generated by vehicles operating on the highway. It includes, but is not limited to, engine/exhaust sounds and road contact sounds.

Guidelines:

- For construction or improvements of highways through cities and other urban areas, Alberta Transportation will adopt a noise level of 65 dBA Leq24 * measured 1.2 metres above ground level and 2 metres inside the property line (outside the highway right-of-way). The measurements should be adjusted to the 10-year planning horizon value, as a threshold to consider noise mitigation measures.
- The mitigation of noise issues could include constructing noise walls and/or berms. The decision to implement noise mitigation must consider whether mitigation is cost-effective, technically practical, broadly supported by the affected residents, and fits into overall provincial priorities.
- Any accepted noise mitigation measures consistent with this guideline will be the responsibility of Alberta Transportation. Where established local noise mitigation policies are more stringent than this guideline, the local policy may be considered on a shared responsibility basis.
- Alberta Transportation will be responsible for noise attenuation, in accordance with this guideline, in areas where Alberta Transportation is undertaking widening (by at least one lane width) or major realignment of an existing road or constructing a new road adjacent to an existing residential development.
- In areas where a residential subdivision is constructed adjacent to an existing roadway, the development proponent will be responsible for noise attenuation consistent with these guidelines.
- In areas where a residential subdivision is constructed adjacent to a designated highway that has not been constructed, Alberta Transportation will request that the development proponent and approving authority address future noise concerns consistent with these guidelines.

*Noise level expressed in decibels (dB) is taken to mean the A-weighted 24-hour equivalent sound level.