NHDOT Noise Policy

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Overview

- Regulations
- Policy Requirements
- Questions
Regulations

• Title 23, Part 772 of the Code of Federal Regulations (23 CFR 772)
  – Requirements:
    • Identification of highway traffic noise impacts
    • Examination of potential abatement measures
    • Incorporation of reasonable and feasible highway traffic noise abatement measures into the highway project
    • Coordination with local officials to provide helpful information on compatible land use planning and control
  – Identifies three types of highway projects; Type I, Type II & Type III
Regulations

• Types of highway projects
  – Type I
    • A project involving:
      – Construction of a new highway
      – “Substantial” alteration of either the vertical or horizontal alignment of the roadway
      – Addition of 1 or more through traffic lanes or auxiliary lanes (Including weave, HOV, HOT and truck climbing lanes)
      – Addition of interchange lanes or ramps
      – Addition of a weigh station, rest stop, park & ride or toll plaza
    • All state highway agencies are required to have a Type I highway noise policy detailing their policies and procedures for maintaining compliance with 23 CFR 772
    • All Type I projects must comply with the State’s noise policy as a prerequisite for receiving Federal-aid highway funds
Regulations

- Types of highway projects (cont.)
  - Type II
    - A proposed project for noise abatement on an existing highway where no highway improvements are programmed
    - Type II abatement is eligible for Federal-aid highway funds if the agency has an approved Type II Noise Policy
    - Participation in the Type II abatement program is voluntary
    - NH Type II policy implemented November 2016
      - Currently unfunded
      - Available only along Tier 1 divided/limited access highways
Regulations

• Types of highway projects (cont.)
  – Type III
    • Projects that are not a Type I or Type II
    • Do not require assessment of noise impact & abatement
Noise Policy Requirements

- Noise impact and abatement assessment process:
  - Identification of receptors
  - Identification of noise impacts
  - Examination of potential abatement measures
Noise Policy Requirements

• Identification of receptors
  – All receptors within or adjacent to the project area
  – Includes future development if final approval for development has been received by the date of public knowledge
Noise Policy Requirements

• Noise Impacts
  – Design year noise levels must approach or exceed the noise abatement criteria
  or
  – Design year noise levels must exceed existing conditions by at least 15 dBA
Noise Policy Requirements

• Abatement
  – Must be both feasible and reasonable
  – Feasible:
    • Must provide at least 5 dBA reduction at one impacted receptor
    • Barrier cannot exceed 25 ft
    • Can it be built (Engineering, safety, access, environmental concerns)
Noise Policy Requirements

- Abatement
  - Reasonable:
    - Noise Reduction Design Goal – Minimum 7 dBA reduction at one benefitted receptor
    - Views of the benefited receptors – 51% support
    - Effectiveness – Base criteria of 1,500 s.f. per benefitted receptor.
      - Adjusted up or down based upon the dates of development of the benefitted receptors or municipal adaptation of noise compatible planning and development regulations
Noise Policy Requirements

• Effectiveness (Cont.)
  – Type I projects:
    » Date of development: Base EC lowered by the following values according to the percentage of benefiting receptors permitted for development after November 30, 2017
    » Noise compatible planning: Base EC increased by 200 s.f. in communities which have enacted noise compatible planning and development regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Properties permitted for development after November 30, 2017</th>
<th>Adjustment factor subtracted from base EC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-25%</td>
<td>100 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>200 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-75%</td>
<td>300 s.f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-100%</td>
<td>400 s.f.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Questions?