Traffic Noise Process

Data Collection

Existing and future traffic data and design information are collected.

"Noise sensitive land uses" or "receivers" adjacent to the project area such as houses, apartments, schools, day cares, parks, and outdoor dining adjacent to the project area are identified.

Modeling

The traffic noise model is validated for existing noise levels in the project corridor using field-collected noise data and traffic counts.

Existing and future traffic noise levels are modeled throughout the project corridor.

Identifying Impacts

There are two ways to identify traffic noise impacts to receivers:

1) Absolute Traffic Noise Impact – occurs when future noise levels approach or exceed specified thresholds for different categories of noise receivers.
2) Relative Traffic Noise Impact – occurs when future traffic noise levels exceed existing noise levels by more than 10 decibels.

Considering Abatement Measures

In order for noise abatement measures to be proposed for the project design, it must meet specified criteria that include projected noise level reductions, number of receivers benefitted, cost, and constructability.

Final decision on whether a noise barrier is constructed is made by a majority vote from adjacent property owners and benefitted receivers.