



## **Interstate 44 Sound Walls Construction**

### **What Improvements Along Interstate 44 Are Being Proposed?**

- As a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), MoDOT is replacing the pavement, closing in the median, and adding a third lane in each direction on Interstate 44 between Pacific and the Route 100 (Washington) exit.
- As a result of the widening of Interstate 44, increased noise levels were evaluated. Sound walls will be constructed at qualified locations along Interstate 44, between Viaduct Street in Pacific and the Route 100 (Washington) exit.
- No new right of way or easements will be acquired for this project.
- Construction for the sound walls is expected to begin in approximately March 2010.
- All construction is expected to be complete by October 2010.

### **How Do You Determine What Areas Qualify For a Sound Wall?**

With the widening of Interstate 44, a federally approved noise model is used to predict the future increased noise levels coming from Interstate 44 to the adjacent properties. If the future 20-year projected noise level is greater than 66 decibels, engineers then evaluate if a sound wall can be built that can reduce the noise by at least five decibels. The sound walls cannot be taller than 18 feet and the cost per benefited property cannot exceed \$30,000. If all of the criteria is met, the location qualifies for a sound wall.

### **How Many Sound Walls Will Be Built?**

Based on predicted noise levels and MoDOT's Noise Policy, two study areas qualified for sound abatement. If the benefited property owners vote that they want a sound wall, these walls will be constructed.

## **Which Residents Vote Whether or Not They Want a Sound Wall?**

For qualifying sound walls, benefited property owners will be asked to vote if they want to receive noise mitigation in the form of a wall or not. Official ballots for a sound wall in qualifying areas will be mailed the day after the meeting. Voters will then have two weeks to return the completed ballot. A simple majority of returned ballots will determine if the benefited property owners want the sound wall to be built or not.

## **How Will Traffic Be Impacted During Construction?**

Motorists can expect lane closures for widening on Interstate 44 and sound wall installation between Viaduct Street in Pacific and the Route 100 (Washington) exit through the duration of the project.

## **Estimated Project Cost:**

Approximately \$1 million is estimated for construction of these sound walls, which is part of the ARRA funds for the Interstate 44 Resurfacing Project.

## **Who Do I Contact For More Information?**

- Contact **Tim Schroeder**, MoDOT Project Manager, at 314-453-5049 or email at [Timothy.Schroeder@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Timothy.Schroeder@modot.mo.gov)
- On the web: [www.modot.org/stlouis/links/soundwalls.htm](http://www.modot.org/stlouis/links/soundwalls.htm)