


Alameda CTC Freeway Soundwall Policy

Presented to
Alameda County Technical Advisory Committee
July 10, 2014



Overview

- State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was administered by the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and included a subprogram (HB311) to address **retrofit** sound wall candidate projects.
- HB311 program was eliminated with the passage of SB 45 (1997) legislation which restructured the STIP programming process.
- Under the existing STIP process, new capital projects (that meet STIP eligibility criteria), including retrofit soundwalls, could compete for funding through the STIP process.

Overview

- The Alameda CTC periodically receives requests from residents for soundwall projects to mitigate existing freeway noise.
- Based on requests received in the past, the ACCMA approved the Alameda County Freeway Soundwall Policy in 2002.



Overview

- The Policy is based on identifying locations where soundwalls would effectively and efficiently mitigate noise and also be eligible for federal criteria that include:
 - *The houses were constructed prior to the freeway,*
 - *The existing noise level is above 65 decibels,*
 - *A soundwall would reduce noise by at least 5 decibels, and*
 - *The soundwall could be constructed within a reasonable cost (currently identified as \$45,000 per residence).*



Policy Issues

- Old Policy was not consistent with the current project nomination / project deliver methodology for soundwall projects as well as how other transportation projects are advanced within Alameda County today.
- Revised Policy is streamlined to increase its effectiveness and responsiveness to citizens' request for noise barriers.



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Policy Issues

- Project Nomination / Delivery process
- Roles and Responsibilities
 - *Local Jurisdiction*
 - *Alameda CTC*
 - *Caltrans*
- Funding



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Funding Sources

- State
 - *State Transportation Improvement Program*
- Local
 - *Measure B Local Streets and Roads*



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Roles and Responsibilities

Local Jurisdiction

1. *Provide preliminary evaluation studies to evaluate whether the requested location qualifies for a retrofit soundwall.*
2. *Provide an agency resolution that confirms the community support for the proposed project.*
3. *Prepare an Noise Barrier Scope Summary Report (NBSSR) if applying for STIP funds.*



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Roles and Responsibilities

Alameda CTC

1. *Forward project requests received to the respective jurisdictions*
2. *Evaluate preliminary studies conducted by Local jurisdictions to ensure they are eligible to receive Federal / State funds*
3. *Coordinate NBSSR study requests with Caltrans' PID work plan process*



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Roles and Responsibilities

Caltrans

1. *Preparation of NBSSR (Lead or Oversight Role)*
2. *Project Delivery (Lead or Oversight Role)*
3. *Maintenance of Soundwall constructed*



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Questions/Comments?

