

**Chapter 13**  
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## Chapter 13

# TRAFFIC & CONSTRUCTION NOISE

### 13.1 TRAFFIC NOISE ANALYSIS

In the development of a federal project, federal-aid highway project, or one that requires approval by the FHWA, a traffic noise analysis may be necessary. As applicable, analysis will be conducted according to current regulation, FHWA guidance documents, and NDOT policy. In any other application where traffic noise may be an issue of concern, the regulation, FHWA guidance documents, and NDOT policy will be used to complete any traffic noise analysis and study. In addition, when it becomes available, the NDOT Traffic Noise Manual can be reviewed for further guidance.

#### Regulations, Guidance and Policy:

[23 CFR 772 “Procedures for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise and Construction Noise”](#)  
(current edition)

[FHWA Analysis and Abatement Guidance](#) (current edition)

[NDOT Traffic and Construction Noise Analysis and Abatement Policy](#) (current edition)

### 13.2 CONSTRUCTION NOISE

Noise related to construction activities on an NDOT project will be evaluated per applicable regulations, guidance, and policy on a project-by-project basis and addressed in the project’s plans and special provisions, as needed.

### 13.3 PROCEDURE FOR TRAFFIC NOISE COMPLAINTS

The public may submit a complaint regarding noise. Typically, these complaints are prompted by perceived noise problems from traffic or construction.



**Figure 13-A — NDOT TRAFFIC NOISE ANALYSIS PROCEDURES (Complaints)**

**ACTIVITY NO. 1: Identify Location of Complaint and Verify the Standing of Complainant**

It is imperative to identify the location of the complaint to determine jurisdictional authority. If under FHWA or NDOT authority, evaluate the reason and activity that may be causing the complaint. Verify complainant is valid to location (owner, president of HOA, etc.). When an inquiry comes in, begin a record for each contact with the citizen (e.g., date and time, who with), document electronic or postal communications, and date and time when field visits were conducted. As a part of this Activity, the traffic noise engineer will investigate activities near the complaint and whether NDOT construction activities are taking place and traffic noise abatement measures for the location were provided as a part of a previous NDOT project.

**ACTIVITY NO. 2: Research Complaint**

Research and document the following:

- collect county assessor information and aerial imagery (including when property was built and purchased by complainant, and historic relationship to roadway);
- find last contract work in area and temporal and spatial relationship to the property’s history of development (use the NDOT Design Division’s contract search tool and then App Xtender to pull as-built plans);
- retrieve traffic data (usually TRINA) for sites nearby;

- review current 5-year plan and determine if a Type 1 project is scheduled in the area of the property;
- if so, inform the complainant that a Type 1 project is scheduled, and a traffic noise analysis will be initiated at the appropriate time;
- and if none are schedule, inform complainant that additional analysis will not be conducted until a Type 1 project is scheduled.

ACTIVITY NO. 3:	Conduct an Onsite Visit (if applicable)
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Meet with and discuss the concerns of the complainant. At a minimum, verify and document the following during this Activity:

- date of visit;
- name of complainant;
- address of complainant;
- concerns of complainant;
- location and plausible causes of perceived noise impact/concern (e.g., construction activity, traffic, etc.);
- proximity of NDOT facilities; and
- proximity of various other sources of noise (e.g., commercial or industrial activities, airports, railroads, etc.).

ACTIVITY NO. 4:	Prepare and Provide Results of Onsite Visit
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Prepare and transmit a letter response to the complainant providing the results of Activities 1-3, as necessary. The letter will include a summary of the data and results, according to regulations, guidance, policy; and photos and maps, as necessary.

ACTIVITY NO. 5:	File Records
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Ensure all records are kept for each inquiry and placed into the “complaints and requested measurements” file in the 013Noise file on DATSRV1.