

Proposed Sound Wall Locations



Questions? Contact us

VISIT the project website at www.hwy217.org

SIGN UP to receive email alerts on the project website

CONTACT ODOT directly: Lili Boicourt, ODOT Community Affairs

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¿Habla español? Podemos proveer la información en esta publicación en español. Para recibir la información en español por favor llame (503) 731-4128.

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OR 217 AUXILIARY LANES

Proposed Sound Walls

August 2019

Background

The OR 217 Auxiliary Lanes Project will improve safety and help prevent bottlenecks on a four-mile stretch of OR 217 between Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway and OR 99W. Adding new auxiliary lanes, or on-ramp to off-ramp connections, reduces merging slow-downs and gives drivers more time to make lane changes. The project will also add a new frontage road, replace a major bridge structure and make bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

As part of the project, acoustic engineers conducted a noise study to determine existing noise levels along OR 217 and what the noise levels will be after construction is complete. The results of the noise study showed that existing noise levels exceed the acceptable range in some locations, and that there will be a small increase in noise levels upon project completion.

When noise reaches a certain level, ODOT assesses the benefits of constructing a sound wall. If the assessment reveals that a sound wall will provide adequate noise reduction based on ODOT and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards, construction of a sound wall is considered. Ultimately, construction of a sound wall depends on the outcome of a vote by eligible property owners and tenants who would benefit from the wall.

Four potential sound walls were identified in specific locations along OR 217 that provide the required benefits and met ODOT and FHWA standards. A vote among eligible property owners and tenants to determine whether or not to construct these sound walls will be held **beginning in August 2019**.

What size would the sound walls be and what would they look like?

The height and length of sound walls is determined by modeling how effective different sizes would be at reducing sound levels. The proposed sound walls along OR 217 could be 10-23 feet tall and multiple blocks in length. Sound walls are constructed between the highway and neighboring properties to maximize noise reduction. The walls are typically made of either concrete post and panel or concrete masonry block. Final type selection will be made later in the project.



This is an example of what a post and panel sound wall looks like.



Learn more by visiting the project website at www.hwy217.org

Who votes on whether a sound wall is built?

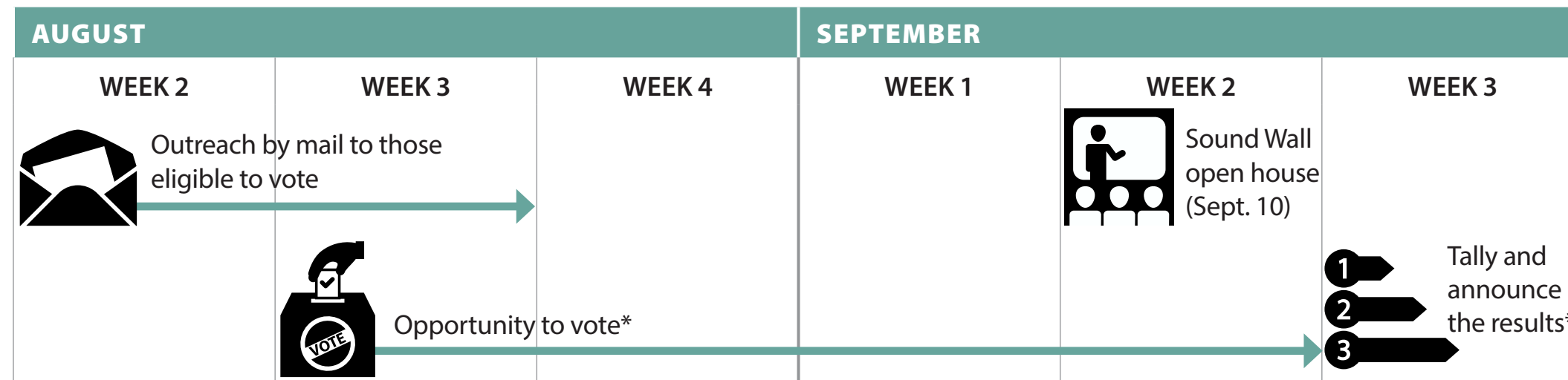
Benefitted residents and property owners are eligible to vote on a sound wall. A benefitted resident or property owner is one who lives on or owns a property at which noise levels will be reduced by at least five decibels if the proposed sound wall is built. These standards are set by ODOT and FHWA.

How does the voting process work?

ODOT will conduct a vote in August and September 2019. Ballots will be mailed to eligible voters. If 50% or more of the eligible voters submit a ballot, then the votes are counted to determine whether or not a sound wall is constructed. Each benefitted property owner or tenant gets to vote on the corresponding sound wall that benefits their home and/or property. More than half of the votes received, a majority, must be "YES" for a wall to be built. A tie or 50/50 vote means no sound wall.

If the voter response is less than 50%, a second and final round of voter outreach will be conducted. The outcome will be determined by majority vote after the additional outreach, regardless of the final percentage of voter response. A majority of "YES" votes is needed for a sound wall to be built.

Sound wall outreach process



*If the initial voter response is less than 50%, a second round of voter outreach will be conducted before tallying and announcing the results.

Learn more by visiting the project website at www.hwy217.org

How are votes counted?

Property owners get one vote per eligible property. Tenants residing at a single-family residence also get one vote. In multi-unit dwellings, all eligible tenant votes will be tallied to equal one collective vote and the property owner also gets one vote. For each sound wall, collective tenant votes and individual property owner votes are tallied to determine if a wall is constructed or not. The sound wall will be constructed if the tally of "YES" votes exceeds the tally of "NO" votes.

What are the anticipated changes in noise levels?

Today, traffic noise levels at properties near OR 217 range from 47-76 decibels. Upon project completion without sound walls, noise levels close to the highway are predicted to range from 48-76 decibels.

ODOT evaluates noise mitigation at properties that exceed 65 decibels or where the project is found to increase sound levels by 10 decibels or more. For this project, noise levels are only expected to increase by up to 2 decibels at any given location, but there are several properties where noise levels currently exceed 65 decibels.

What are the impacts of sound wall construction?

If there are existing materials or items where the wall would be built, such as vegetation, walls or fencing, crews will remove them prior to construction. Construction of a wall will cause some noise and limited access. Sound walls can cause shading to surrounding areas, such as yards. ODOT will maintain the wall and any adjacent vegetation on the OR 217 side of the wall. Property owners are responsible for maintaining vegetation on property along their side of the wall.

What is a decibel?

A decibel is a unit used to measure sound levels. Decibels help us understand and define how loud or quiet something is.

NOTE: Humans do not usually notice a change in noise of less than three decibels.

Comparative noise levels (dBA)

