



City Council Communication

AGENDA DATE: January 26, 2026 **LEGISTAR ITEM #:** Pres 2026-004

PRESENTER: Jenna Hahn

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Noticed Council Business
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informational Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Consensus-Building Presentation

BACKGROUND/REQUEST

The City of Commerce City is in the process of widening East 96th Avenue from Chambers Road to Tower Road. This project will expand the roadway from two lanes, one in each direction, to a four-lane median-divided roadway. As part of this effort, the City engaged ACIU Environmental Consulting to conduct a voluntary noise study for this corridor.

The noise analysis was completed in accordance with CDOT's Noise Analysis and Abatement Guidelines (2020) and FHWA's Highway Traffic Noise: Analysis and Abatement Guidance (2011). The analysis evaluated whether projected 2043 traffic noise levels associated with the proposed roadway improvements would exceed applicable impact thresholds at adjacent properties.

In February 2025, staff presented the findings of the noise study to City Council. As a part of that discussion, the three criteria for determining reasonableness of noise abatement, per the CDOT and FHWA regulations, were discussed. This criteria are as follows:

1. The design achieves a minimum noise reduction of at least 7 decibels for at least three benefited receptors.
2. The cost per benefited receptor does not exceed \$34,000.
3. At least 50 percent of the potentially benefited receptors support the abatement.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

For the 96th Avenue project, the noise study concluded that certain segments of the potential sound walls would not meet the cost criteria for reasonableness. However, if cost averaging is applied to the corridor, then reasonableness could be achieved. As such, Council directed staff to continue evaluating reasonableness as defined by CDOT, which required surveying all potentially benefitted receptors. For this project, that number was initially 118 properties. At Council's direction, staff expanded the survey to include 161 properties, adding homes that side-face the roadway and those with private walkways or sidewalks between their homes and the public sidewalk.

The purpose of tonight's presentation is to share the results of the sound wall survey with City Council. In addition to the presentation, a copy of all comments received from residents during the survey process is included in the packet.

Following the presentation, staff will seek policy direction from Council regarding how to proceed with noise abatement for this project.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Contractor	TBD
Amount of Request/Contract	TBD based on design estimates. Engineering estimate is \$15M-\$20M to construct noise walls along the corridor.
Amount Not To Exceed	N/A
Amount Budgeted	N/A
Budget Year	N/A
Funding Source	TBD
Additional Funds Needed	Total project cost
Funding Source (if funds needed)	TBD

JUSTIFICATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goal	<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal
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CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION CONTINUED

Citation	Goal 1: Infrastructure and transportation - Develop and maintain public infrastructure, facilities, and transportation to improve community appearance and encourage continued development.
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PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public outreach efforts include public meetings held on June 10, 2025 at Bison Ridge Recreation Center and October 1, 2025 at Southlawn Elementary School. Homeowners who received the sound wall survey also received two packets of information in the mail; the second packet was mailed with the survey.