

## Hwy 100 Community Noise Engagement Process (CNEP)

### Project Background

- [Highway 100 Noise Advisory Committee Website](#)
- As part of the development of the Hwy 100 reconstruction project, a [Community Noise Engagement Process \(CNEP\)](#) was developed to communicate the noise evaluation process to the surrounding neighborhoods. The committee consists of representatives from neighborhoods adjacent to the Hwy 100 corridor. The goals of the committee were to:
  - Provide two-way communication between the community and project team
  - Educate residents regarding the noise evaluation process
  - Review noise analysis methodology and results
  - Provide feedback to city council and communicate project information to neighborhood residents

### Public Engagement Challenge

- Projects that increase traffic noise may increase livability grievances for nearby residents. Noise abatement decisions that do not include informing the public while decisions are being made will be vulnerable to public scrutiny later on. Responding to public scrutiny after letting or after the environmental document is signed is especially challenging for both MnDOT and the public.

### Public Engagement Tool

- The CNEP is a tool that can help improve the public's understanding of the noise evaluation process before noise abatement decisions are finalized. It can also be used to increase participation in the voting process, where it is applicable.

### Key Takeaways

- Targeting residents living within 500 ft. of a roadway project is a best practice. It is not uncommon for the public to think that noise levels determine whether or not a noise wall will be built rather than the evaluation criteria set in the [MnDOT noise policy](#).

### Level of Engagement: Inform (CNEP), Empower (Noise Wall Voting Process)

- The CNEP is not able to change the criteria for evaluating noise walls, but it can help the public better understand how decisions are made early in the process before the environmental document is finalized. While "Inform" is the IAP2 Spectrum level for the CNEP, "Empower" is

the IAP2 Spectrum level for the voting process used to determine if qualifying noise walls will be built.

## Caveat

- Residents (benefitted receptors) near modeled noise walls that meet criteria will be invited to participate in a voting process. Consider how you will inform residents near noise walls that do not meet criteria. These residents may see an increase in traffic noise without additional abatement.

## Quote

- “Be a good neighbor. If you are planning to be loud, tell your neighbors before the party and before the cops are called. Even better, invite them to the table. That’s what the CNEP does. It brings people in and creates space for understanding early on.” Jim Skoog, Associate Ombudsman

## Contact

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## Keywords

- Noise, Voting, Inform, Empower

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