



**Dave Heineman**  
Governor

## STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

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DATE: March 7, 2014

SUBJECT: Addendum to the Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) Noise Abatement Policy dated July 13, 2011

The following presents the Nebraska Department of Roads' (NDOR) addendum for the placement of receptor locations for Activity Category C properties when conducting a noise analysis for Federal Aid Transportation Projects. This guidance represents our cooperative effort to clarify the methodology for analysis of Activity Category C properties under NDOR's existing Noise Policy, as approved by the Federal Highway Administration on July 13, 2011.

### **Activity Category C (exterior areas of non-residential lands such as schools, parks, cemeteries, etc.)**

The number of receptors that will represent the evaluation area is calculated by dividing the frontage of the Activity Category C property by the average frontage of the Activity Category B (single-family and multi-family dwellings) properties in the project area. The receptor locations represented by receivers shall be areas of frequent human use within 600 feet of the edge of the roadway. If impacts occur farther than 600 feet from the roadway, the study area will extend to include the farthest impacted receptor.

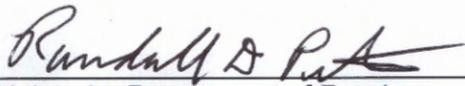
The area of frequent human use that is the most noise sensitive will be chosen first as a receptor location, followed by the next most noise sensitive area of frequent human use. This process will continue until all of the receptors have been placed.

Doubling of receptors will be used if there are fewer areas of frequent human use than the number of receptors needed by the frontage calculation. The doubling of receptors will follow the order that receptors were placed initially, with the most noise sensitive area being doubled first, never tripling receptors before all of the receptors have been doubled.

Any recreational trail fully contained within the park such as a scenic route or bike/jogging trail that is a feature of the park within the analyzed area will be considered a receptor that is represented by three receivers in the Traffic Noise Model (TNM). Two of the receivers will be placed near the ends of the trail and the third receiver will be placed near the middle of the trail. For trails that wind away from the roadway, the farthest receiver on the trail will be placed 600 feet from the roadway or the distance of the farthest impacted area of frequent human use along the trail. The remaining receptors for the activity category will be in other areas of frequent human use within the limits to be studied, as noted above. Sidewalks and pathways serving a transportation purpose by connecting areas of frequent human use within the Activity Category C property are excluded and will receive zero receptors. A recreational trail that passes through (enters and exits) the park is considered a separate 4(f) property and an evaluation of constructive use will determine whether noise abatement will be analyzed. If an alignment shift or new roadway brings a new noise source to the area then consultation with NDOR is needed.

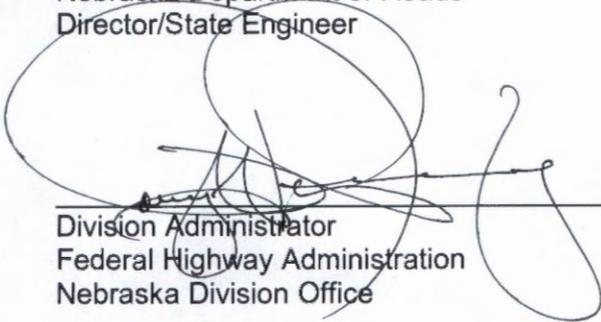
If any of the receptors are impacted, the property will be analyzed for noise abatement. All receptors will be considered as "front row" for purposes of abatement, regardless of their distance from the roadway. The cost of the abatement will be divided by the number of benefited receptors. When areas of frequent human use are represented by multiple receivers, each benefitted receiver will be included in the cost reasonableness calculation. The Activity Category C property owner, Board, or Agency directly responsible for the property will receive the property votes. See voting on page 10 of the Noise Policy.

NDOR respectfully requests Federal Highway Administration review and concurrence concerning this addendum to be used on Federal Aid Transportation projects when analyzing Activity Category C properties for noise abatement.



Date: 3/7/14

Nebraska Department of Roads  
Director/State Engineer



Date: 3-10-14

Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Nebraska Division Office