

December 13, 2001

To the Honorable, the Common Council

Subject: Noise Barrier #6 I-94 east side between  
West College Avenue and West Ramsey Avenue

Dear Council Members:

In May of 1990 the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) completed a study entitled Wisconsin Noise Barrier Study which identified 209 locations, state wide, that would benefit from the installation of noise barrier walls. In accordance with criteria established in TRANS 405 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code (1989), a cost of \$30,000 per residence abutting a barrier could be spent by the WISDOT on these projects. If the cost of the barrier would exceed \$30,000/residence, local participation would be required to fund the excess cost. Sixty-eight of the 209 state wide locations met the \$30,000 threshold, thus requiring no local participation. With respect to the City of Milwaukee, sixty-seven locations were identified as being suitable for barriers, with 35 falling under the No Local Participation threshold. Technical and fiscal review of the 67 locations indicated it prudent to apply to the WISDOT for only those locations where no local participation would be required.

Common Council Resolution File Number 900693, adopted September 4, 1990, authorized and directed the City Engineer to submit applications to the WISDOT for programming the construction of freeway noise barriers in the City of Milwaukee requiring no local participation.

Application was submitted to WISDOT by the City for the programming of noise barrier Number 6, proposed to be located on the east side of I-94 between West College Avenue and West Ramsey Avenue in the 13<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District.

TRANS 405 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code established procedures and criteria to be used by the WISDOT to evaluate and select site location for freeway noise barriers to be constructed. Included in these procedures is the provision requiring WISDOT to hold a public informational meeting to solicit comments from the local residents and to seek local support prior to proceeding into final design and construction.

A public information meeting for the noise barrier was held on April 19, 2001. The majority of the abutting local residents supported the barrier construction.

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Common Council Resolution File Number 941155, adopted November 29, 1994, supports in principle the construction of a freeway noise barrier, contingent upon Common Council approval of final design, appearance and location.

The WISDOT has submitted plans indicating the final design, appearance and location of the noise barrier. Based on the above, we have prepared, and recommend approval of, the attached resolution which grants Common Council approval of the final design, location, and appearance of the noise barrier as submitted by WISDOT.

Very truly yours,

Jeffrey S. Polenske, P.E.  
City Engineer

Mariano A. Schifalacqua  
Commissioner of Public Works

JJM:cjt

Attachment

c: Alderman Jeffrey Pawlinski