What is noise?

Noise is unwanted or excessive sound. In many ways, under this definition, noise is undesirable but it is, by fact, a real byproduct of today's way of life. Noise can be intrusive and annoying. It can interfere with sleep, work, or recreation. Noise, in today's society, comes from many sources; a vacuum cleaner, for example, can be disruptive to a family member who is trying to read a book. But it is recognized that transportation noise is perhaps the most pervasive and difficult source to avoid in society today. Noise from airplanes flying overhead, from trains passing by, from motorized boats on a lake, and from cars and trucks traveling on the nation's roads and highways has become a daily part of our lives. And of these, highway traffic noise is admittedly a major contributor to overall transportation noise.

Therefore, the construction and operation of a freeway of the magnitude of a project like the proposed action would introduce a major noise source into locations where such noise may not have existed in the past. Therefore, a project like the proposed freeway could cause great concern to those who live and work near such a project. It could pass by residences, schools, parks, churches, and myriad land uses that would be particularly sensitive to the noise generated by such a project. The project team, using federal and State guidance, analyzed how a project like the proposed action would increase noise levels to adjacent areas and, for those areas that would warrant protection from the expected noise, proposed ways for ADOT and FHWA to reduce the noise to acceptable levels.

Noise mitigation strategies typically consist of placing a noise barrier, such as a concrete or masonry wall or an earth berm (or a combination of the two), along the main line or at the R/W line of a transportation corridor. Noise barriers are usually the most feasible and costeffective strategy for mitigating highway transportation noise impacts.

NOISE

NOISE CRITERIA

The basic unit of measurement for noise is the decibel, which is a logarithmic unit that expresses the ratio of the sound pressure level being measured to a standard reference level. Environmental noise is typically frequency-weighted using the A-scale (dBA) to approximate the frequency response of the human ear. Noise analyses for transportation projects use the hourly equivalent sound level ($L_{\rm Aeq1h}$, or simply $L_{\rm eq}$), which is a logarithmic energy average over a 1-hour period.

Under 23 C.F.R. § 772, FHWA is required to identify noise-sensitive land uses near its projects, to evaluate the noise impacts on those land uses, and to consider noise abatement options (see Activity Category B, in Table 4-38). To further clarify the process of noise analysis and the evaluation of noise abatement, ADOT adopted a Noise Abatement Policy (NAP), last updated in 2007. This policy was formally approved by FHWA.

Federal regulations specify noise abatement criteria (NAC) for various types of land use activity categories, summarized in Table 4-38, and state that noise abatement must be considered when the predicted future peak-hour traffic noise from a project would approach or exceed the NAC. The NAP defines "approach" to mean being within 3 dBA, thereby requiring noise abatement considerations when the predicted future peak-hour traffic noise at Category B (residential) land uses is 64 $\rm L_{eq}$ (i.e., within 3 dBA of 67 $\rm L_{eq}$). Additionally, mitigation must be considered for residential properties if predicted traffic noise levels substantially exceed existing levels. "Substantially exceed" is defined in the NAP as 15 dBA.

Part of the noise abatement consideration process specifies that the abatement must be reasonable and feasible. Feasibility evaluations consist of various constructibility issues and assessments of whether the proposed noise abatement could provide substantial noise reduction. Reasonability criteria consist of cost-benefit considerations, maximum barrier heights, and other barrier design issues.

Table 4-38 Federal Highway Administration Noise Abatement Criteria

Activity Category	L a Aeq1h	Description of Activity Category	
A	57 (exterior)	Land on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important public need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose	
В	67 (exterior)	Picnic areas, recreation areas, playgrounds, active sports areas, parks, residences, motels, hotels, schools, churches, libraries, and hospitals	
С	72 (exterior)	Developed land, properties, or activities not included in Categories A or B above	
D	_ь	Undeveloped land	
Е	52 (interior)	Residences, motels, hotels, public meeting rooms, schools, churches, libraries, hospitals, and auditoriums	

Source: 23 Code of Federal Regulations § 772

^b not applicable (or no standard exists)

The NAP defines specific exceptions to conditions where the NAC would suggest that noise mitigation is warranted. These exceptions include, among others, isolated receivers and the cost of abatement per residence. These exceptions are defined in the ADOT noise policy as:

- ➤ Isolated receivers "An isolated receiver is defined as one or two sensitive affected receivers (e.g., residences) set apart from other receivers in the project area. It generally would not be considered reasonable to provide abatement for isolated receivers." (ADOT 2005b)
- ➤ Cost of abatement "The maximum recommended cost of abatement is \$46,000 per benefited developed property. Benefited residential properties include all single-family dwelling residences (i.e., manufactured homes, condominiums, detached homes) whether occupied by the owner or a renter, that receive a dBA noise reduction from proposed mitigation measures. For benefited developed properties such as parks, schools, hospitals, and churches, noise abatement will be considered on a case by case basis, as specified in ADOT's noise guidelines." (ADOT 2007d)

EXISTING NOISE LEVELS

Ambient or existing noise level readings were taken at 44 locations in the Study Area. The monitoring sites, described below, were located at approximately 1-mile spacings along the corridor. Receiver locations are shown on Figures 4-29 through 4-32.

The existing noise levels were recorded at the monitoring sites with Larson Davis Model 812 and Model 820 Type I integrating sound level meters. The readings were taken on numerous occasions from September 2003 to July 2004 during nonpeak traffic conditions.

Weather conditions during the readings ranged from clear skies to mostly cloudy skies, 58° to 103° Fahrenheit and 8 to 35 percent relative humidity, with breezes averaging 0 miles per hour (mph) to 5.9 mph from variable directions. Such weather conditions are within the parameters established by FHWA in *Measurement of Highway-Related Noise* (FHWA 1996) and have little effect on the transmission of sound energy for the receivers in the Study Area.

^a L_{Aeq1h}, 1-hour equivalent sound level; logarithmic energy average over a 1-hour period (measured in dBA, a logarithmic unit that expresses the ratio of the sound pressure level being measured to a standard reference level and is frequency-weighted using the A-scale, to approximate the frequency response of the human ear)

Figure 4-29 Noise Receiver and Potential Barrier Locations, W101 Alternative and Options

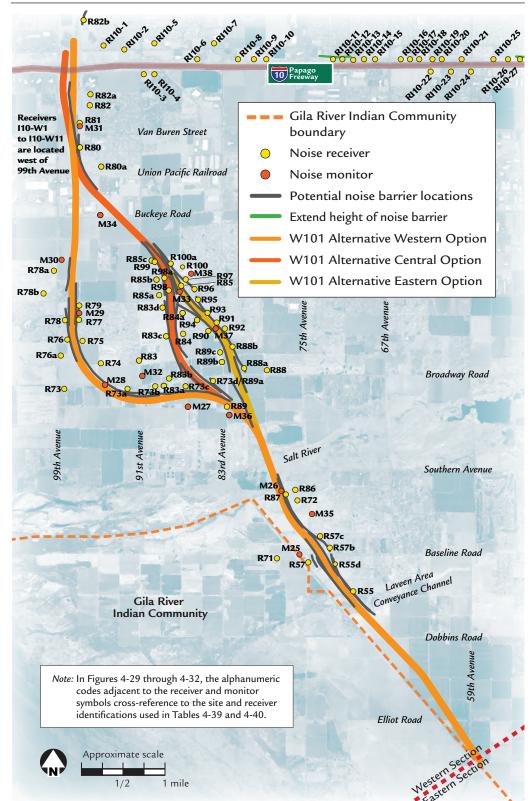


Figure 4-30 Noise Receiver and Potential Barrier Locations, W71 Alternative

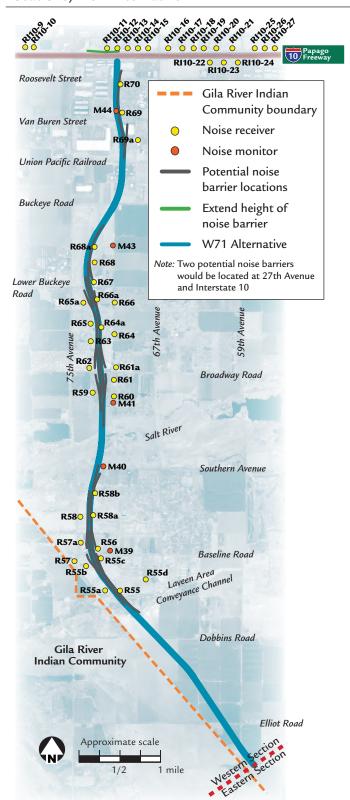
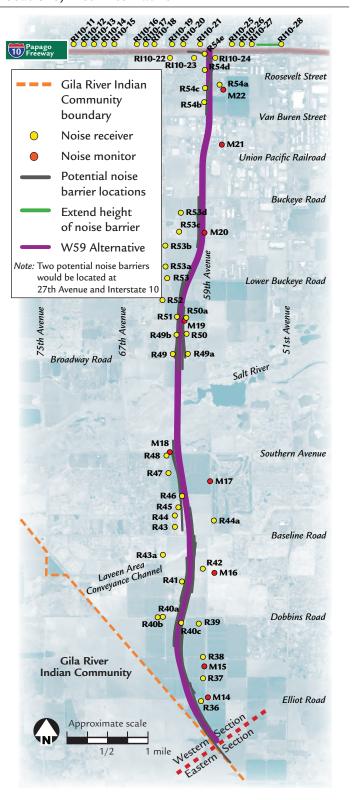
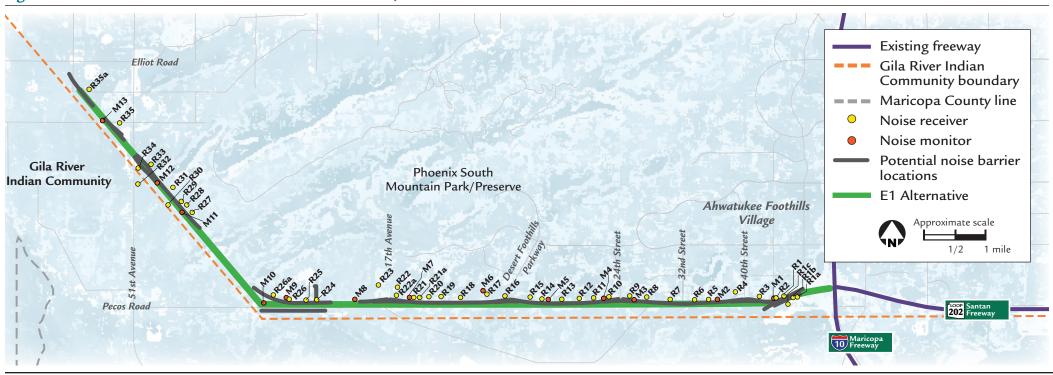


Figure 4-31 Noise Receiver and Potential Barrier Locations, W59 Alternative



Noise receivers were modeled adjacent to known noise-sensitive locations along the action alternatives' alignments in the Western Section. Locations and/or extent of barriers could change. Exact noise barrier locations and dimensions would be determined during the design phase. The public would continue to be engaged in freeway-related noise issues through construction and operation of the proposed action (see Figure 4-33, on page 4-92).

Figure 4-32 Noise Receiver and Potential Barrier Locations, Eastern Section



Noise receivers were modeled adjacent to known noise-sensitive locations along the E1 Alternative in the Eastern Section. Locations and/or extent of barriers could change. Exact noise barrier locations and dimensions would be determined during the design phase. The public would be encouraged to continue to be engaged in freeway-related noise issues through construction and operation of the proposed action (see Figure 4-33, on page 4-92).

Are the noise barriers shown in the DEIS the exact locations?

The noise analysis was based on preliminary design and traffic information. Numerous "state-of-the-practice" assumptions were made to complete the noise analysis. As the design of the proposed action further develops, additional noise analyses would be conducted. The results of this analysis and the mitigation recommendations should not be considered final and would need to be verified and refined as the design would progress.

Each monitoring period consisted of a 15- to 30-minute sound level recording using an integrating sound level meter. Most readings were conducted for a period of 15 minutes. Based on FHWA guidance, the longer monitoring periods were used at locations with little traffic noise and greater short-term variabilities in ambient noise. The duration of each reading was sufficient to record the existing noise characteristics at the monitoring location. At all locations, the meter was placed approximately 5 feet above the ground. Results of the ambient noise monitoring are shown in Table 4-39.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

For the three Western Section action alternatives and options and the Eastern Section action alternative, over 220 sensitive receivers were evaluated from a traffic noise perspective. All of the receivers represent noise-sensitive Activity Category B land uses, as described

in Table 4-40, with the exception of the casino (R30), which is a commercial land use (Category C). Receiver locations for the Western Section of the Study Area are indicated on Figures 4-29 through 4-31. Receiver locations for the Eastern Section of the Study Area are indicated on Figure 4-32. The impacts from each of the action alternatives and options and those of the No-Action Alternative are discussed in more detail later in this section.

In areas where the Western Section action alternatives are located close together, nearby receivers were evaluated for both action alternatives and are listed in Table 4-40 under both alternatives. Also, several new residential subdivisions have been developed since the initial noise evaluations began in 2003. To include these new receiver locations without altering the sequential numbering system, additional receivers were assigned an identification beginning with the nearest receiver number, followed by a letter to distinguish the new receiver. For

instance, if the nearest existing receiver was numbered 26, the additional nearby receiver was numbered 26a.

Results of the noise analysis for each receiver are summarized in Table 4-40. The first column of Table 4-40 lists a consecutive number assigned to identify each receiver. The second column in the table identifies the approximate distance and direction from the given action alternative's centerline to the receiver. The third column identifies the receiver, such as school or park, neighborhood, subdivision, or the area where the receiver is located. The fourth column displays the projected future noise level (in dBA L_{sq}) without noise mitigation, based on Traffic Noise Model 2.5 modeling (traffic noise model endorsed by FHWA—see the technical report on traffic noise) and the 2035 design year. Noise mitigation was then added to the model, resulting in the mitigated future noise levels shown in the fifth column. For some of the receivers, noise from nearby arterial street traffic limited the amount of noise reduction that could be achieved for the proposed action alternatives. Mitigation is discussed in further detail in the next section.

Action Alternatives, Western Section

The evaluation of impacts on noise-sensitive receivers included modeling noise level impacts from the W59 Alternative, W71 Alternative, and W101 Alternative and Options along I-10 (Papago Freeway) near and including where the new system traffic interchange would connect I-10 and the proposed action. The receivers for this analysis can be found in Table 4-40 and are denoted by the prefix "I-10" in the first column. Because the W101 Alternative and its Options would result in the same impacts along I-10, the results are presented only for the Western Option.

W59 (Preferred) Alternative

Projected peak-hour noise levels along the W59 Alternative and I-10 (Papago Freeway) would range from 60 to 78 dBA $\rm L_{eq}$ at the 84 receivers. The projected noise levels at 65 of the 84 receivers would approach or exceed the ADOT mitigation criterion. The 65 affected receivers along this action alternative and I-10 would be eligible for noise abatement consideration.

 Table 4-39
 Ambient Noise Monitoring Results, Western and Eastern Sections

Site Identification	Alternative/ Alignment Option	Location Description	Ambient Noise Level (L _{Aeq1h})ª
Western Section	n		
M14 ^b	W101, W71, W59	Corner of 59th Avenue and Elliot Road	49
M15	W59	59th Avenue, 3/8 mile north of Elliot Road	45
M16	W59	South Mountain Avenue, west of 59th Avenue	47
M17	W59	Corner of 59th Avenue and Vineyard Road	50
M18	W59	Southern Avenue, ½ mile west of 59th Avenue	58
M19	W59	Corner of 61st Avenue and Warner Street	51
M20	W59	59th Avenue and Roosevelt Irrigation District canal	64
M21	W59	57th Drive south of Jefferson Street	58
M22	W59	Southwest Village Apartments, 777 North 59th Avenue, southeast corner	49
M23	W101, W71, W59	Elliot Road at Community ^c boundary	49
M24	W101, W71	Dobbins Road at Community boundary	54
M25	W101 Western Option	Baseline Road at Community boundary	61
M26	W101 Western and Central Options	Alta Vista Road, west of 75th Avenue	50
M27	W101 Western and Central Options	87th Avenue, ¼ mile south of Broadway Road	52
M28	W101 Western Option	Broadway Road, ½ mile west of 91st Avenue	62
M29	W101 Western Option	Kingman Street, east of 97th Avenue	48
M30	W101 Western Option	99th Avenue, ½ mile north of Lower Buckeye Road	57
M31	W101 Central Option	Apartments on 96th Avenue, north of Van Buren Street	50
M32	W101 Central Option	91st Avenue, 500 feet north of Broadway Road	62
M33	W101 Central Option	87th Avenue, north of Lower Buckeye Road	53
M34	W101 Central and Eastern Options	Buckeye Road, ½ mile east of 99th Avenue	59

Site Identification	Alternative/ Alignment Option	Location Description	Ambient Noise Level (L _{Aeq1h})ª
M35	W101 Eastern Option	75th Avenue, ½ mile south of Southern Avenue	49
M36	W101 Eastern Option	83rd Avenue, ¾ mile south of Broadway Road	53
M37	W101 Eastern Option	Elwood Street, west of 83rd Avenue	53
M38	W101 Eastern Option	Watkins Street, east of 86th Drive	54
M39	W71	Baseline Road, east of 75th Avenue	63
M40	W71	Southern Avenue, east of 75th Avenue	62
M41	W71	71st Avenue, south of Wier Avenue	44
M42	W71	Crown King Road, east of 73rd Drive	54
M43	W71	Durango Street, west of 71st Avenue	48
M44	W71	Corner of 71st Avenue and Polk Street	55
Eastern Section			
M1	E1	Near 44th Street and Cedarwood Lane	55
M2	E1	Near 36th Place and Windsong Drive	52
M3	E1	End of 26th Street, south of Redwood Lane	56
M4	E1	Apartments at 21st Street and Liberty Lane, southwest side	53
M5	E1	Church near 15th Street and Liberty Lane	54
M6	E1	Near Ashurst Drive and 2nd Place	45
M7	E1	Near 15th Avenue and Liberty Lane	44
M8	E1	North of Pecos Road, between 17th and 27th avenues	46
M9	E1	Corner of 30th Lane and Redwood Lane	51
M10	E1	Far west end of Pecos Road at Community boundary	45
M11	E1	Corner of 45th Avenue and Galveston	48
M12	E1	Corner of Dusty Lane and Ray Road	54
M13	E1	Estrella Drive at Community boundary	55

^a L_{Aeq1h}, 1-hour equivalent sound level; logarithmic energy average over a 1-hour period (measured in dBA, a logarithmic unit that expresses the ratio of the sound pressure level being measured to a standard reference level and is frequency-weighted using the A-scale, to approximate the frequency response of the human ear)

^b Sites M1 to M13 are located in the Eastern Section and are presented later in the table.

^c Gila River Indian Community

 Table 4-40
 Noise Analysis Results, Western and Eastern Sections

Receiver	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative	Mitigated Noise Level ^a		
ID	Centerline		Noise Level ^a	Levei		
Western Se	Western Section					
W59 Alterr	native (Preferred Alte	rnative)				
36 ^b	580 feet east	59th Avenue and Elliot Road	69	63		
37	1,170 feet east	59th Avenue north of Elliot Road	66	60		
38	1,500 feet east	59th Avenue and Olney Avenue	64	58		
39	1,225 feet east	59th Avenue and Dobbins Road	65	58		
40a	925 feet west	63rd Avenue and Dobbins Road	65	60		
40b	1,220 feet west	63rd Avenue and Dobbins Road	65	59		
40c	250 feet west	61st Avenue and Dobbins Road	72	63		
41	385 feet west	61st Avenue and South Mountain Avenue	74	63		
42	790 feet east	59th Avenue and South Mountain Avenue	69	62		
43	920 feet west	Rancho Grande	67	61		
43a ^d	1,750 feet west	Avalon Village	63	58		
44	835 feet west	Rancho Grande	67	61		
44a	1,590 feet east	Cottonwood Golf Course	63	61		
45	530 feet west	Rancho Grande	71	63		
46	145 feet west	Rancho Grande	78	63		
47	895 feet west	Rancho Grande	68	61		
48	840 feet west	Rancho Grande	67	62		
49	485 feet west	Rio Del Rey Unit 1	71	63		
49a	470 feet east	Rio Del Rey Unit 2	70	63		
49b	270 feet west	Rio Del Rey Unit 1	74	62		
50	375 feet east	Rio Del Rey Unit 2	73	61		
50a	345 feet east	Rio Del Rey Unit 2	74	63		
51	250 feet west	Rio Del Rey Unit 1	76	63		
52	1,245 feet west	Estrella Manor	65	58		
53	1,285 feet west	Meadows	64	59		
53a	1,825 feet west	Park at Terralea	62	58		
53b	2,350 feet west	Park at Terralea	61	58		
53c	1,520 feet west	Western Valley Elementary School	64	60°		
53d	1,405 feet west	61st Avenue and Buckeye Road	65	60		
54b	355 feet west	59th Avenue north of Van Buren Street	72	67 ^e		
54c	430 feet west	Centura West	72	69°		

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a
54d	700 feet west	Centura West	71	70°
54e	900 feet west	Patio Homes West	73	71 ^e
Interstate	10 with W59 Alterna	tive (Preferred Alternative)	·	
I-10-1	1,350 feet north	Sheely Farms Parcel 3	62	62
I-10-2	1,180 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 93rd Avenue	61	61
I-10-3	510 feet south	Tolsun Farms	67	61
I-10-4	520 feet south	Tolsun Farms	68	62
I-10-5	1,440 feet north	Westpoint	60	60
I-10-6	470 feet north	EconoLodge	70	_f
I-10-7	1,440 feet north	Amberlea Cottages	60	60
I-10-8	460 feet north	Legacy Suites Apartments	63	58
I-10-9	410 feet north	Daravante	63	56
I-10-10	380 feet north	Daravante	67	56
I-10-11	440 feet north	Hampton Square Apartments	62	61
I-10-12	420 feet north	Hampton Square Apartments	62	58
I-10-13	390 feet north	Sunpointe Apartments	63	59
I-10-14	420 feet north	Las Gardenias Apartments	64	59
I-10-15	460 feet north	Las Gardenias Apartments	63	61
I-10-16	490 feet north	Westover Parc Condominiums	62	59
I-10-17	440 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 85th Avenue	62	58
I-10-18	420 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 84th Avenue	61	59
I-10-19	410 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 83rd Avenue	61	58
I-10-20	400 feet north	Avanti Apartments	64	58
I-10-21	500 feet north	Avanti Apartments	63	59
I-10-22	340 feet south	La Terraza	64	60
I-10-23	280 feet south	Patio Homes West	70	62
I-10-24	350 feet south	Patio Homes West	66	63
I-10-25	430 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 57th Avenue	67	62
I-10-26	390 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 56th Avenue	68	60
I-10-27	360 feet north	Hallcraft Villas West Condominiums	71	59
I-10-28	380 feet north	Hallcraft Villas West Condominiums	72	62
I-10-29	320 feet north	Winona Park 1	68	60
I-10-30	250 feet north	Winona Park 6A	67	61

Note: Footnotes are at the end of the table, page 4-88.

 Table 4-40
 Noise Analysis Results, Western and Eastern Sections (continued)

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a
I-10-31	250 feet north	Winona Park 6A	67	61
I-10-32	310 feet south	Winona Park 2	68	61
I-10-33	270 feet south	Deluxe Mobile Home Park	66	61
I-10-34	280 feet south	Deluxe Mobile Home Park	66	61
I-10-35	300 feet north	Franmar Manor	67	60
I-10-36	300 feet north	West View Manor	72	61
I-10-37	310 feet north	West View Manor	71	61
I-10-38	270 feet south	West Phoenix No. 4	67	61
I-10-39	220 feet south	West Phoenix No. 4	72	62
I-10-40	370 feet south	West Phoenix No. 4	69	62
I-10-41	340 feet north	Westcroft Place	71	60
I-10-42	250 feet north	Isaac Infill	71	61
I-10-43	360 feet north	Westcroft Place Plat 2	64	59
I-10-44	260 feet north	El Retiro Block 1 and 2	69	61
I-10-45	240 feet north	Sharon Gardens	72	62
I-10-46	370 feet south	Westcroft Place Plat 2	67	61
I-10-47	220 feet south	Westcroft Place Plat 2	69	61
I-10-48	330 feet south	El Retiro Block 1 and 2	66	62
I-10-49	280 feet south	North Willow Square	70	62
I-10-50	370 feet south	North Willow Square	70	62
I-10-51	370 feet south	North Willow Square Plat 2	65	59
W71 Altern	native			
55	415 feet east	Laveen Meadows	72	65°
55a	305 feet west	Laveen Meadows Parcel 3	74	67°
55b	450 feet west	Laveen Meadows Parcel 2	71	60
55c	590 feet east	Laveen Meadows Parcel 15	71	63
55d	2,000 feet east	Laveen Meadows Elementary School	64	59
56	590 feet east	Rancho Grande	70	63
57	1,040 feet west	75th Avenue and Baseline Road	66	63
57a	400 feet west	Laveen Ranch	72	63
58	410 feet west	75th Avenue and Vineyard Road	74	63
58a	410 feet east	Laveen Farms Phase 1	74	63
58b	425 feet east	Laveen Farms Phase 1	74	63

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a
59	435 feet west	Western Heritage Estates	72	62
60	890 feet east	Western Heritage Estates 2	68	61
61	930 feet east	Western Heritage Estates 2	67	62
61a	1,150 feet east	Sienna Vista	66	61
62	495 feet west	Sienna Vista	72	63
63	290 feet west	Marbella	74	61
64	1,160 feet east	71st Avenue and Elwood Street	66	59
64a	345 feet east	Sienna Vista	74	63
65	260 feet west	Suncrest at Estrella Village	76	63
65a	410 feet west	Travertine at Estrella Village	72	61
66	1,440 feet east	Santa Marie Townsite	64	59
66a	445 feet east	Sienna Vista	70	61
67	535 feet east	Santa Maria Elementary School	71	65°
68	600 feet east	Valle Eldorado	71	61
68a	385 feet east	Valle Eldorado	74	63
69	460 feet east	Westridge Park 4	70	65°
69a	1,135 feet east	Western Acres	65	60
70	400 feet east	Westridge Park 2	69	62
Interstate 1	10 with W71 Alterna	tive		
I-10-1	1,350 feet north	Sheely Farms Parcel 3	62	62
I-10-2	1,180 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 93rd Avenue	61	61
I-10-3	510 feet south	Tolsun Farms	66	61
I-10-4	520 feet south	Tolsun Farms	68	62
I-10-5	1,440 feet north	Westpoint	60	60
I-10-6	470 feet north	EconoLodge	70	_f
I-10-7	1,440 feet north	Amberlea Cottages	60	60
I-10-8	460 feet north	Legacy Suites Apartments	63	58
I-10-9	410 feet north	Daravante	63	56
I-10-10	380 feet north	Daravante	67	57
I-10-11	440 feet north	Hampton Square Apartments	69	62
I-10-12	420 feet north	Hampton Square Apartments	67	59
I-10-13	390 feet north	Sunpointe Apartments	66	61
I-10-14	420 feet north	Las Gardenias Apartments	63	63

(continued on next page)

 Table 4-40
 Noise Analysis Results, Western and Eastern Sections (continued)

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a
I-10-15	460 feet north	Las Gardenias Apartments	63	63
I-10-16	490 feet north	Westover Parc Condominiums	63	59
I-10-17	440 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 85th Avenue	62	58
I-10-18	420 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 84th Avenue	61	58
I-10-19	410 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 83rd Avenue	61	57
I-10-20	400 feet north	Avanti Apartments	63	57
I-10-21	500 feet north	Avanti Apartments	62	58
I-10-22	340 feet south	La Terraza	60	60
I-10-23	280 feet south	Patio Homes West	69	61
I-10-24	350 feet south	Patio Homes West	63	61
I-10-25	430 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 57th Avenue	61	61
I-10-26	390 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 56th Avenue	68	59
I-10-27	360 feet north	Hallcraft Villas West Condominiums	72	59
I-10-28	380 feet north	Hallcraft Villas West Condominiums	72	60
I-10-29	320 feet north	Winona Park 1	68	59
I-10-30	250 feet north	Winona Park 6A	66	60
I-10-31	250 feet north	Winona Park 6A	67	61
I-10-32	310 feet south	Winona Park 2	68	60
I-10-33	270 feet south	Deluxe Mobile Home Park	66	60
I-10-34	280 feet south	Deluxe Mobile Home Park	66	60
I-10-35	300 feet north	Franmar Manor	67	60
I-10-36	300 feet north	West View Manor	72	61
I-10-37	310 feet north	West View Manor	70	60
I-10-38	270 feet south	West Phoenix No. 4	67	60
I-10-39	220 feet south	West Phoenix No. 4	72	62
I-10-40	370 feet south	West Phoenix No. 4	69	62
I-10-41	340 feet north	Westcroft Place	71	60
I-10-42	250 feet north	Isaac Infill	71	61
I-10-43	360 feet north	Westcroft Place Plat 2	64	59
I-10-44	260 feet north	El Retiro Block 1 and 2	69	61
I-10-45	240 feet north	Sharon Gardens	72	61
I-10-46	370 feet south	Westcroft Place Plat 2	67	61
I-10-47	220 feet south	Westcroft Place Plat 2	69	61
I-10-48	330 feet south	El Retiro Block 1 and 2	66	61
I-10-49	280 feet south	North Willow Square	70	62

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a		
I-10-50	370 feet south	North Willow Square	70	61		
I-10-51	370 feet south	North Willow Square Plat 2	65	58		
W101 Alter	W101 Alternative Western Option					
55	410 feet east	Laveen Meadows	73	63		
55d	545 feet east	Laveen Meadows Parcel 15	71	63		
57	820 feet west	75th Avenue and Baseline Road	69	63		
57b	800 feet east	Laveen Ranch	69	63		
57c	670 feet east	Laveen Ranch	70	60		
71	2,270 feet west	Community ^g , 78th Avenue and Baseline Road	62	61		
72	945 feet east	75th Avenue and Southern Avenue	69	61		
73	1,750 feet west	95th Avenue and Broadway Road	63	62		
73a	535 feet east	93rd Avenue and Broadway Road	71	66°		
73b	745 feet east	89th Avenue and Broadway Road	70	63		
73c	450 feet east	87th Avenue and Broadway Road	74	63		
73d	950 feet east	84th Avenue and Broadway Road	69	61		
74	1,040 feet east	Tivoli	68	62		
75	615 feet east	Country Place Parcel 26	72	63		
76	275 feet west	Country Place Parcel 25	76	63		
76a	925 feet west	99th Avenue and Illini Street	69	63		
77	485 feet east	Country Place Parcel 22	72	63		
78	350 feet west	Country Place Parcel 21	73	61		
78a	1,080 feet west	Country Place Phase 4	67	62		
78b	1,705 feet west	Country Place Phase 4	64	59		
79	485 feet east	Country Place Parcel 23	73	67 ^c		
80	445 feet east	Tolleson High School	72	63		
80a	1,730 feet east	Tolleson-Goetz Tract, Block 100	64	59		
81	475 feet east	Concord Sundancer Apartments	73	65°		
82	1,090 feet east	Villa de Tolleson 1	66	61		
82a	1,060 feet east	Parkview Casitas	64	59		
82b	380 feet east	Sheely Farms Parcel 5	70	62		
86	1,060 feet east	75th and Southern avenues	68	61		
87	400 feet east	75th and Southern avenues	75	63		
Interstate 1	10 with W101 Alterna	ative (Western, Central, and Eastern Options) ^h				
I-10-1	1,350 feet north	Sheely Farms Parcel 3	62	62		
I-10-2	1,180 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 93rd Avenue	61	61		

(continued on next page)

 Table 4-40
 Noise Analysis Results, Western and Eastern Sections (continued)

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a
I-10-3	510 feet south	Tolsun Farms	61	61
I-10-4	520 feet south	Tolsun Farms	62	62
I-10-5	1,440 feet north	Westpoint	60	60
I-10-6	470 feet north	EconoLodge	70	_f
I-10-7	1,440 feet north	Amberlea Cottages	60	60
I-10-8	460 feet north	Legacy Suites Apartments	58	58
I-10-9	410 feet north	Daravante	55	55
I-10-10	380 feet north	Daravante	56	56
I-10-11	440 feet north	Hampton Square Apartments	60	60
I-10-12	420 feet north	Hampton Square Apartments	58	58
I-10-13	390 feet north	Sunpointe Apartments	58	58
I-10-14	420 feet north	Las Gardenias Apartments	58	58
I-10-15	460 feet north	Las Gardenias Apartments	60	60
I-10-16	490 feet north	Westover Parc Condominiums	58	58
I-10-17	440 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 85th Avenue	57	57
I-10-18	420 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 84th Avenue	58	58
I-10-19	410 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 83rd Avenue	56	56
I-10-20	400 feet north	Avanti Apartments	56	56
I-10-21	500 feet north	Avanti Apartments	57	57
I-10-22	340 feet south	La Terraza	59	59
I-10-23	280 feet south	Patio Homes West	60	60
I-10-24	350 feet south	Patio Homes West	60	60
I-10-W1	1,280 feet north	Apartments - McDowell Road and 103rd Avenue	63	63
I-10-W2	1,270 feet north	Crystal Gardens Parcel 2A	63	63
I-10-W3	1,400 feet north	Crystal Point	62	62
I-10-W4	670 feet south	Hotel	66	f
I-10-W5	960 feet north	Crystal Springs Apartments	58	58
I-10-W6	980 feet north	Mobile Home Park - McDowell Road and 119th Avenue	63	63
I-10-W7	810 feet south	Isolated homes - east of El Mirage Road	66	66 ⁱ
I-10-W8	1,040 feet north	Avondale Friendship Park	63	63
I-10-W9	1,240 feet north	Avondale Friendship Park	62	62
I-10-W10	1,070 feet north	Rio Santa Fe Apartments	59	59
I-10-W11	350 feet south	Desert Sage Apartments	63	63
W101 Alter	rnative Central Optic	on		
83	2,375 feet west	Union Elementary School	71	63

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a
83a	1,750 feet west	89th Avenue and Broadway Road	64	59
83b	1,200 feet west	89th Avenue and Broadway Road	61	56
83c	330 feet west	Hurley Ranch Parcel 3	63	59
83d	445 feet west	Hurley Ranch Parcels 1 and 2	66	61
84	765 feet east	Volterra	77	65
84a	750 feet east	Volterra	72	63
85	835 feet east	Ryland at Heritage Point	71	63
85a	595 feet west	Farmington Park	69	63
85b	550 feet west	Farmington Park	68	63
85c	295 feet west	Farmington Park	71	66e
89a	580 feet east	84th Avenue and Broadway Road	71	63
89b	1,805 feet east	83rd Avenue north of Broadway Road	75	63
100	1,240 feet east	Ryland at Heritage Point	66	61
W101 Alter	rnative Eastern Optio	on		
72	930 feet east	75th and Southern avenues	70	62
80	490 feet east	Tolleson High School	72	63
80a	1,395 feet east	Tolleson-Goetz Tract Block 100	66	61
84a	650 feet west	Volterra	70	60
86	1,060 feet east	75th and Southern avenues	69	62
87	400 feet east	75th and Southern avenues	73	63
88	1,920 feet east	Estrella Village Manor	63	60
88a	625 feet east	Tuscano Phase 2 Parcel C	71	63
88b	410 feet east	Tuscano Phase 2 Parcel A	72	61
89	1,205 feet west	83rd Avenue and Mobile Street	67	61
89a	1,460 feet west	84th Avenue and Broadway Road	65	62e
89b	550 feet west	83rd Avenue north of Broadway Road	72	63
89c	400 feet west	83rd Avenue north of Broadway Road	72	62
90	300 feet west	Volterra	73	63
91	370 feet east	Volterra	72	63
92	520 feet east	Tuscano Phase 1	70	61
93	400 feet east	Volterra	73	63
94	325 feet west	Volterra	73	62
95	580 feet east	Volterra	71	62
96	840 feet east	Ryland at Heritage Point	69	63
97	690 feet east	Ryland at Heritage Point	70	61

 Table 4-40
 Noise Analysis Results, Western and Eastern Sections (continued)

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a
98	520 feet west	Farmington Park	72	62
98a	330 feet west	Farmington Park	74	63
99	305 feet west	Farmington Park	75	65°
100	950 feet east	Ryland at Heritage Point	68	61
100a	450 feet east	School at 87th Avenue and Durango Street	73	63
Eastern Sed	ction			
E1 Alternat	tive			
1	250 feet north	Foothills Paseo 2	78	64 ^c
1a	460 feet south	Pecos Park	74	62
1b	320 feet south	Pecos Park	77	63
1c	440 feet south	Pecos Park	74	61
2	260 feet north	Foothills Paseo 2	77	63
3	335 feet north	Foothills Paseo 2	73	62
4	785 feet north	Wilton Commons	69	63
5	235 feet north	Kyrene de los Lagos Elementary School	76	63
6	220 feet north	Lakewood Parcel 20	74	64 ^c
7	215 feet north	Lakepoint 21 at Lakewood	76	63
8	380 feet north	Kyrene Akimel Middle School	75	62
9	390 feet north	Foothills Mountain Ranch 2	71	63
10	280 feet north	Foothills Apartments	72	63
11	320 feet north	Foothills Parcel 5B	75	63
12	325 feet north	Foothills Parcel 5A	75	63
13	305 feet north	Foothills Parcel 5C	76	63
14	290 feet north	Parcel 6A at the Foothills	75	63
15	370 feet north	Parcel 6A at the Foothills	74	68°

^a in decibels (dBA), which are logarithmic units that express the ratio of the sound pressure level being measured to a standard reference level and is frequency-weighted using the A-scale, to approximate the frequency response of the human ear

Receiver ID	Distance and Direction from Centerline	Neighborhood or Area	Unmitigated Action Alternative Noise Level ^a	Mitigated Noise Level ^a
16	400 feet north	Foothills Parcels 12A, B, C	74	70°
17	690 feet north	Foothills Parcels 12A, B, C	70	63
18	405 feet north	Fairway Hills at Club West	74	63
19	455 feet north	Fairway Hills at Club West	72	62
20	460 feet north	Parcel 9G at Foothills Club West	73	62
21	350 feet north	Parcels 18A, 19D, 19E, 26B at Foothills Club West	75	63
21a	395 feet north	Parcels 18A, 19D, 19E, 26B at Foothills Club West	74	61
22	1,175 feet north	Parcel 26 at Foothills Club West	66	61
22a	470 feet north	Foothills Club West Parcels 20 and 25 Amended	71	64°
23	1,370 feet north	Parcel 23 at Foothills Club West	65	60
24	210 feet north	Foothills Reserve Parcel D	78	63
24a	865 feet north	Foothills Reserve	67	59
24b	1,400 feet north	Foothills Reserve	68	60
25	195 feet north	Foothills Reserve Parcel D	76	63
26	240 feet north	Foothills Reserve Parcel C	76	63
26a	350 feet north	Foothills 80	76	63
27	470 feet east	Dusty Lane area	73	62
28	490 feet east	Dusty Lane area	72	62
29	335 feet east	Dusty Lane area	74	63
30	760 feet west	Community Casino	68	_f
31	580 feet east	Dusty Lane area	70	61
32	1,540 feet west	Community, 51st Avenue area	64	59
33	420 feet east	Dusty Lane area	75	69°
34	760 feet west	Community, 51st Avenue area	68	63
35	670 feet east	53rd Avenue and Estrella Drive	68	63
35a	770 feet east	Tierra Montana Phase 1	70	63

f mitigation typically not recommended for hotels, motels, and casinos

^b Sites 1 to 35 are located in the Eastern Section and are presented later in the table.

^c Further mitigation would require a noise barrier taller than 20 feet, which would not meet the Arizona Department of Transportation Noise Abatement Policy.

d Numerous new receivers were added to represent new development since the initial analysis began in 2003. These receivers are designated with a letter following the receiver number to maintain the sequential numbering system.

^e Traffic noise from nearby cross street prevented further noise reduction at this receiver.

g Gila River Indian Community

^h The noise analysis results along Interstate 10 are the same for all of the W101 Alternative Options.

not eligible for mitigation based on land use category

Construction Noise

Short-term noise impacts may be experienced during construction along any of the various action alternatives. Quantification of such impacts is difficult without data on the proposed freeway's construction schedule and equipment to be used. Therefore, several assumptions were made to project the approximate noise level at R/W boundaries. These projections are based on the use of the noisiest equipment expected during each construction stage of a typical roadway project. Data on construction equipment noise are available from FHWA Highway Construction Noise Handbook (FHWA 2006b).

Measurements were taken during a freeway construction project in Arizona that assessed the collective impact of construction noise. The maximum noise levels (L_{max}) were calculated at the R/W line. The distance between the R/W and the construction activity was estimated based on the type of work being performed.

Results of the preliminary estimates, shown below, indicate that sensitive receivers could be adversely affected by construction noise if the receivers were immediately adjacent to the proposed R/W. The highest noise levels would occur during the grading/earthwork phase of the construction project.

Construction Equipment Noise

Phase	Equipment	Equipment (L _{max}) ^a	Feet to R/W ^b	L _{max} at R/W
Site clearing	Dozer/Backhoe	82/78	50	83
Grading/Earthwork	Scraper/Grader	84/85	75	85
Foundation	Backhoe/Loader	78/79	100	78
Base preparation	Compactor/Dozer	83/82	100	82

a maximum noise level, measured in dBA (a logarithmic unit that expresses the ratio of the sound pressure level being measured to a standard reference level and is frequency-weighted using the A-scale, to approximate the frequency response of the human ear)
 b right-of-way

W71 Alternative

Projected peak-hour noise levels along the W71 Alternative and I-10 (Papago Freeway) would range from 60 to 76 dBA $\rm L_{eq}$ at the 80 receivers. The projected noise levels at 63 of the 80 receivers would approach or exceed the ADOT mitigation criterion. The 63 affected receivers along this action alternative and I-10 would be eligible for noise abatement consideration.

W101 Alternative and Options

➤ Projected peak-hour noise levels along the W101 Alternative Western Option would range from 62 to 76 dBA L_{eq} at the 29 receivers. The projected noise levels at 27 of the 29 receivers would approach or exceed the ADOT mitigation criterion.

The 27 affected receivers along this option would be eligible for noise abatement consideration.

- ➤ Projected peak-hour noise levels along the W101 Alternative Central Option would range from 61 to 77 dBA L_{eq} at the 14 receivers. The projected noise levels at 12 of the 14 receivers would approach or exceed the ADOT mitigation criterion. The 12 affected receivers along this option would be eligible for noise abatement consideration.
- ➤ Projected peak-hour noise levels along the W101 Alternative Eastern Option would range from 63 to 75 dBA L_{eq} at the 26 receivers. The projected noise levels at 25 of the 26 receivers would approach or exceed the ADOT mitigation criterion. The 25 affected receivers along this option would be eligible for noise abatement consideration.

➤ Projected peak-hour noise levels along I-10 (Papago Freeway) for the W101 Alternative would range from 55 to 70 dBA L_{eq} at the 35 receivers. The projected noise levels at 3 of the 35 receivers would approach or exceed the ADOT mitigation criterion. The 3 affected receivers along I-10 (Papago Freeway) would not be eligible for noise abatement considerations. Two of the receivers are hotels; hotel owners typically consider noise walls to be undesirable because they reduce the hotel's visibility. The third affected receiver represents an area of isolated homes, which would not be considered eligible for mitigation according to the ADOT NAP.

Action Alternative, Eastern Section

E1 (Preferred) Alternative

Most of the 44 receivers are located along the existing Pecos Road; the remainder of the receivers are located between 43rd and 55th avenues.

Projected peak-hour noise levels along the E1 Alternative would range from 64 to 78 dBA $L_{\rm eq}$ at the 44 receivers. The projected noise level at 43 of the 44 receivers would exceed the ADOT mitigation criterion. Receiver 30 represents the casino near 51st Avenue, and because it is not considered a noise-sensitive land use, would not be eligible for noise abatement consideration. The 43 affected receivers along this action alternative, including one on Community land (Receiver 34), would be eligible for noise abatement consideration.

No-Action Alternative

Noise impacts from the No-Action Alternative would be caused by vehicle traffic along arterial and other area surface streets. Based on projected growth throughout the region, traffic congestion would increase under this alternative, which would reduce travel speeds and thereby reduce traffic noise levels. As such, the No-Action Alternative would generally result in lower noise levels at the selected receivers than would any of the action alternatives, but would result in higher noise levels at other locations, such as along arterial streets. Noise from this alternative would be generated by traffic

Noise policy as it applies to the proposed action

According to ADOT policy, noise mitigation should achieve a reduction of 5 dBA and result in a noise level of less than 64 dBA (ADOT 2005b). Some of the receivers along the proposed action alternatives would be affected by noise from adjacent surface streets in addition to that from the proposed freeway. For some of these receivers, the proposed noise barriers would achieve a 5 dBA reduction, but the mitigated noise level would remain above the 64 dBA NAC approach level. For many of these receivers, however, the proposed noise barriers would achieve only a 3 to 4 dBA reduction, because the dominant noise source at the receiver would be the local arterial street rather than the proposed freeway. It would not be feasible to achieve additional noise reduction because of the impact from the local streets. Noise barriers would need to be constructed outside of the proposed R/W of the action alternatives to effectively reduce noise levels from local streets at these receivers. It would not be feasible to construct noise barriers outside of the proposed R/W. Each of these receivers would achieve the ADOT NAP criterion when modeled without the local street traffic.

on neighborhood and arterial streets, as well as by nontraffic noise sources and other general neighborhood activity. Therefore, it is difficult to quantify the projected noise levels from the No-Action Alternative.

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MITIGATION

ADOT Environmental Planning Group and Design Responsibilities

Projected noise levels would approach or exceed the Activity Category B NAC at 196 of the receiver locations. Noise mitigation was evaluated for these receivers. Noise mitigation, in the form of noise walls or earth berms, is discussed for each of the action alternatives and options. Noise walls and earth berms are the most common type of noise mitigation used along ADOT freeways. General locations of noise barriers for the Western and Eastern Sections are shown in Figures 4-29 through 4-32. Other noise mitigation strategies that could be applied in addition to or instead of standard noise walls or earth berms are discussed later in this section.

Where the main line would be elevated, each of the noise barriers would be placed on the freeway embankment, near the edge of the shoulder, to take advantage of the elevated profile. (Placing a noise barrier on an elevated section of freeway results in a lower wall height to achieve the same noise reduction.) Where feasible (but not likely in the areas where the main line would be elevated), noise barriers would be constructed as early as possible in the construction phasing to shield adjacent properties from construction-related noise impacts.

In addition, the ADOT NAP specifies that noise abatement should provide at least 5 dBA in noise reduction and result in a noise level below the 64 dBA criterion. Also, the ADOT NAP specifies that the maximum reasonable barrier height is 20 feet.

For some of the receivers along the action alternatives, a barrier as high as 20 feet would provide more than 5 dBA of noise reduction, but a noise level below 64 dBA could not be achieved. According to ADOT policy, barriers generally will not be constructed higher than 20 feet because of cost, aesthetics, and

constructibility. Therefore, no further noise reduction would be provided.

Action Alternatives, Western Section W59 (Preferred) Alternative

Nineteen new barriers and one raised barrier would be needed to reduce noise levels in accordance with the ADOT NAP along the W59 Alternative and I-10 (Papago Freeway). The barriers would range in height from 10 to 20 feet and would reduce noise levels at the 84 receivers to between 56 and 71 dBA L_{eq} . The noise levels at 1 of the receivers (R53c), even with a 20-foothigh noise barrier, would not be reduced to by at least 5 dBA, ADOT's goal for reducing traffic noise on new roadway projects. This receiver, however, would achieve a 4 dBA reduction in the projected noise levels and would be reduced to less than the approach threshold of 64 dBA. Additionally, the noise level at 4 of the receivers (R54b, R54c, R54d, and R54e) would not be reduced in full accordance with the ADOT NAP because of noise impacts from adjacent arterial streets. These receivers would achieve noise reductions of 1 to 5 dBA, but would still be higher than 64 dBA. Three of the receivers (R37, R38, and R42) would be affected because of a "substantial increase" and would all be mitigated with a 5 to 7 dBA reduction. The barriers would total approximately 745,500 square feet in area. Using the standard \$33 per square foot of barrier recommended by ADOT, the cost of noise mitigation for the W59 Alternative would be approximately \$24.6 million. The ADOT-recommended cost per square foot is subject to future increase.

W71 Alternative

Eighteen new barriers and one raised barrier would be needed to reduce noise levels in accordance with the ADOT NAP along the W71 Alternative and I-10 (Papago Freeway). The barriers would range in height from 10 to 20 feet and would reduce noise levels at the 80 receivers to between 56 and 67 dBA $L_{\rm eq}.$ The noise level at 4 of the receivers (R55, R55a, R67, and R69), even with a 20-foot-high noise barrier, would not be reduced to less than the approach threshold of 64 dBA, which is

ADOT's goal for reducing traffic noise on new roadway projects. These receivers, however, would experience at least a 5 dBA reduction in the projected noise level. The barriers would total approximately 1,036,100 square feet in area. Using the standard \$33 per square foot recommended by ADOT, the cost of noise mitigation for the W71 Alternative would be approximately \$34.2 million.

W101 Alternatives and Options

- ➤ Seventeen barriers would be needed to reduce noise levels in accordance with the ADOT NAP along the W101 Alternative Western Option. The barriers would range in height from 10 to 20 feet and would reduce noise levels at the 29 receivers to between 59 and 67 dBA $L_{\mbox{\tiny eq}}.$ The noise level at 3 of the receivers (R73a, R79, and R81) would not be reduced in full accordance with the ADOT NAP. These receivers would achieve a noise reduction of at least 5 dBA. The barriers would total approximately 835,100 square feet in area. Using the standard \$33 per square foot recommended by ADOT, the cost of noise mitigation for the W101 Alternative Western Option would be approximately \$27.6 million.
- ➤ Twenty barriers would be needed to reduce noise levels in accordance with the ADOT NAP along the W101 Alternative Central Option. The barriers would range in height from 10 to 20 feet and would reduce noise levels at the 14 receivers to between 56 and 66 dBA L_{eq} . The noise level at one of the receivers (R85a) would not be reduced in full accordance with the ADOT NAP because of noise impacts from adjacent arterial streets. This receiver would achieve a noise reduction of 5 dBA. The barriers would total approximately 825,500 square feet in area. Using the standard \$33 per square foot recommended by ADOT, the cost of noise mitigation for the W101 Alternative Central Option would be approximately \$27.2 million.
- ➤ Sixteen barriers would be needed to reduce noise levels in accordance with the ADOT NAP along the W101 Alternative Eastern Option. The barriers would range in height from 10 to 20 feet and would

reduce noise levels at the 26 receivers to between 60 and 65 dBA L_{eq}. The noise level at one of the receivers (R89a) would not be reduced in full accordance with the ADOT NAP because of noise impacts from adjacent arterial streets. Noise levels at this receiver would be reduced to a sound level below 64 dBA, but would achieve a noise reduction of only 3 dBA. The noise level at one of the receivers (R99), even with a 20-foot-high noise barrier, would not be reduced to less than the approach threshold of 64 dBA. This receiver, however, would experience a noise reduction of 5 dBA. The barriers would total approximately 859,400 square feet in area. Using the standard \$33 per square foot recommended by ADOT, the cost of the noise mitigation for the W101 Alternative Eastern Option would be approximately \$28.4 million.

➤ For the W101 Alternative and Options along I-10 (Papago Freeway), no barriers would be needed to reduce noise levels in accordance with the ADOT NAP.

Action Alternative, Eastern Section

E1 (Preferred) Alternative

Twenty barriers would be needed to reduce noise levels in accordance with the ADOT NAP along the E1 Alternative. The barriers would range in height from 8 to 20 feet and would reduce noise levels at the 44 receivers to between 59 and 70 dBA L_{eq}. One receiver (R30), the Vee Quiva Casino near 51st Avenue, is not considered noise-sensitive and is not eligible for noise mitigation. The noise levels at five of the receivers (R1, R6, R15, R22a, and R33) would not be reduced in full accordance with the ADOT NAP even with a 20-foothigh noise barrier. Each of these receivers, however, would achieve at least a 5 dBA reduction in projected noise levels. Additionally, the noise level at one of the receivers (R16) would not be reduced in full accordance with the ADOT NAP because of noise impacts from adjacent arterial streets. This receiver would achieve a noise reduction of 4 dBA. The barriers would total approximately 1,356,200 square feet in area. Using the

standard \$33 per square foot recommended by ADOT, the cost of the noise mitigation for the E1 Alternative would be approximately \$44.8 million.

No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative assumes that the proposed action would not be selected. Consequently, under the No-Action Alternative, noise mitigation would not be provided for any of the receivers.

OTHER POSSIBLE MITIGATION STRATEGIES

A number of mitigation strategies are available that could be used instead of, or in addition to, noise barriers. These involve elements of the action alternatives' alignments, design features, and restrictions.

- ➤ Depressing the freeway For most alignments of each of the action alternatives, the proposed freeway would be elevated above the natural grade of the surrounding land. This elevated profile would allow noise to carry farther, creating noise impacts at greater distances from the freeway. Depressing the profile of the freeway below grade (see Depressed Freeway Options, on page 3-15) may result in reduced traffic noise levels adjacent to depressed sections (FHWA 1980). However, it would be necessary to also construct at-grade noise barriers to achieve noise reduction goals at receiver locations adjacent to depressed freeway sections. This strategy would also reduce the visual impacts associated with high noise walls on elevated freeways (FHWA 1994). A major disadvantage of this strategy, however, would be the added substantial construction cost of depressing the freeway, including possible acquisition of R/W and provision of drainage (pumping systems and retention basins).
- ➤ Rubberized asphalt pavement surface Until recently, new freeways constructed by ADOT were composed of concrete pavement. ADOT has embarked on a multiyear pilot program in cooperation with FHWA to overlay the metropolitan Phoenix freeway system with a rubberized asphalt

pavement surface. The rubberized asphalt paving program seeks to reduce freeway traffic noise levels by at least 4 dBA. At this point in the pilot study, such results appear to be achievable.

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ADOT would overlay the proposed action's concrete pavement with rubberized asphalt, but is not making any predictions at this time regarding expected noise reductions. Noise modeling during the final design phase would reflect the most current FHWA modeling criteria, which may include rubberized asphalt.

➤ Truck traffic restrictions or reduced posted speed limits – Discussions regarding reduction of transportation noise impacts have at times focused on restricting truck traffic entirely or during certain hours of the day and on reducing the posted speed limit of a transportation facility. Reducing weight limits is another potential noise reduction strategy. In theory, all of these strategies would reduce the noise impacts on adjacent properties because trucks produce higher noise levels than automobiles and higher speeds generate more noise than lower speeds (FHWA 1976). None of these strategies would, however, be consistent with the purpose and need for the proposed action and, therefore, are not feasible for the proposed freeway.

CONCLUSIONS

Implementation of the proposed action would introduce traffic noise where it currently does not exist or at higher levels than now experienced. There are sensitive receivers [e.g., residences, Section 4(f) resources, schools, parks, churches] where freeway noise might be perceived adversely by users of such facilities. Depending on which action alternatives might be implemented (Western Section combined with the Eastern Section), between 55 and 108 affected receivers would be eligible for noise abatement consideration. The combinations of the W59/E1 (Preferred) Alternative and W71/E1 Alternative would have the most affected eligible receivers, followed by the W101/E1 Alternative. These numbers are expected for a project of this magnitude located in a rapidly growing region. With the placement of noise

Evening traffic noise

The loudest traffic noise near an urban freeway is thought to occur during the morning and afternoon peaks associated with commuting cycles. Traffic noise analysis, therefore, has evolved to focus on these time periods. However, based on past experiences, ADOT also monitors noise levels during off-peak hours. Noise levels could be distinctly higher in the evening because vehicles cause substantially more noise at higher speeds. With fewer vehicles on freeways in the evening, vehicles are able to travel at higher speeds than in the peak periods. Higher speeds were found to cause high late-evening traffic noise.

If this condition were to be experienced along the proposed freeway ADOT would first investigate the occurrence and, if warranted, seek to reduce the noise to levels that would meet ADOT policy and FHWA regulations. It is ADOT policy to monitor a new freeway for 3 years.

Rubberized asphalt pavement pilot program

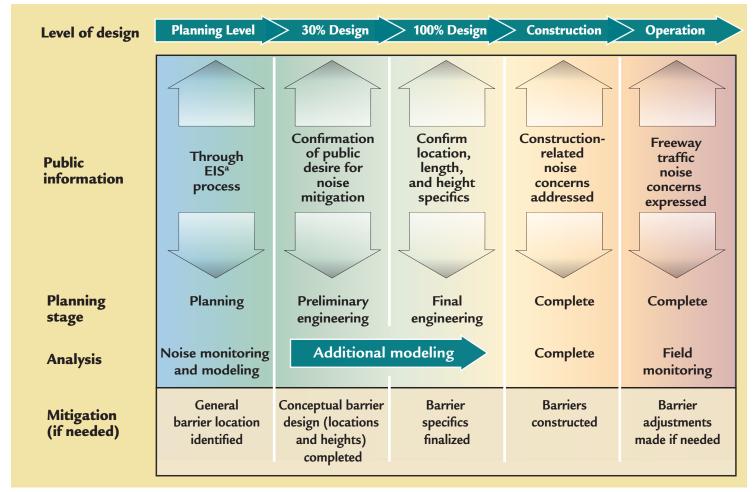
In 2003, ADOT and FHWA started a pilot program to study the noise reduction potential of rubberized asphalt pavement overlays.

The goal of the rubberized asphalt overlay program is to reduce traffic noise levels from freeways by 4 dBA. Initial noise measurements completed for the pilot study indicate the traffic noise reduction goal of 4 dBA for rubberized asphalt pavement is realistic; however, mitigation credit cannot be taken for potential noise reductions.

barriers in selected locations along whatever action alternatives might be implemented—if any—freeway noise would be reduced to levels that would meet ADOT policy and FHWA regulations for abatement. Under the No-Action Alternative, travel speeds would generally be reduced (along with noise levels) because of increased congestion near modeled receivers, but noise levels would increase in other areas, such as along arterial streets.

ADOT would continue to encourage the public's involvement in freeway-related noise issues through final design, construction, and operation of the proposed action (see Figure 4-33).

Figure 4-33 Noise Barrier Process



^a environmental impact statement

The determination of the location, length, and height of noise barriers requires multiple stages of modeling analysis and offers the public a number of opportunities to gather information and provide comments.