

FILE



CH2MHILL

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135 South 84th Street
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January 18, 2006

Mr. Fred Haerter, P.E.
Village Engineer
Village of Caledonia
6922 Nicholson Road
Caledonia, WI 53108

Subject: SIH 38 Corridor Study
(CTH K to Oakwood Road)
Racine and Milwaukee Counties
Project I.D. 2290-06-03
Noise Notification

Dear Mr. Haerter:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) recognizes the importance of making local land use/development decisions along the SIH 38 corridor that are compatible with future traffic noise to the extent practicable. This Noise Notification is being provided to assist local officials in achieving this goal.

Local governments are responsible for exercising land development controls/zoning and have the authority to implement measures that would improve compatibility between planned future development and the noise environment along the SIH 38 corridor.

Noise criteria for WisDOT highway projects are found in Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter TRANS 405 – Siting Noise Barriers. The maximum acceptable noise level for residential development is 67 dBA (decibels using the A-weighted scale for human hearing) and 72 dBA for commercial development. When noise for a highway project “approaches or exceeds” these thresholds, feasible and reasonable measures to reduce noise must be considered. “Approach” is defined as 1 dBA less than the maximum threshold for a given land use category (66 dBA for residential and 71 dBA for commercial). On presently undeveloped land, WisDOT recommends that no future noise sensitive (residential) development be allowed where traffic noise is at 66 dBA. State and federal transportation funds are not available for noise abatement measures where noise sensitive development is allowed to occur within such areas.

The attached graph illustrates future noise levels at varying distances from SIH 38 where land adjacent to the highway is presently undeveloped (no existing buffers or shielding).

Traffic volumes expected to occur in design year 2035 were used to predict the noise levels, and the distances are measured from the centerline of SIH 38


As shown on the graph, a distance of about 100 to 170 feet would be needed to meet the 66 dBA noise threshold for residential development. This range reflects the varying traffic conditions along the SIH 38 corridor.

You can use this information to help ensure compatibility between future highway noise and planned development. There are several land use controls available such as exclusive zoning, building codes and setbacks, subdivision regulations, and use of landscaped berms or other features to minimize noise. A publication titled *The Audible Landscape* produced by the Federal Highway Administration in the mid 1970's is an excellent guide to land use development adjacent to highways. Interested persons may request a copy by calling the WisDOT Bureau of Environment (608) 267-9806.

In summary, WisDOT urges you to use this Noise Notification to the extent possible in the interest of providing a quieter environment for future development along SIH 38. Please share this Notification with those you feel would benefit, such as potential developers, or those who make decisions about what types of development to permit within your municipality along SIH 38. If you have any questions about this Notification, please call Jay Waldschmidt, WisDOT Noise and Air Quality Engineer, Bureau of Equity and Environmental Services at (608) 267-9806.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL


Charlie Webb
Project Manager



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January 18, 2006

Mr. Doug Seymour, Director
Department of Community Development
City Of Oak Creek
8640 S Howell Ave
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Subject: STH 38 Corridor Study
(CTH K to Oakwood Road)
Racine and Milwaukee Counties
Project I.D. 2290-06-03
Noise Notification

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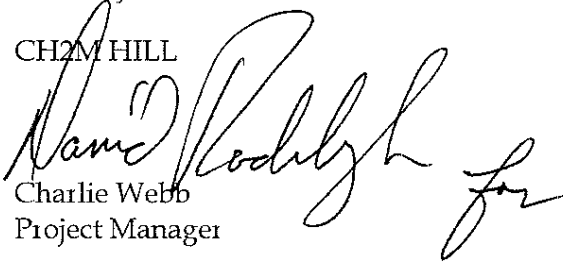
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Sincerely,

CH2M HILL


Charlie Webb
Project Manager

c: Wayne St. John, Director, Dept. of Public Works

**Predicted Noise Levels for Design Year 2035
for Future Land Use Purposes
WIS 38 Corridor Study (CTH K to Oakwood Road)
Racine and Milwaukee Counties**

