

MD 97 Montgomery Hills Project Planning Study Noise Analysis & Impact Summary Update – December 1, 2015

An analysis of traffic noise impacts from proposed improvement options along MD 97 has been conducted based on the 2011 State Highway Administration Highway Noise Policy and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) highway noise regulation (23CFR772). Given the similarity of the various build alternatives; overall noise impact is considered basically the same for any of these alternatives.

A total of 31 separate land use areas were identified in the project area; 20 are considered noise-sensitive. Of the 20, five (5) areas were identified as impacted; three of which are residential. Existing and future noise levels will approach or exceed the FHWA noise abatement criteria level of 66 decibels at the following residential Noise Sensitive Areas (NSAs):

- The Americana Finmark/Blundon Estates condominiums (NSA 01-B), located at the northwest corner of MD 97 and Forest Glen Road
- The townhouse community of Woodside Hills, along southbound MD 97 north and south of Locust Grove Road (NSA 03-B)
- The homes along southbound MD 97 between 16th Street and Grace Church Road (NSA 06-B)

Noise barriers have been determined to be feasible and reasonable for NSAs 01-B and 06-B, pending coordination with the affected property owners and residents. At the Woodside Hills community (NSA 03-B), site geometry and other constraints may pose feasibility issues for providing an effective noise barrier system.

In addition to the residential NSAs, future noise levels will also approach or exceed FHWA noise abatement criteria at two non-residential NSAs; a daycare facility playground (NSA 04-C) located adjacent to existing southbound 16th Street, at Luzerne Avenue, and at the basketball courts for the Auburn School (NSA 16-C) adjacent to northbound MD 97 at Flora Lane. Noise barriers for both areas have been found to be both feasible and reasonable.

Further study of all impacted NSAs is ongoing and when an alternative has been selected and the project enters the design phase, coordination with the affected property owners and residents will be conducted.