



# MEMO TO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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**From:** Caleb Hood, Community Development      **Meeting Date:** August 3, 2020  
**Presenter:** Jonathan Walker      **Estimated Time:** 20 minutes  
**Topic:** US 20/26 Cross-Section and Residential Noise Mitigation Request

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The City received the below correspondence earlier this month. City Staff has requested ITD Staff attend the August TC meeting to address concerns brought up by Mr. Walker. Jayme Coonce, the ITD Project Manager should be in attendance.

Here is the most applicable section of City Code (UDC 11-3H-4D):

D. Noise abatement shall be required for residential and other noise sensitive uses including, but not limited to, education institutions, churches or places of religious worship, libraries and/or hospitals adjoining state highways: (Ord. 10-1439, 1-12-2010, eff. 1-18-2010)

1. The applicant shall provide traffic noise abatement by constructing a berm or a berm and wall combination approximately parallel to the state highway.
  2. The top of the berm or berm and wall in combination shall be a minimum of ten feet (10') higher than the elevation at the centerline of the state highway.
  3. If a wall is proposed, the wall shall meet the following standards:
    - a. Wall materials shall be impervious concrete or stucco or other appropriate sound attenuating material.
    - b. Intermittent breaks in the berm or berm and wall in combination will degrade the function and shall not be allowed.
    - c. The applicant shall not construct a monotonous wall. In order to achieve this standard, the applicant may choose one or both of the following variations:
      - (1) The color and/or texture of the wall shall be varied every three hundred (300) linear feet. This could include murals or artwork.
      - (2) The wall shall be staggered every three hundred (300) linear feet subject to subsection D3b of this section that prohibits breaks in the wall.
  4. The director may approve alternative compliance as set forth in chapter 5, "Administration", of this title where the applicant has a substitute noise abatement proposal in accord with ITD standards and prepared by a qualified sound engineer. (Ord. 05-1171, 8-30-2005, eff. 9-15-2005)
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**Message:**

My name is Jonathan Walker and I currently live at 4102 W Silver River Street within the City of Meridian. My backyard abuts the southern edge of Chinden Blvd about a mile west of the intersection with Ten Mile road, in the Bainbridge subdivision which I believe is managed by Brighton homes. Due to our proximity to some of the major projects involving roadway development and Costcos, I have paid a great deal of attention to developments with the expansion of Chinden Blvd.

My family Moved here last November (2019), so we missed out on many of the meetings that provided detailed information about the project, so we have largely relied on historical information released by the city to better understand how the project will affect my family and our neighborhood.

As the roadway has actually been "roughed in" laying where the actual borders will lie, I think the actual measurements, specifically how close the southern border is to our fence line, is much closer than the 2017 impact statement used during the study. On the Corridor study, the measurements showed a total of 8'/shoulder, 22'/treatment clear zone, and 14'/pathway & utilities which also included a 10ft sidewalk. Those measurements suggested that there would be at least a 44' ft buffer between traffic and our backyard, plus any berms or trees/vegetation planted. In reality, now that the curb has been layed down, it looks like there may be only about 30-32' between the right hand travel lane and our back fence. That appears to me to be approximately a reduction of 25% in how much of a noise/safety buffer there would be between yards and the roadway, from what was suggested in the study. With the exception of single ply wooden fence, there is NO barrier between a 50+mph road and multiple backyards along this stretch of road, with less than 35' between the roadway and backyards. I think this is very dangerous if not addressed by reasonable means.

I understand the roadway needs to be expanded, and I think there could be a pretty cost effective fix for the issue that would be fairly easy. On the southside of Chinden, east of 10 mile Road, a concrete wall was recently put in behind the homes for both noise abatement and safety. I believe that our fence line is actually closer than those homes, and I wanted to see what we would need to do to get a similar barrier built.

I know the City Council must hear a lot of complaints about this issue, and I understand that the road needs to be expanded. Is there any way that I could make some sort of presentation to the council to bring photos and explain why I think we need a barrier between the road and our homes? Thank you for taking the time to listen to my complaint, any assistance you could provide in the matter would be greatly appreciated. Thanks.

Very Respectfully,  
Jonathan Walker

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