



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING FOR JUNE 27, 2022

Present: Mayor Frank Bubenik, Council President Nancy Grimes, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Maria Reyes, Councilor Valerie Pratt, Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Christen Sacco

Work Session

Mayor Bubenik called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. Basalt Creek Parkway – Noise Analysis & Abatement.

Washington County Senior Project Manager Renus Kelfkens and Noise Analysis Consultant Michael Minor presented information on traffic noise in relation to the Basalt Creek Parkway Extension project. He presented an introduction to acoustics by talking about how noise is perceived in Decibels (dB) in relation to traffic noise. Consultant Minor spoke to how foliage, structures, and topography impact noise. He stated the FHWA traffic noise policy requires noise abatement at 67 dBA for residences and schools and 72 dBA for hotels and businesses. Consultant Minor stated FHWA criteria state abatement must be reasonable and feasible by reducing noise impacts by 5-7 dB and the cost is within a specific amount based on the number of units with benefit. Consultant Minor stated noise studies are required when a new road is built in a new location, capacity is added, a substantial realignment occurs, and for public information. He stated a traffic noise analysis measures and predicts noise levels, identifies noise impacts, examines noise mitigation, and conducts a benefit-cost review. Consultant Minor stated noise barriers are typically prefabricated or cast in place walls in the public right-of-way. He stated architectural treatments such as upgraded windows and ventilation systems are only for noise abatement at schools, hospitals, churches, and libraries. Consultant Minor stated noise wall effectiveness depends on roadway, receiver, and wall locations/elevations. He stated noise reduction criteria include at least one receiver achieving 7dB noise reduction and an average reduction of front-line receivers with noise impacts that must be less than 5dB. Consultant Minor explained the costs for ODOT requirements including available capital being \$25,000 for each benefited receiver with a wall cost having a multiplier of \$20 a square foot of wall. He stated ODOT allows some special considerations for noise level increases of more than 15 dB and a noise level of more than 70dB at residential uses.

Manager Renus Kelfkens spoke to the need and general alignment for the Basalt Creek Parkway. He stated the concept plan (including land uses) was approved in 2018. Consultant Minor shared the Basalt Creek Parkway noise analysis. He stated there is not enough density in the area to justify the cost of a wall. Consultant Minor stated noise abatement challenges in the area include the difficulty and cost to install walls on bridges and the fact there is only one benefitted residence. He noted there are future noise mitigation opportunities if development happens in the area.

Councilor Pratt asked if there will be another noise study done when the project is ready to be funded and built. Consultant Minor stated if there are new planned and permitted developments they will have to do another one at that time.

Councilor Pratt asked if the noise study only focused on residential land. Consultant Minor stated they typically only focus on residential, as commercial properties are not noise sensitive uses.

Councilor Pratt asked how this impacts the wetlands and environmental studies. Consultant Minor stated there are no criteria for wetlands.

Councilor Pratt asked if the additional traffic noise along Boones Ferry was included. Consultant Minor stated it was included as it was within 1,000 feet of the project limits.

Councilor Pratt asked if the type of traffic was considered, such as heavy truck uses. Consultant Minor stated there was a traffic analysis performed as part of the environmental study and that information fed their noise study.

Councilor Pratt asked how many houses are affected. Consultant Minor stated there are a few houses along the barrier that have impacts, specifically to the north where the residential area is.

Councilor Sacco asked for clarification on the criteria for wildlife. Consultant Minor stated there are no criteria for wildlife unless it is protected land. He stated most roadway noise does not impact animals the way noise impacts people.

Councilor Brooks asked how an elevated bridge over a canyon pushes the noise under the bridge and does not bounce around. Consultant Minor stated the entire structure radiates noise and it is factored into the analysis.

Councilor Brooks stated the bridge is on a grade with a stop light and asked what the decibels are for air breaks for trucks since there will be stopping in the area. Consultant Minor stated they can produce 85-90 dB at 50 feet away.

Councilor Brooks asked about the requirements since it is a new road. Consultant Minor stated it still has the 65dB requirement.

Council President Grimes asked how the City can use those eligible dollars when there are so few homes that qualify. Manager Kelfkens stated the \$35,000 is an allocation based on the criteria not actual dollars to build the wall and the residences in the area fall out of the reasonable criteria to receive the funding.

Council President Grimes asked if additional development north of the roadway will put more homes within the impact area and if there is a point in the future that noise mitigation will be reconsidered again. Consultant Minor stated it could be reconsidered but there will not be federal funds available as it is a type three project.

Council President Grimes asked if there are other mitigating options besides noise walls that the city can receive funding for. Consultant Minor stated there are not additional dollars in Oregon besides the federal dollars.

Councilor Reyes asked for further explanation on wildlife disturbance. Consultant Minor stated at first they are disturbed but they become acclimated quickly.

Councilor Brooks asked if wind flow affects noise travel. Consultant Minor stated temperature and wind affect noise. He stated noise walls only work within 400 feet where wind and temperature can affect much further than that.

Councilor Brooks asked about noise pollution resources the city can provide to residents. Consultant Minor stated he can provide information to the city to help people better understand how noise pollutions works.

Councilor Pratt stated the people who currently live there, live a quiet life, and their only resource is to ask the city for mitigation of the noise.

Mayor Bubenik asked what the decibel level is of a gunshot and a train whistle. Consultant Minors stated a train whistle is 140 dB at 5 feet by law. Mayor Bubenik stated he is miles from these and he can hear these noises.

Mayor Bubenik asked what traffic study was used to help with the noise study since there isn't existing traffic in the area. Consultant Minor stated the model used the existing roadways in the area. Mayor Bubenik stated there will be significant truck traffic in this area as this will be used to divert traffic to I-5. Consultant Minor stated the study accounted for that in the traffic volumes.

Mayor Bubenik asked about the connection over I-5. Manager Kelfkens stated the future projection over I-5 is dependent on the Stafford area coming into the UGB.

Mayor Bubenik asked who will be paying for the noise mitigation. He stated he will be working with the Washington County Commissioners about the funding of this as there is a significant amount of development planned for the area.

Adjournment

Mayor Bubenik adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor