When is a Noise Study Needed?
A noise study is typically required when:
• A new highway alignment is built
• The number of through traffic lanes is increased

What Will a Noise Barrier Do?
• The goal is to reduce traffic noise by at least 5 decibels (dB)
• The amount of noise reduction depends on:
  • Distance of the property from the barrier
  • Distance of the noise source from the barrier
  • Length and height of a barrier
  • Elevation differences among the road, barrier and residences

Advantages
• Can provide an audible reduction in highway traffic noise to areas directly behind the barrier
• Can be designed to be aesthetically pleasing from both the highway and property owner sides of the barrier

Disadvantages
• Can block the view of commercial or landmark signs
• Can adversely affect existing ornamental vegetation in proximity to the barrier
• Trees within FDOT Right-of-Way may be removed in order to construct barriers
• Can create nighttime shadow areas
• Noise barriers can obstruct breezes and sunlight
• Noise barriers may attract graffiti
• Noise barriers may reduce, but not eliminate, traffic noise

Who Gets a Noise Barrier?
• Areas predicted to experience future noise levels of 66 dB are eligible for consideration
• FHWA and FDOT require noise barriers to be feasible and cost reasonable.
  • Feasible
    • Reduces traffic noise by at least 5 dB at two or more sites and by 7 dB at one site
    • Noise barrier can be constructed (based on safety factors, access, right-of-way, maintenance, drainage and utilities)
  • Cost Reasonable
    • Cost per site to build the noise barrier is $42,000 or less
  • Reasonable
    • Consider the viewpoints of the benefitted site owners

Common Sound Levels