NOISE ABATEMENT
DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Noise Abatement Determination is a Three Phased Process:

1. Does eligible land use **WARRANT** noise abatement consideration?
2. Is it **FEASIBLE** to provide noise abatement from an engineering and acoustical performance standpoint?
3. Is it **REASONABLE** to provide noise abatement considering acoustical performance goals, cost/benefit, and the viewpoints of the affected public?

PHASE 1 – Noise Abatement Warranted Criteria

Noise abatement measures are considered on highway projects when design year sound levels:

- Approach or exceed the absolute Noise Abatement Criteria – e.g., 66 dBA or greater for residential land uses
- Increase by 10 dBA or greater over existing year (pre-project) noise levels

PHASE 2 – Noise Abatement Feasibility Criteria

Addresses engineering and acoustical considerations, including:

- Can a noise reduction of at least 5 dBA be achieved at a majority of the impacted receptors (50% or greater)?
- Can the noise abatement be physically constructed without creating conflicts with utilities and drainage, or issues relating to safety, access, and maintenance?

PHASE 3 – Noise Abatement Reasonableness Criteria

- Noise Reduction Design Criteria & Goals
  - Required to obtain 7 dBA or greater reduction for at least one receptor
  - Desired to achieve additional noise reduction goals
- Noise Barrier Cost Reasonableness Value
  - Maximum of 2,000 Square Feet of Barrier per Benefited Receptor
- Consideration of Viewpoints of Owners and Residents
  - A majority (50% or greater) of the returned ballots from benefited receptors must favor the barrier design