



I-5 / 5th Ave NE to NE 92nd St Noise Wall Project – Stage 2 Update

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WSDOT selects a Carsonite product for the construction of Wall 1-North

Maple Leaf's noise wall will be lighter and greener than noise walls we've built in the past. We're building [Wall 1-North](#) with [Carsonite AcoustaShield](#) (pdf 103 kb), a sound barrier system that consists of interlocking planks filled with recycled tire rubber. We're designing and constructing Wall 1-North as the [second stage](#) of the [I-5 / 5th Avenue NE to NE 92nd Street Noise Wall Project](#).

After evaluating different noise wall products, we selected the Carsonite product because it is lightweight and has a small footprint, leading to less construction impacts than traditional materials. Also, we'll be able to disassemble it and potentially reuse it to accommodate Sound Transit's light rail project which is planned for the same location in the future.

Before we selected the Carsonite product for Wall 1-North, we reviewed laboratory tests outlining its noise-reducing capabilities. These tests showed that Carsonite AcoustaShield will provide similar noise reductions to a traditional concrete noise wall. Once Wall 1-North is constructed we'll conduct field monitoring for one year to verify the noise reduction performance of this product. Since this is a new product for use in the state, we'll also evaluate its maintenance qualities and durability over time.

Neighbors share their thoughts about landscaping

Late last year, we [met with neighbors](#) to share updated information about the design of Wall 1-North and hear feedback on proposed landscaping concepts for the neighborhood side of the noise wall. The majority of comments we received indicated support for the [landscaping concept](#) (pdf 286 kb) that is the fullest and has the greatest color variation. We're planning to move forward with this concept.

After construction of Wall 1-North, we'll weed, water and replace failing plants on the neighborhood side of the noise wall for three years to help establish new plants. After three years the landscaping will require community effort to ensure ongoing success.

Proposed change to parking along First Avenue NE

We are working with the Seattle Department of Transportation to [modify parking](#) (pdf 878 kb) along the west side of First Avenue NE from the unsigned existing configuration to parallel parking only. The new configuration would take place after the noise wall is constructed. By requiring parallel parking, we are able to better protect the new noise wall and landscaping from damage by drivers parking in this area.

What's next?

Over the next few months, we'll be finalizing the design of Wall 1-North. In summer 2009, the project will be advertised for competitive bids to contractors. We estimate that this work will support approximately 40 construction-related jobs. Construction should begin in late fall 2009 and last approximately eight to 10 months.

About this e-mail

Please forward this e-mail to others who might be interested. For questions or to be added to the project e-mail list, please contact the project team: 206-770-3636 or NWNoiseWalls@wsdot.wa.gov.

Visit our project Web site for more information:
www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/5thAveNEtoNE92ndNoiseWall.