



## Wall 1-South Community Polling Information

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The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is asking for your opinion through a community poll about a proposed noise wall near your property. The results of this poll will help determine whether or not to build Wall 1-South.

Listed below are a few questions and answers to clarify how WSDOT involves the community in this decision making process.

### Who is eligible to participate in the poll on these proposed noise walls?

Property owners who have property behind the proposed noise wall and within 500 feet of the edge of the traveled lane of I-5 are eligible to participate in the poll. This is because noise walls are designed to reduce noise in neighborhoods close to major highways. Given the characteristics of how noise travels, noise walls are most effective at reducing noise up to 500 feet from the edge of the traveled lane of I-5.

### How does the poll work?

After reviewing the materials in this packet about the characteristics of the proposed noise wall nearest your property, please complete the enclosed ballot. Using a blue or black ballpoint pen, check either the “Yes” or “No” box to indicate your preference. Please also provide us with any additional comments in the space indicated on the ballot. All participants must print their names and sign their ballots for the ballot to be valid.

Ballots must be postmarked by Thursday, July 17, 2008. WSDOT will not count ballots postmarked after this date. Only completed ballots are counted - if property owners do not return a completed ballot, their preferences will not be included in this poll.

### How will the ballots be counted?

There is only one polling ballot per property. Property owners with a property closest to the wall (with a direct line of sight to the wall) will have their ballots counted as 1.5 votes per property. All other properties within 500 feet of the edge of the traveled lane of I-5 will have their ballots counted as 1.0 vote per property. When all ballots have been recorded, WSDOT will evaluate the results to gauge community support.

We will post interim poll results during the polling period. Track the results of the poll on our project Web site:  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/5thAveNEtoNE92ndNoiseWall](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5/5thAveNEtoNE92ndNoiseWall).

## **Why are the ballots weighted?**

The ballots are weighted to reflect how different properties will benefit and be affected by the proximity to the proposed noise wall location. Property owners with a property closest to the wall (with a direct line of sight to the wall) will experience the most benefit from the noise wall and may experience other effects during construction and once the wall is completed. Examples of these potential effects include:

- Short-term construction effects (e.g., increased noise, artificial lighting, dust).
- Alterations, removal, or replacement of the property owner's fence.
- Changes to outdoor use of property (e.g., planting areas, gardens, sitting areas).
- Unauthorized use of the space between the noise wall and chainlink fence.
- Increased shading and/or reduced natural light.
- Changes to landscaping near the proposed wall location, to accommodate construction.

## **How will WSDOT make the final decision regarding the noise wall?**

The community poll is one of many sources of public input that WSDOT receives before continuing with the design and construction of noise walls. Other sources include correspondence with individual property owners, local community organizations, elected officials, and input collected from the June 30, 2008 community open house.

## **What are the implications of a "No" vote?**

If the community indicates that they do not support Wall 1-South, WSDOT will not build this segment of the noise wall. Due to the unique circumstances of Sound Transit's proposed light rail project in this area, the Maple Leaf neighborhood would stay on the statewide priority list. However, the funding allocated from the 2005 Gas Tax to build this noise wall will be returned to the state for use in other projects. If the community decides they do want a noise wall in the future, they will need to pursue additional funding to design and construct the noise wall.

***Details about the location, height and noise reduction benefits for Wall 1-South are included in this packet.***