

In accordance with VDOT's Noise Abatement guidelines, and as approved by the Federal Highway Administration, one of the final steps is to determine the desire of the majority of the owners and residents of benefited properties on whether the proposed noise barrier system should be constructed. The preferred method for this determination is to send certified survey letters; only the owners and residents of those properties that will be benefited by the proposed noise barrier are eligible to vote on. In these mailings, barrier details, contact information, a survey form and return envelope are provided to provide homeowners and residents with an understanding of the proposal and its implications, an opportunity to ask questions, and a formal survey form for expressing their views. If the benefited properties are a part of a homeowner's association, only those owners and residents benefited by the proposed noise barrier will have a vote. The owner and resident of each benefitted property are entitled to one vote of equal value. Any owner and resident opposed to the proposed noise barrier must submit a signed letter or indicate on the voting survey form his/her opposition to the proposed noise barrier; this will serve as an indication that he/she thoroughly understands that there will be future noise impacts and that, if a noise barrier is declined by the community at this time, a noise barrier will not be built in the future for the area unless another Type I project occurs. Of the votes tallied, 50% or more must be in favor of a proposed noise barrier in order for that noise barrier to be considered further. The results of this survey and any supporting letter(s) must be documented in the Final Design Highway Traffic Noise Report and in the project file. Further information about VDOT's Noise Abatement Program may be reviewed on the Department's website: [VDOT Noise barrier walls](#).