

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF GEORGIA**

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

DATE November 13, 2012

FROM Russell McMurry, P.E., Director of Engineering 

TO Divisions of Engineering, Field Districts, and Construction, and the Offices of Program Control, Program Delivery, Engineering Services, and Innovative Delivery, and the Consultant Relations Committee

SUBJECT **Noise Wall Type Selection**

Noise walls are normally constructed of Interlock Steel Panels, Precast Concrete Panels, Treated Timber Panels, Glass Reinforced Thermoset Composite Structural Panels, or Precast Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (PAAC) Panels (refer to [Supplemental Specification 624 – Sound Barriers](#) for further information on these types of noise wall). Transparent or absorptive panels may be specified to address context sensitive or specific design needs, as defined in the project noise study. Transparent or absorptive panel wall types require a project-specific special provision.

The noise assessment process includes public outreach where those benefited by the noise barrier can complete a comment card and express preference for a specific type of noise wall. Public outreach normally occurs during final design and documented in the environmental reevaluation completed for letting, just prior to Final Field Plan Review. The Office of Environmental Services (OES) Air/Noise Unit will provide the results of this public outreach to the project manager and design phase leader.

The design phase leader will include the pay item for the selected noise wall type in the project's CES Cost Estimate. If no preference for a noise wall type is indicated through public outreach, a pay item will be included in the CES Cost Estimate which allows the contractor to select the noise wall type. However, the use of Interlock Steel Panels should be limited to only segments of noise wall mounted on bridge barriers and on retaining walls.

The above guidelines are presented in [Section 6.14 Noise Barriers](#) of the GDOT Design Policy Manual.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Office of Design Policy & Support at (404) 631-1978. You may also contact Ms. Keisha Jackson of the OES Air/Noise Unit at 404 631-1160.

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