



# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH  
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William Cass, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner  
New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
PO Box 483, 7 Hazen Drive  
Concord NH 03302-0482

September 14, 2022

Dear Mr. Cass:

On behalf of the Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, I am writing to inquire on the options available to the City to install a noise barrier alongside I-95 in the area of the New Franklin Elementary School. A project to install noise barriers along I-95 in Portsmouth (#43760) was included in the state's current Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan approved in July 2022.

As you know, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) has conducted an analysis of all areas adjacent to the I-95 corridor in Portsmouth to determine where noise barriers are warranted. This analysis identified the area adjacent to the New Franklin Elementary School as eligible for a privacy fence, but not a noise barrier. While not meeting the standards necessary to qualify for a noise barrier, the school is still impacted by noise from the adjacent highway. To help mitigate the impacts of highway noise on the school campus, the City of Portsmouth is performing due diligence to determine if there is any other way that a noise barrier could be constructed in this location. To that end, there are several questions that we are hoping you may be able to answer to help clarify the City's options.

- Will the NHDOT be performing any structural work in support of, or in addition to, the privacy fence along the side of I-95 in the vicinity of the New Franklin School?
- If the NHDOT is performing any structural work as part of, or in addition to, the privacy fence along the side of I-95 adjacent to the New Franklin School, would it be consistent with the structural work in other areas along the side of I-95 where noise barriers will be installed?
- If the NHDOT is performing structural work as part of the privacy fence, which is consistent with the structural work needed for noise barriers in other locations along I-95, would it be possible for the City to contribute the additional funds necessary to construct a noise barrier in place of the currently contemplated privacy fence?
- If it is possible for the City to contribute the additional funds necessary to construct a noise barrier in place of the currently contemplated privacy fence, what would the difference in cost be to the City?

I look forward to your response and would be happy to discuss this further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

  
Eric B. Eby, P.E.  
City Engineer – Parking, Transportation and Planning  
City of Portsmouth

cc: Karen Conard, City Manager  
Peter Rice, DPW Director  
Jane Ferrini, Assistant City Attorney