

DATE 30 March 1998

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Transportation Committee

FROM/EXP. Councillor Alex Munter

SUBJECT/OBJET **SOUND ATTENUATION ON MARCH ROAD – MORGAN'S GRANT AND BRIARBROOK**

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That Transportation Committee recommend Council approve the sound attenuation measures as outlined by regional staff to address noise issues, and that funding for these measures come from within the previously-approved budget for the March Road project.

BACKGROUND

The staff memorandum (attached hereto) shows that the existing privacy fences along March Road in Morgan's Grant and Briarbrook are inadequate to deal in any way with the current road noise, let alone the levels after the widening. An analysis by a noise expert shows that the current fence on the west side of March Road provides "no acoustical value", while the one on the east side requires repairs to achieve the current sound attenuation standards.

These fences were constructed before there were rules about sound attenuation. In the past, Council has supported the upgrading of substandard fences as part of a road widening project (i.e. Baseline Road and portions of Hunt Club Road).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The existing approved budget for the March Road project has sufficient funds to be able to complete these works within budget.

*Approved by
Alex Munter*

Our File/N/Réf. 50 12-98-R049
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 24 February 1998

TO/DEST. Councillor Alex Munter

FROM/EXP. Manager Transportation Projects Branch
 Engineering Division
 Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **NOISE ISSUES ON MARCH ROAD**

In accordance with your request an up-date to the original 1995 noise study for the March Road Project was completed in the fall of 1997 by S.S. Wilson Associates. Their analysis took into consideration the existing fences, the increased traffic volumes as well as truck volumes, projected to the year 2008.

I. Morgan's Grant

S.S. Wilson has found that the existing fence in Morgan's Grant west of March Road provides "no acoustical value" and the most significant deficiency is based on the height being quite inadequate to provide the sound attenuation. Since this subdivision was constructed before the Region's current sound policy for New Developments, the standard that was used for the fence was consistent with the terms of the subdivision agreement, however it is well below our current policy standards. This fence was constructed on private property outside the road right-of-way.

II. Briarbrook

The Briarbrook fence is generally adequate for height, however it does require repairs to achieve the current standard sound attenuation characteristics. The current fence density is slightly lower than acceptable standard, however it is suggested by S.S. Wilson that by adding wood battens and by extending earth fill to have contact with the bottom of the barrier that adequate attenuation could be achieved. An option of complete fence replacement may also have to be investigated if the current fence cannot be efficiently upgraded.

III. Policy

Although it was found that the existing fences are substandard with respect to the New Development Sound Policy, the Regional improvement is not a "new development". The Policy which governs the current project is the Sound Policy for Widening Regional Roads and under this policy, S.S. Wilson conclude "that with the revised traffic data, there is no need to consider noise mitigation as part of the road widening process as all changes did not exceed 5dBA". In other words, the existing noise levels being experienced in the properties behind the fence is in excess of our new development sound policy but our widening project will not increase them by more than 5dBA.

IV. Past Projects

In the past, Council has supported the upgrading of substandard fences as part of a road widening project (i.e., Baseline Road and portions of Hunt Club Road). The issue of noise is perceived as a major reduction in the quality of life and Council has upgraded fences which were "unwarranted" under the road widening policy.

The cost estimate for replacing the fencing in the Morgan's Grant and Briarbrook areas is in the order of \$370,000.00 and the current project budget has sufficient funds, however, with today's financial constraints we will need direction from Committee and Council regarding this expenditure.



Wayne Bennett, P.Eng.

WB/rk

cc. Jim Miller, P.Eng.
Director Engineering Division
R.J. Singleton, P.Eng.
Engineering Division