

## DECISION TREE FOR NOISE STUDIES

### A PROJECT IS PROPOSED

#### 1. WILL THE PROJECT ADD A THROUGH LANE OF TRAFFIC?

IF YES= document noise with a study  
IF NO= no study required for this scenario

#### 2. Will the project result in a significant change to noise levels due to a horizontal or vertical shift in alignment of the existing roadway? (A significant change in noise levels is defined as a change of 2-3 decibels. A change of 2-3 decibels is just noticeable to a developed property.)

IF YES= document with a study  
IF NO= no study required for this scenario

#### 3. Will the project result in the construction of a new roadway on a new alignment?

IF YES= document with a study  
IF NO= no study required for this scenario

#### 4. Will the project itself result in new traffic noise impacts?\*

IF YES= document with a study  
IF NO= no study required for this scenario

When in doubt, the safest approach is to ask Environmental Services noise specialists if they think a study will be required. Keep in mind that:

- **A study does not mean automatically mean a noise wall**
- **Noise impacts must be documented whether walls will be built or not**
- **Noise studies can vary in depth and cost from project to project.**
- **It may not be possible to mitigate all noise impacts by a noise barrier.**
- **Noise sensitive properties include parks, schools and commercial facilities.**

\* This can occur when shielding next to the highway, such as an embankment, is removed.