**2017 Minnesota Noise Requirements Update Summary**

**Note: Other changes were done throughout the document but were considered only minor edits and therefore not included in the following.**

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| **Cover page** | **Change/No Change** | **Change(s) from “Policy” to “Requirements”** |
| 1.0 Definition | change | * Modify Reasonableness to clarify that it is points based upon the votes (existing practice)
* Added FHWA Undertakings
* Added trail definition
 |
| 2.0 Introduction | change | * Added link to CFR while removing full copy of 23 CFR § 772 from appendix
* Removed references to MINNNOISE, state law noise requirements, L10, L50
 |
| 2.1 Purpose  | change | * Minor changes (e.g. REQUIREMENTS)
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| 2.2 Noise standard | change | * Removed references to MN Rules Chapter 7030
* Outlined Commissioners’ letters process
* Establishes adoption of FHWA regulations to fulfill state law requirements, even in absence of FHWA or FTA nexus.
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| 2.3 Applicability | change | * Restructured to reflect FHWA/FTA Administrators agreement about when 23 CFR 772 applies to an undertaking
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| 2.4 Federal participation | no change |  |
| 3.1 Approved traffic noise prediction tools | change | * Establishes TNM as the accepted noise modeling software
* Establishes clean break from MINNOISE, including that a commitment (i.e. a noise barrier) established as feasible and reasonable in a previous NEPA process will still be provided…given any change in modeling numbers is because of the change in software as opposed to (for example) a material change in horizontal or vertical alignment.
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| 3.2 Noise prediction of alternatives | no change |  |
| 3.3 Use of pavement type | no change |  |
| 3.4 Use of noise contours | no change |  |
| 3.5 Worst traffic noise impact | change | * Minor grammar changes
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| 3.6 Modeling conventions and preferences | change | * Memorialized that managed facilities shall be modeled as their own roadway element (existing practice)
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| 3.7 Determining noise analysis limits beyond project termini | change | * Change from “Federal NAC and/or State Standards” to “Federal NAC”. Change from “Policy” to “Requirements”
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| 3.8 Procedure to address reflected noise from non-acoustical absorptive parallel barriers | change | * When to model
* Options of how to model within TNM
* Intent is that if either one of barriers is not absorptive, must look to see if reflective noise
* Establishes NRC of 0.8 as MnDOT ‘standard’
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| 4.1 Noise impact criteria and assessment | change | * Establishes format of ‘companion document’ (referred to separate submittal)
* References developed flowchart for interior noise analysis process
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| 4.2 Required noise measurements | change | * Establishes that traffic counts shall be taken concurrently with the ambient noise monitoring
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| 5.1 Consideration of noise abatement measures | no change |  |
| 5.2 Feasibility | change | * Change only apply to 1) f. **Maintenance by clarifying that prohibiting certain activities is unacceptable.**
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| 5.3.1 Noise reduction design goals | change | * Reinforces that policy stays with existing approach of maximizing number of benefited receptors up to a 20’ wall height
 |
| 5.3.2 Cost effectiveness | change | * Established new cost effectiveness threshold of $78,500/benefited receptor
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| 5.3.3 Viewpoints of benefited residents and owners | change | * Added “The noise barrier termini can be altered as long…the length of the barrier.” This addition reflects current practice.
* Establishes “…acoustical absorbent concrete post/concrete panel…” as the new MnDOT standard wall design.
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| 5.4 Noise abatement reporting | change | * Establishes that ‘companion document’ must be submitted with the NEPA document
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| 5.5 Analyzing existing noise barriers on type I projects | change | * Change from “in this policy document” to “in this requirements document”
* Adds link to new guidance document: a flowchart for ‘Noise Analysis Guidance on Addressing Existing Noise Barriers’
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| 6.0 Construction noise | change | * Change from “this policy” to “this requirements”
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| 7.1 Noise Study Analysis | change | * Change from “that required policy” to “that required requirements”
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| 7.2 Statement of likelihood | no change |  |
| 8.0 Information for local officials | no change |  |
| Appendix A: Guidance on selection and use of noise analysis locations | change | * Noise analysis location terminology: In the first sentence change “policy” to “requirements”.
* Assigning noise receptors for activity category C: change “ per 200 feet of trail” to “per 250 feet of trail”
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| Appendix B: Guidance and procedures for field noise measurements | change | * Documentation: change “L10” to “Leq”
* Reporting measurement data: deleting L10, L50 and address
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| Appendix C: Guidance on determining worst noise hour | change | * Example write-up for loudest traffic noise hour: replace daytime L10 and L50 with Leq and modify table
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| Appendix D: Guidance on traffic noise analysis documentation | change | * 3.) Predicted noise levels and noise impacts: change
* 4.) Consideration of noise abatement: change “$20/SF” to “$36/SF”.
* Noise reporting format for select Section 4f resources
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| Appendix E: Guidance on public involvement related to noise studies | change | * Public interaction timing: change
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| Appendix F: Guidance for evaluating viewpoints of benefited receptors | change | * Sample letter soliciting owner/resident viewpoint: change applies to envelop example, ballot example and solicitation letter template
* Example of resident/owner viewpoint point counting: change from “policy procedure” to “requirements” and change “policy” to “requirements”.
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| Appendix G: Reference and links to additional requirements, guidance and standards | change | * MnDOT noise analysis resources: change “Policy” to “Requirements”
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| Appendix H: Commissioner’s letters | change | * This appendix is added to this requirements.
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