

State won't fund I-275 noise barriers

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Although the noise level from I-275 is above the state's recommended level for some Farmington Hills properties along the freeway, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will not finance noise barriers to ease the problem.

"They (MDOT officials) indicated they will not build or provide noise barriers in the area in question," City Manager William Costick told council Monday.

Despite the state's decision not to pay for requested noise barriers, the

city is not able to install them, Costick said.

"The noise barriers are very costly. I don't know that anyone has spent city money on noise barriers," he added.

At the request of Farmington Hills homeowners near I-275, city officials in November asked the MDOT to conduct a noise analysis — at no cost to the city — along the freeway, from Eight Mile to mid-way between Nine and 10 Mile roads. Council also asked the MDOT to consider the installation of noise barriers in this area.

Although results of MDOT's noise analysis shows that decibels along segments of the highway exceed the federal standard of 67 decibels, the homes on these properties were developed after the freeway was built and thus the MDOT is not required to install noise barriers, Costick said.

Although two noise barriers would be required — one on each side of the road — MDOT does not allow such installation for individual homes, according to the letter. The cost for each noise barrier would be an estimated \$150,000-\$250,000.

"Because of this expense, department policy does not allow noise walls to be built for individual homes. The cost of the wall to protect one home is not a justifiable use of public funds," MDOT officials said in the letter.

A third site along northbound I-275, north of Nine Mile, where Amurcon Corp. is developing apartments is also

receiving noise levels above 67 decibels.

MDOT OFFICIALS received a request from corporate officials for the construction of a berm along the rental development. But MDOT officials said no.

"However, we had to inform them that noise mitigation for development which occurs after the freeway is constructed, must be funded by the developer. Department efforts are being directed towards noise abatement for sites which were in existence before the freeway," according to the letter.

In 1981, MDOT staff conducted a general inventory of traffic noise levels of areas fronting on the state's limited access freeways, including I-275, between Eight and Nine Mile roads. Inventory results showed that noise levels in that area were only slightly above MDOT maximum decibel rates. That rating put I-275 on the low end of

the priority list.

But members of the Meadowbrook Hills and Woods and Park homeowners associations — abutting I-275 near the city's southwest corner — as well as Amurcon Corp. officials consider the traffic noise along the freeway to be bothersome enough to ask for help.

O&E sports...
your guide to local scores

Heart classes are scheduled

St. Mary Hospital will host a series of free classes for heart patients and their families.

"Learning to Live With Your Heart Condition" begins at 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 10, and continues Mondays and Wednesdays in St. Mary Hospital's fifth floor classroom, 36475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Topics include what causes heart disease and how risks can be reduced. Also diet, physical activity, medications and stress.

IN MEADOWBROOK Park subdivision along northbound I-275, south of Nine Mile, for example, homes behind a berm in that area are receiving noise levels of 64 decibels, according to a letter from MDOT officials. Five homes in that area, which are not protected by the berm, are receiving noise levels in excess of 67 decibels, the letter continued.

At a second site just north of Nine Mile, two homes on each side of I-275 are receiving noise levels in excess of the federal standard with one in excess of 71 decibels.

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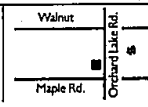
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Events

MARCH

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

Looking forward to a vacation or warm weather... see the latest in recreational vehicles on display throughout the mall, now through March 2.

WAYNE COUNTY READING COUNCIL

Hands-on exhibits showing how reading can be fun through games, skill tables, a slide presentation and storytelling stations are presented by the Wayne County Reading Council, March 8.

MADMOISELLE ON LOCATION

Fashion Editors from Mademoiselle Magazine will be at Westland, co-sponsored by Hudson's, to do makeup and hairstyle makeovers and present a Fashion Show. Makeover participants, selected from the audience, will model in the Fashion Show and may be chosen to appear in a future issue of Mademoiselle, March 8, at 2 pm.

BETT'S FINE ART SHOW

Artisans display their crafts in watercolor, oils, pastels, photography, pottery and more. March 13 - 16.

EASTERVILLE, U.S.A.

The Bunny Express stops at Easterville, U.S.A. See live baby animals and the Easter Bunny who's waiting to visit with all his little friends. Instant photos are available. March 21 - 29.

SMURFS

Papa Smurf, Brainy Smurf and Clumsy Smurf will be at Westland to delight all with their musical show. The Smurfs will be available for photographs with children at Easterville, U.S.A. March 21 and 22. Shows are at 11 am, 2 pm, 4 pm and 7 pm.

CALVARY CHOIR


An Easter musicale performed by the Calvary Choir on March 22 at 3 pm, in the JCPenney Court.

SPRING FASHION SHOW

Easter finery on parade along with refreshing new fashions for spring and summer. March 22 at 11 am and 4 pm.

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