

MDOT noise remedy leaves residents skeptical

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Those who drive on I-275 say it's quieter since the state diamond ground the concrete surface.

Those who live along the state's second-busiest freeway contend the traffic noise is still like being next to a cement mixer.

A recent Michigan Department of Transportation study shows noise levels dropped by at least 5.5 decibels after workers ground down existing grooves, which were believed to be the cause of the roar. The \$2 million project was completed in mid-October.

"Actually I notice when I'm driving on the freeway, it's quieter," said Barb Vandette, who lives on Swathmore Lane. "In my back yard, there's not much of a difference."

Vandette's neighbor agreed. "It's still the same; it's irritating noise," Bert Caladino said. "At night or in the morning when people run their trucks, there's more noise."

MDOT officials maintained the diamond-grinding process would reduce noise, but wasn't intended to be the panacea for those living closest to I-275.

Livonia Families Near I-275 wanted the state to place an asphalt overlay on the five-mile stretch of freeway. State officials argued the estimated \$9 million cost was prohibitive.

State officials measured sound levels of between 74 and 80 decibels on southbound I-275, between Five and 10 Mile. On northbound I-275, levels ranged from 78-80 decibels.

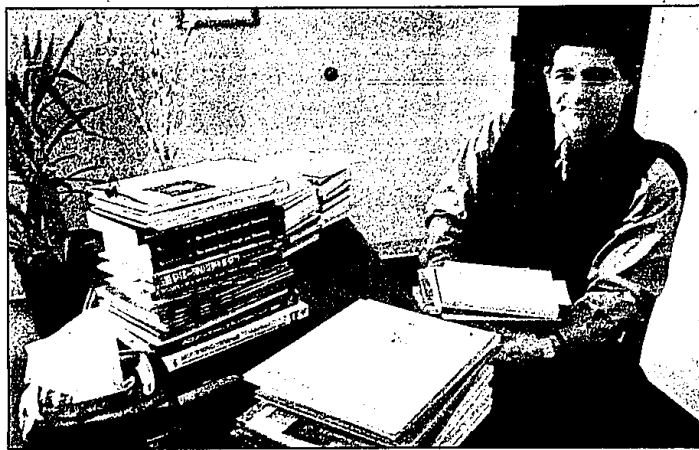
A November 1999 MDOT study registered levels of 75-81 decibels. Anything more than 67 decibels meets the Federal Highway Administration's standard for noise abatement.

"It's quieter than it used to be," said Ari Adler, MDOT spokesman. "Will it ever be quiet enough for those who choose to live near a freeway in metropolitan Detroit? Probably not."

"We've done what we could have and certainly improved the situation."

Engineers measured levels 42-100 feet from the center of the freeway's outside lane, Adler said. MDOT used the FHWA's Traffic Noise Model formula.

"You're not going to have the exact same vehicles going by," Adler said. "So you have to have something for an exact comparison."



Grief support: Jon Dorfman of Dorfman Chapel has gathered books and videos for a grief library that the Farmington Hills funeral home will make available to the community, free of charge.
STAFF PHOTO BY BILL FREDMAN

For those who grieve Dorfman offers bereavement resources

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Helping people deal with grief is the goal of a unique Bereavement Library, opening Monday at the Dorfman Chapel on Twelve Mile in Farmington Hills.

While the Dorfman Chapel caters to Jewish services, Jon Dorfman stresses the library is for all.

"We really want to focus on kids. We have work books, coloring books; we'll make it open to the entire community," Dorfman said. "We even have videos. There will be no charge, like going to a library and checking out a book."

Dorfman said his educational background sparked the idea. He holds a master's degree in marriage and family psychology from Wayne State University. "I used to do a lot of support groups and counseling. I always thought books were helpful."

"Some families don't really want to go to a support group, they're afraid," Dorfman said. "Books ease them into education, they give a better understanding of grief and bereavement. They can use it at their own pace."

Dorfman said the best books on grief tend to focus on the idea that the emotion is universal, after a significant loss.

"You're not crazy, these are normal reactions to grief," Dorfman said. "Most people feel no one else feels like they do; that's what most of the books focus on."

A few days before the library opening, books were piled on the floor of an anteroom off of the main room of the chapel, done in cherry wood and featuring spacious windows to allow natural lighting. Among the children's titles was, "Living When a Young Friend Commits Suicide."

Several children's books are specialized for those dealing with the loss of a sibling, parent, or grandparent. There are also

specialized books for adults on losing a spouse.

Dorfman said he found the books to stock the library from companies that specialize in the subject of grief, and from recommendations. He was already familiar with some titles.

"Besides hundreds of topics covering death and dying, we have also included books about hospices, living with an ill person and how to handle death before, during and after," Dorfman said.

Library hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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Jon Dorfman
—Dorfman Chapel

Botsford earns accreditation

Botsford General Hospital recently earned accreditation from the American Osteopathic Association Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program.

Botsford passed muster after a team of surveyors from the Healthcare Facilities Education Program measured the hospital against a benchmark of hundreds of recognized standards relating to each area and function of the facility.

"We are pleased to have earned accreditation by HFAP," says Gerson Cooper, president and CEO, Botsford General Hospital.

"Botsford seeks this voluntary accreditation because we are committed to providing our patients with the highest quality of care and being accredited by HFAP challenges us to attain that high level of care."

HOLIDAY VISIONS

December 7, 2001
4:00 — 10:00 p.m.
Downtown Birmingham

- ★ Free Gift Wrap
- ★ Free Carriage Rides
- ★ Live Strolling Entertainment
- ★ Storefront Decorating Contest
- ★ Purchase a \$15 Birmingham holiday snow globe with proceeds benefiting Forgotten Harvest
- ★ In-store Events and Activities

