



Traffic Noise Practitioners Summit

October 21-22, 2015 • Hotel Monaco • Baltimore, Maryland

Session 1 23 CFR 772: Type I Project Definitions

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 - Participants:
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 - > Tom Hanf, Michigan DOT
 - Greg Smith, North Carolina DOT

What are Type I Projects?

per FHWA Traffic Noise FAQs, May 2015

1. The construction of a highway on a new location



- 2. The physical alteration of an existing highway where there is either:
 - a. Substantial Horizontal Alteration. A project that halves the distance between the traffic noise source and the closest receptor, from the existing condition to the future build condition, or;

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b. Substantial Vertical Alteration. A project that removes shielding, exposing the line-of-sight between receptor and traffic noise source - by either altering the vertical alignment of the highway or by altering the topography between the highway traffic noise source and the receptor



Increasing the Height of an Overcrossing



Multi-Use Path: Constructing a Gap in the Berm

- The addition of a through-traffic lane(s). This includes the addition of a through-traffic lane that functions as a HOV lane, High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane, bus lane, or truck climbing lane; or,
- 4. The addition of an auxiliary lane, except for when the auxiliary lane is a turn lane; or,
- 5. The addition or relocation of interchange lanes or ramps added to a quadrant to complete an existing partial interchange; or,





- 6. Restriping existing pavement for the purpose of adding a through-traffic lane or an auxiliary lane
- 7. The addition of a new or substantial alteration of a weigh station, rest stop, ride-share lot or toll plaza.





If a project is determined to be a Type I project under this definition then the entire project area as defined in the environmental document is a Type I.



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Type I Projects Definitions

CEE Noise Practitioners Summit 2015 October 21-22, 2015 Baltimore, MD

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Today's Presentation

- What's in 23 CFR 772?
- What's in the FHWA guidance?
- Florida's additional definitions for auxiliary lanes and interchange ramps work



What's in 23 CFR 772?

Type I project

- (1) Construction of highways on new location
- (2) Physical alteration of existing highway horizontal or vertical
- (3) The addition of a through-traffic lane(s). This includes the addition of a through-traffic lane that functions as a HOV lane, High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane, bus lane, or truck climbing lane; or,
- (4) The addition of an <u>auxiliary lane</u>, except for when the auxiliary lane is a turn lane; or,
- (5) The <u>addition</u> or <u>relocation</u> of <u>interchange lanes</u> <u>or ramps added</u> <u>to a quadrant</u> to complete an existing partial interchange; or,



What's in 23 CFR 772?

Type I project

- (6) Restriping existing pavement to add additional through traffic lanes or auxiliary lanes
- (7) Addition of a new or substantial alteration of weigh stations, rest stops, ride share lots, or toll plazas



What's in the FHWA guidance?

FHWA Guidance for Type I Projects Involving Auxiliary Lanes:

- The <u>addition of an auxiliary lane</u> is a Type I project, unless the auxiliary lane is a turn lane.
- Highway agencies should take a broad approach to defining turn lanes when considering projects with auxiliary lanes.
- Consideration of <u>auxiliary lanes</u> <u>on local roads</u> should be <u>limited to</u> <u>those that could</u> be used as a through lane (including bus or truck climbing lanes) <u>rather</u> than lanes used for parking, speed change, turning or storage for turning or weaving.
- For <u>interstates</u>, <u>limit consideration</u> to <u>auxiliary lanes between two</u> <u>closely spaced interchanges to accommodate weaving traffic and</u> <u>auxiliary lanes carried through one or more interchanges</u>.



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Auxiliary Lanes:

<u>Florida's "Plans Preparation Manual" defines "auxiliary lanes" as:</u> "The designated widths of roadway pavement marked to separate speed change, turning, passing and climbing maneuvers from through traffic. They may also provide short capacity segments."

<u>Wikipedia</u>

A <u>turn lane</u> is set aside for slowing down and making a turn, so as not to disrupt traffic. By removing turning traffic from the through lanes, motorist safety is improved and delay is removed.



Auxiliary Lanes

Sooo.... based on 23 CFR 772, <u>addition of an auxiliary lane</u> is Type I project.

Based on the FDOT definition of <u>auxiliary lane</u>, the following could be Type I projects:

- Acceleration lanes
- Deceleration lanes
- Turning lanes
- Two way left turn lanes
- Weaving lanes
- Passing lanes
- Truck climbing lanes (not many in Fl.)
- Operational lanes (extra lane between interchanges)



Auxiliary Lanes

FHWA guidance:

<u>Local roads</u> – limit consideration <u>to auxiliary lanes that could be used as through lanes</u> (including bus or truck lanes).

Argument: Define "auxiliary lanes that could be used as through lanes".

Interstates (freeways and expressways?) – limit consideration to:

- auxiliary lanes between two closely spaced interchanges (to accommodate weaving) and - auxiliary lanes carried through one or more interchanges (operational lanes)

Argument:

- What is a closely spaced interchange? (See table in next slide)

- Other auxiliary lanes (other than lanes carried though one or more interchanges) between "not" closely spaced interchanges. (Ex. Long acceleration lanes)



Interchange lanes and ramps

Not much guidance on what constitutes...

<u>addition</u> or <u>relocation</u> of <u>interchange lanes</u> <u>ramps added to a quadrant</u> to complete an existing partial interchange

... other than the language in the rule.

<u>Adding</u> a lane – Are all lane additions considered adding capacity, therefore a Type I? What constitutes a lane <u>relocation</u>? Distance relocated? New distance between outside of lane and receptor (reduce by ½)?

<u>Realignment</u> of existing ramps – not addressed, how much realignment? Considered a lane relocation?

Extension (lengthening) of existing acceleration lanes (max. length of acceleration lane?)



Based on discussions with the FHWA Florida Division and new online guidance from FHWA....

FDOT developed a Type I Projects Matrix to assist the FDOT Districts in better identifying what projects are considered Type I projects including clarification of unique situations that are not clear in the rule or guidance.



Type 1		Type 1	<u>Not</u> Type 1 (No Noise Study Required)
	1	Construction of highway on new location	
	2	New or relocated interchanges	
	3	Addition of new interchange ramps (add a ramp where no ramps existed). Viewed as a new location.	
	4	Relocation of an interchange ramp where the edge of the outside lane on any segment of the ramp reduces the distance to the closest receptor by one-half. (See #6 for realignment of ramps)	



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5	Increasing capacity to an existing on	
	or off interchange ramp (by adding	
	lanes) including associated merge	
	lanes. Viewed as a new location.	
6	Lengthening an existing interchange	Lengthening an existing interchange
	ramp's acceleration or deceleration	ramp's acceleration or deceleration lane
	lane and associated merging into	and associated merging into the mainline
	the mainline to a total of more than	(total length less than 2500 feet), or re-
	2500 feet (from the gore to the end	aligning where any segment of the ramp
	of the lane), or re-aligning where	reduces the distance to the closest
	any segment of the ramp reduces	receptor by one-half.
	the distance to the closest receptor	
	by one-half.	
7	Alteration of the horizontal	Alteration of the horizontal alignment of
	alignment of an existing highway	an existing highway such that the edge of
	such that the edge of the outside	the outside lanes DOES NOT REDUCE the
	lane reduces the distance to the	distance to the closest receptor by one-
	closest receptor by one-half.	half.



8	Alteration of the vertical alignment,	
	or the surrounding topography,	
	where existing shielding is removed	
	and the line of sight between the	
	noise source and the receptor is	
	now direct. (Activity does not	
	include removal of vegetation).	
9	Addition of new through-lanes that	
	increase capacity to an existing	
	highway. (Noise analysis required on	
	both sides of the highway whether	
	the lanes are all in one direction or	
	both directions of travel.)	
10	Restriping existing pavement to add	
	a through-lane or auxiliary lane (See	
	#13, #14 and #15 for auxiliary	
	lanes).	



11	Addition of new or substantially altered weight station, rest stop, ride share lot or toll plaza.	
12	Addition of ramps or new lanes serving as climbing lanes for buses and trucks.	
13	Addition of <u>auxiliary lanes</u> used as a through lanes on local roads.	



14	Auxiliary lanes on freeways and expressways connecting two or more interchanges (continuous lanes longer than 2500 feet from gore to gore).	Auxiliary lanes on freeways and expressways connecting two closely spaced interchanges (less than 2500 feet from gore to gore) to accommodate weaving traffic.
15		Turn lanes at intersections associated with arterial highways
16		Bicycle and Pedestrian paths
17		Safety activities (23 USC 402)
18		Landscaping



19	Installation of fencing, signs, pavement markings, small passenger shelters, traffic signals, railroad warning signals (that don't disrupt traffic patterns)
20	Deployment of electronics, photonics, communications, information processing to improve safety and security
21	Re-surfacing, restoration, rehabilitation or reconstruction of an existing facility (unless there is a change in horizontal or vertical alignment per 7 & 8 above).
22	Electronic toll collection facilities that do not disrupt traffic patterns.





Input? Discussion? Questions?

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Michigan DOT Experience

CEE Noise Practitioners' Summit Baltimore, Maryland October 21-22, 2015

Tom Hanf Michigan DOT















Other Type I Challenges

Park and Ride Lots Substantial Vertical Alteration

Thank You!

Type I Project Definitions Considerations

2 NC Projects for Consideration

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228 Total Receptors

69 Existing Impacts69 No-Build Impacts91 Build Impacts2.0 dB(A) Average NL Increase3 dB(A) Maximum NL Increase







- Estimated Project Construction = \$ 1,015,000
- Estimated Total Wall Cost = \$560,000 \$830,000 or
 55 - 82 % of Construction Cost

Project Abandoned

I-40 Between Interchanges



- Approximately 4500 ft. Lane Between Interchange Ramps To Provide Safer Weave Pattern
- Ends in Exit Ramp (Right Turn)

I-40 Between Interchanges

- Per FHWA Online FAQ, "an auxiliary lane should classify the project as Type I if the auxiliary lane is 2,500 feet or longer".
- Per 23 CFR 772, A Type I project is required with "the addition of an auxiliary lane, except for when the auxiliary lane is a turn lane".
- Per FHWA Analysis & Abatement Guidance, "for interstates, limit consideration to auxiliary lanes between two closely spaced interchanges to accommodate weaving traffic and auxiliary lanes carried through one or more interchanges".

Type I Project?





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- Jordahl-Larson, MN: How to determine the "substantial vertical alteration" without having to conduct a full noise impact analysis?
- Guidance on existing barriers on Type I projects
- > Tedford, CT: How are Type III Projects defined?
- Runkle, IL: We get pushback from our districts wanting a threshold length on the addition of a through-traffic lane before it is considered Type I. Is IL unique in this?





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- Burgin, KY: Will any other project types be added to the definition of Type I? (such as where traffic volumes and speeds are especially light/slow)
- Hanf, MI: Where do manage use lanes that are only scheduled open during peak periods fit in the definition? Auxiliary lanes, through-traffic lanes?
- Burcham, MO: Under the topic "Issues when an entire project is considered Type I if only part of it is Type I." increased project costs?





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- Moch, ND: NDDOT has included provision to in Noise
 Policy Manual to exclude turn lanes or passing lanes that are equal to or less than 2 miles long.
- Evans, NH: Should rumble strip installation projects be added to Type I project definition. Of particular concern is the installation of centerline rumble strips within passing zones adjacent to residential neighborhoods. If included as Type I, what procedures/methods are there for predicting noise levels and determining impacts.
- Dougherty, WV: Should raising the speed limit on an existing FA highway be considered a Type 1 project?





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- Alcala, OH : Issues with the NEPA study area being the noise study area
- Shellenberger, PA: How to handle Type I projects that will only be in place for a limited time until they are reconstructed and will require another analysis. For example, we are restriping to add a lane and mitigation is feasible and reasonable. In a year we are doing a widening to the same roadway. Can we defer the noise analysis or abatement until the second project is completed?
- Polcak, MD: Avoidance of impacts via alignment shift, parapet, etc. vs. analysis and implementation of abatement.