



# Quieter Pavements



Caltrans Division of Environmental Analysis



# Traffic Noise

- Not the loudest, but the most pervasive environmental noise
- \$\$ to mitigate with sound walls
- Quality of life issue for people near major roadways
- Thoughtful design lowers noise impacts
- Pavement #1 Product of Caltrans



# Quieter Pavement Studies

- Awareness
- Develop Measurement Methods
- Inventory various pavement acoustics
- Demonstration & Research Projects
- Longevity studies
- Noise abatement implementation

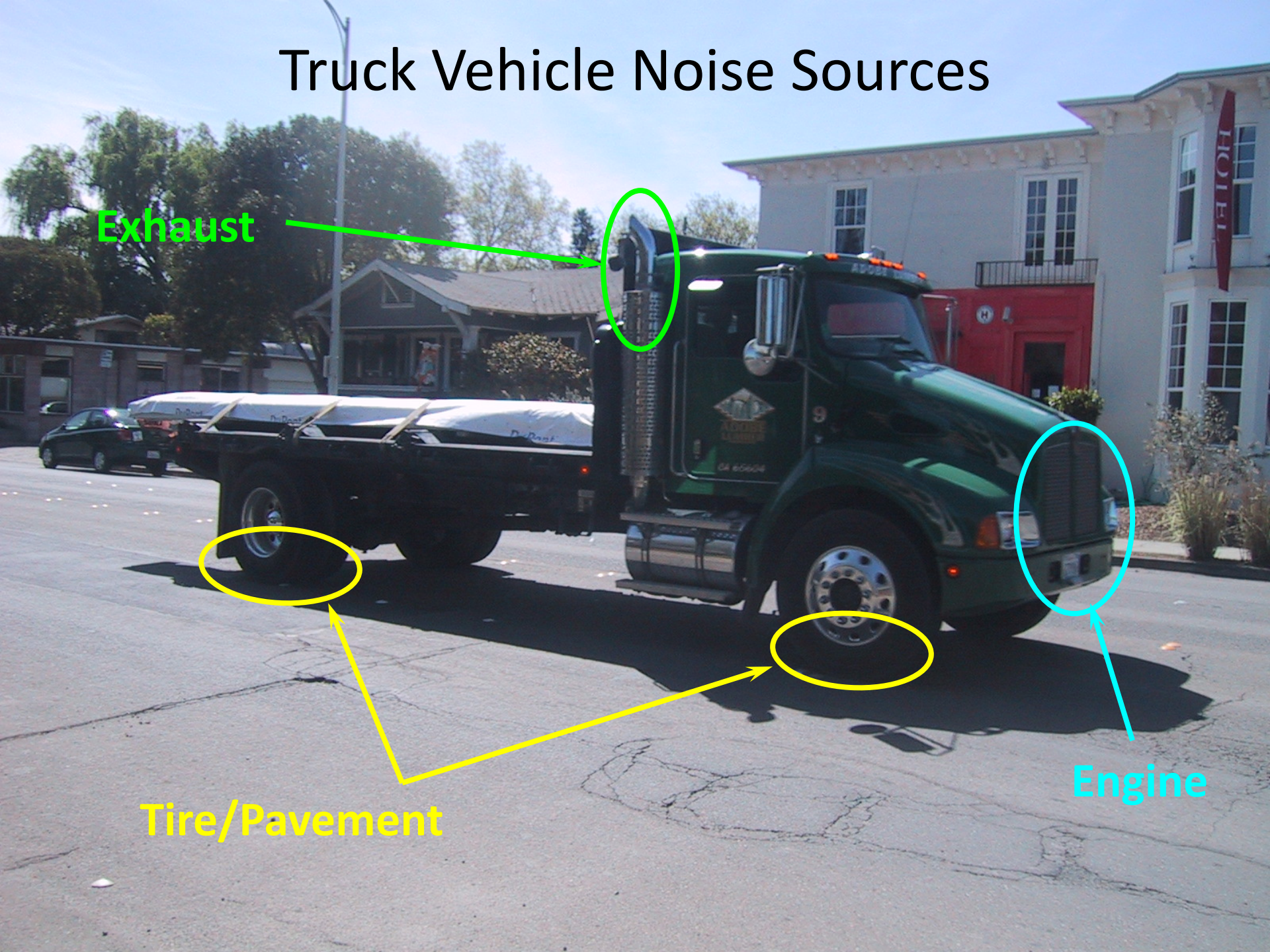


# Truck Vehicle Noise Sources

Exhaust

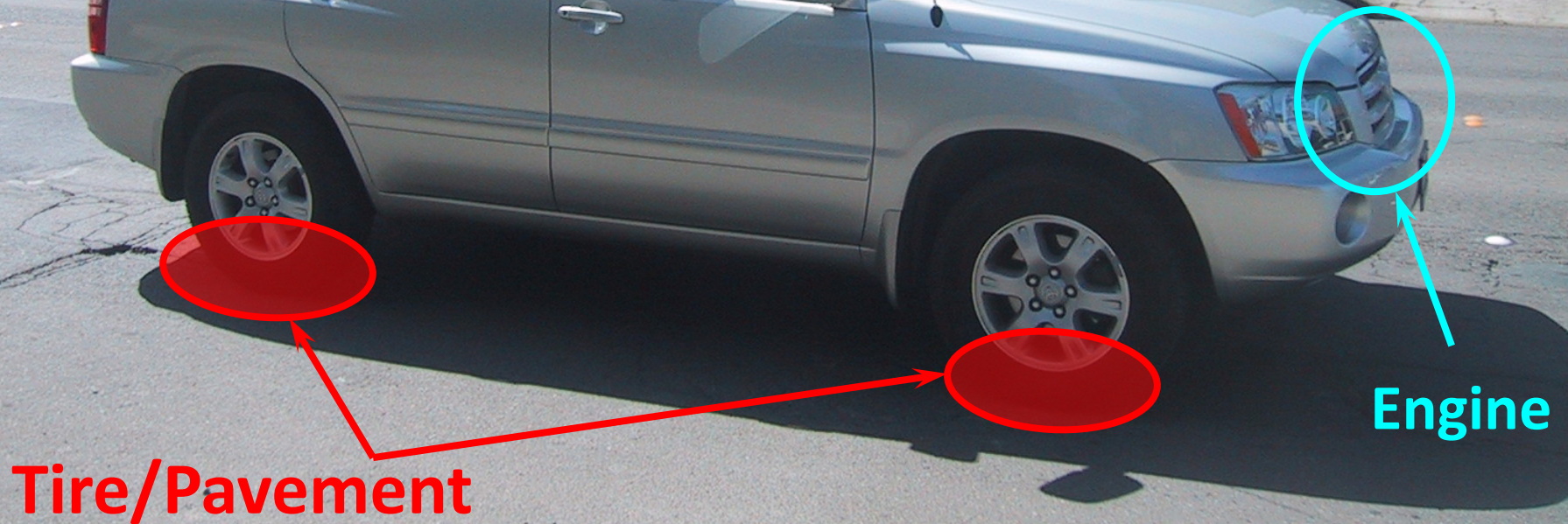
Tire/Pavement

Engine





# Light Vehicle Noise Sources







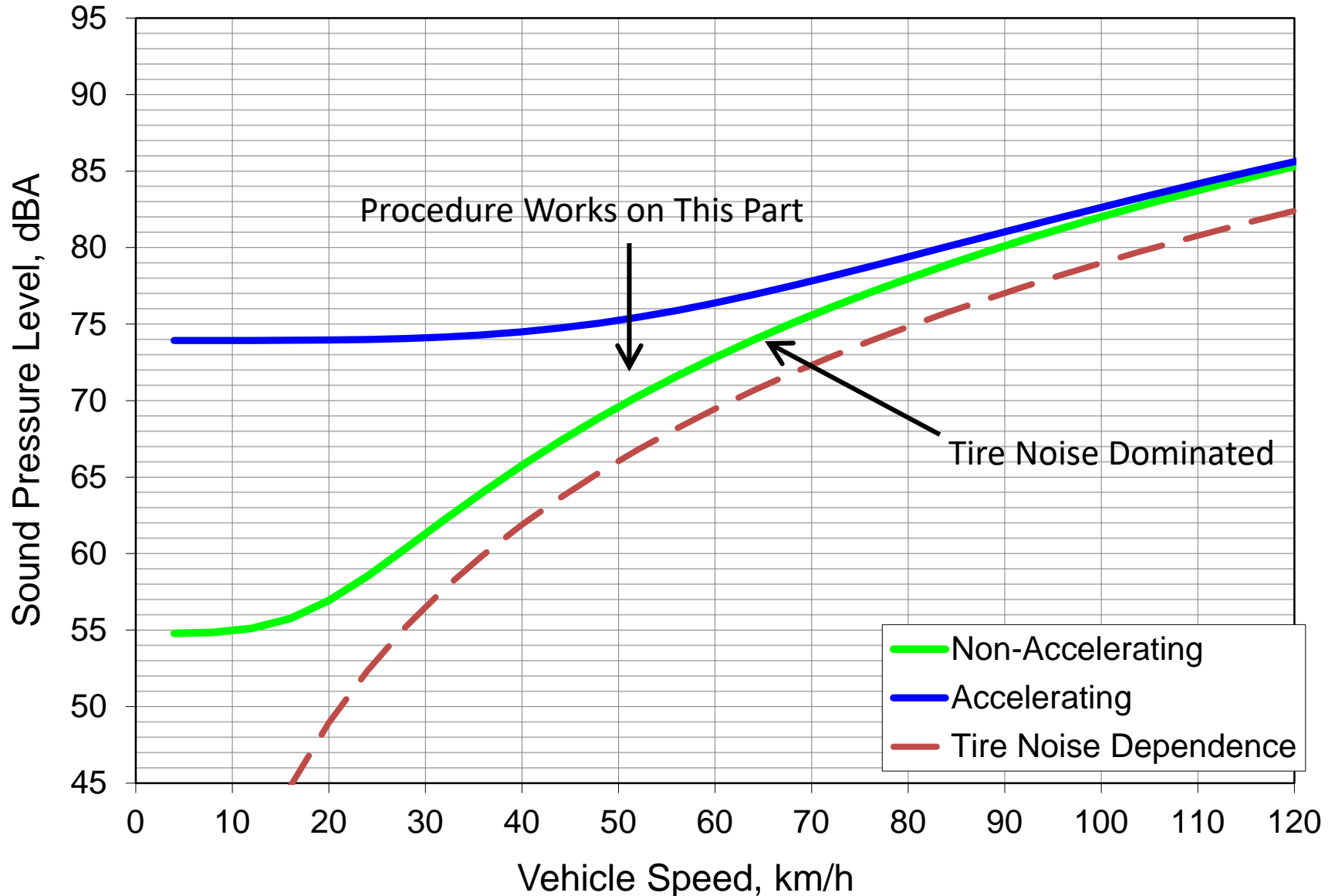
What does Caltrans have control over?

Can changing just pavement influence  
T/P subsource ?

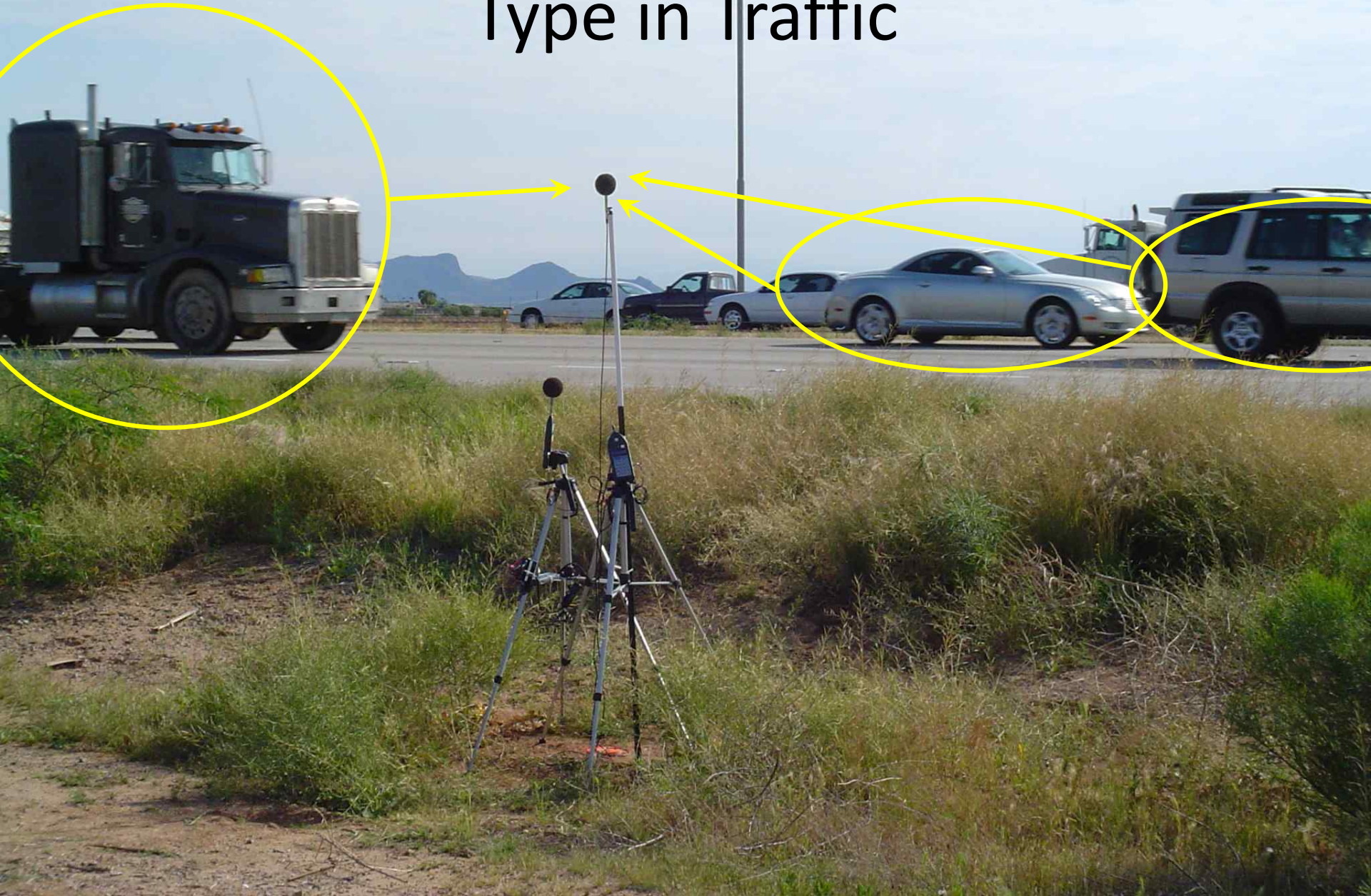
Can T/P subsource change overall  
wayside noise levels?



# Light Vehicle Pass-by Level

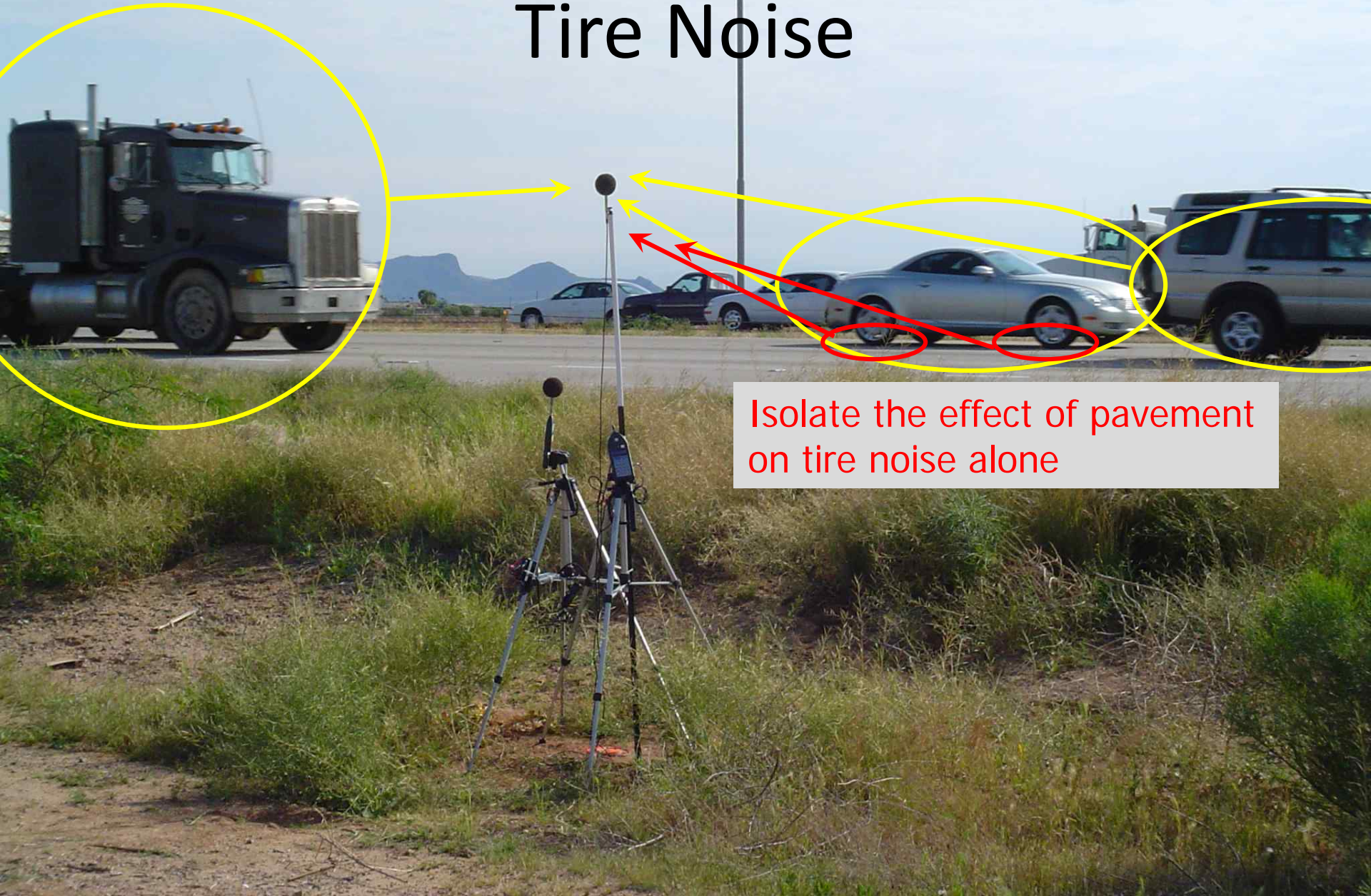


# Isolate Affect of Pavement on Each Vehicle Type in Traffic





# Isolate the Effect of Pavement on Tire Noise



Isolate the effect of pavement  
on tire noise alone



# I-80 at Davis, CA

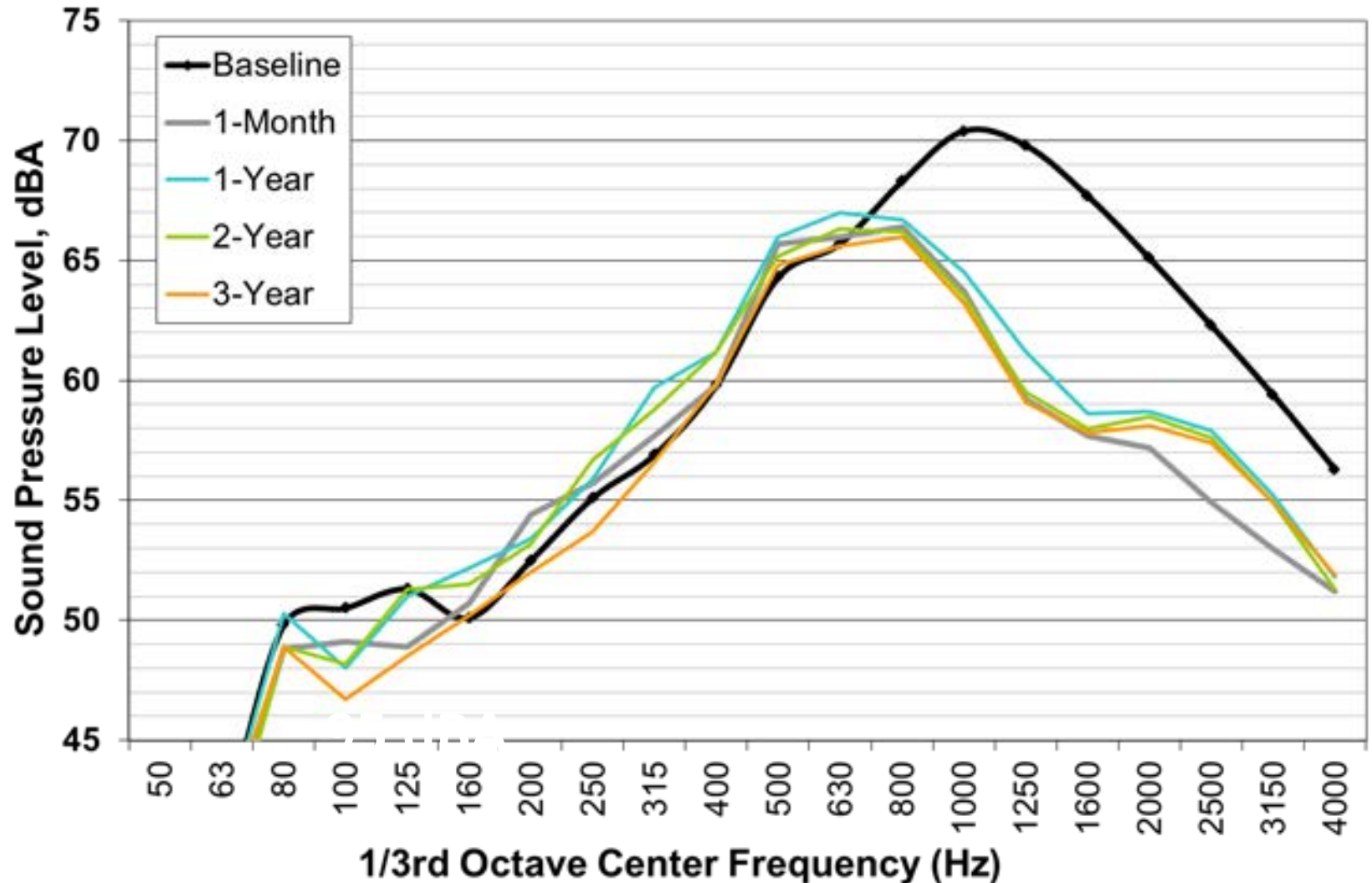
Longest Running QP Study  
in nation



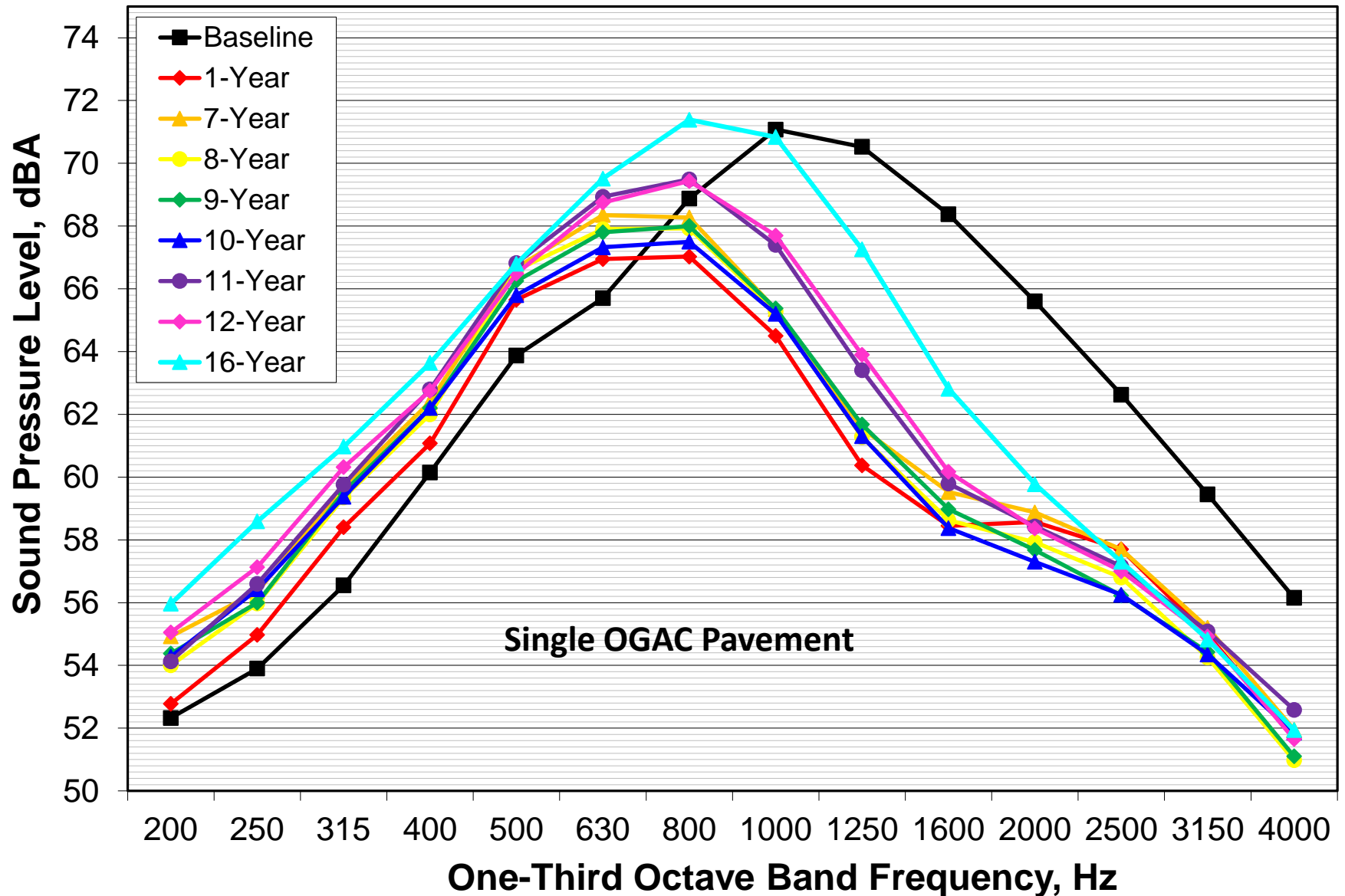


# I-80 Davis Wayside Noise Reduction

Benefits lasted beyond 0.5-2yrs



# I-80 Davis Wayside Noise for 16 Years





# LA-138 QP Study



## 5 Typical Flexible Pavements End-to-End

Low ADT  
Clean Single Vehicle Pass-Bys  
Vs I-80 Davis Continuous Traffic Stream

**2000**

Problem: Blowing Wind



# Roadside (Wayside) Pass By Method



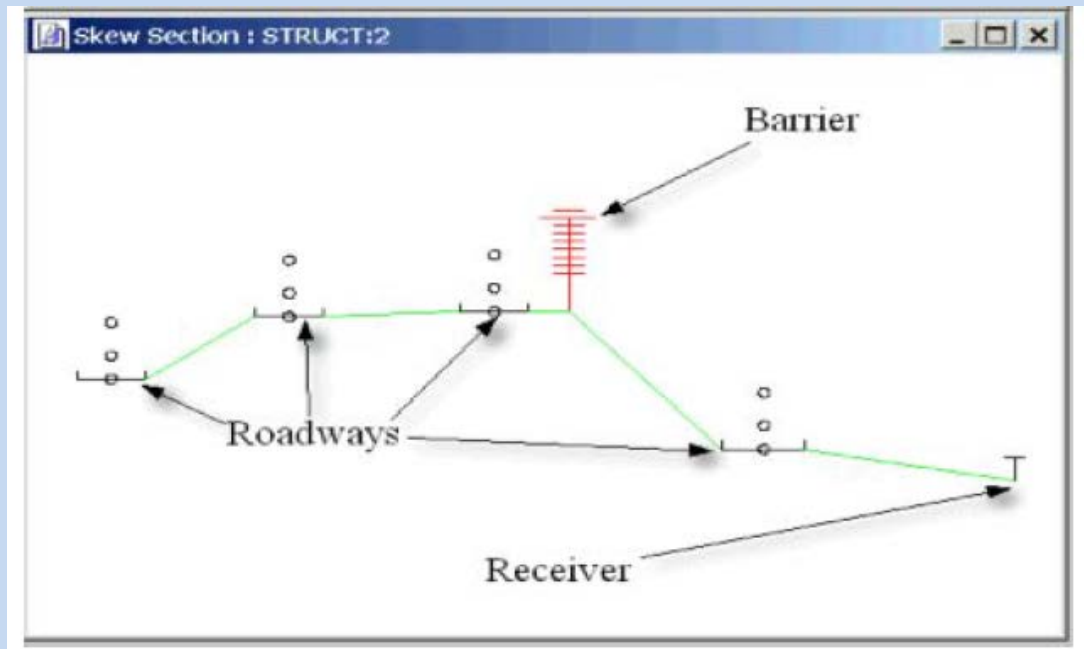
Met data  
Vehicle  
Classification  
Speed



Statistical Pass By (SPB) ISO 11819-1



# TNM 2.5 Sub Source Heights Sound Energy Distribution



## Examples of Percentage Split Between Upper and Lower Source Heights (Cruise)

		Low Frequencies (500 Hz and below)		High Frequencies (2000 Hz and above)	
<b>AUTO</b>	5 ft	27%	●	2%	
	0 ft	73%	●	98%	
<b>HEAVY TRUCK</b>					
	12 ft	57%	●	46%	
	0 ft	43%	●	54%	

# Measurement “Roll-Down”

Traffic Noise  
CTIM TP 99



Vehicle Noise  
SIP TP 98  
SPB ISO 1189-1



Tire Noise  
OBSI AASHTO T360  
CPX ISO 11819-2





# Measurement “Roll-Down”

Traffic Noise  
CTIM TP 99



Vehicle Noise  
SIP AASHTO TP 98  
SPB ISO 1189-1



Roll-up for  
wayside  
prediction

Tire Noise  
OBSI AASHTO T 360  
CPX ISO 11819-2



# Tire-Pavement Source Measurements

CPX



OBSI



Sound Pressure



Sound Intensity

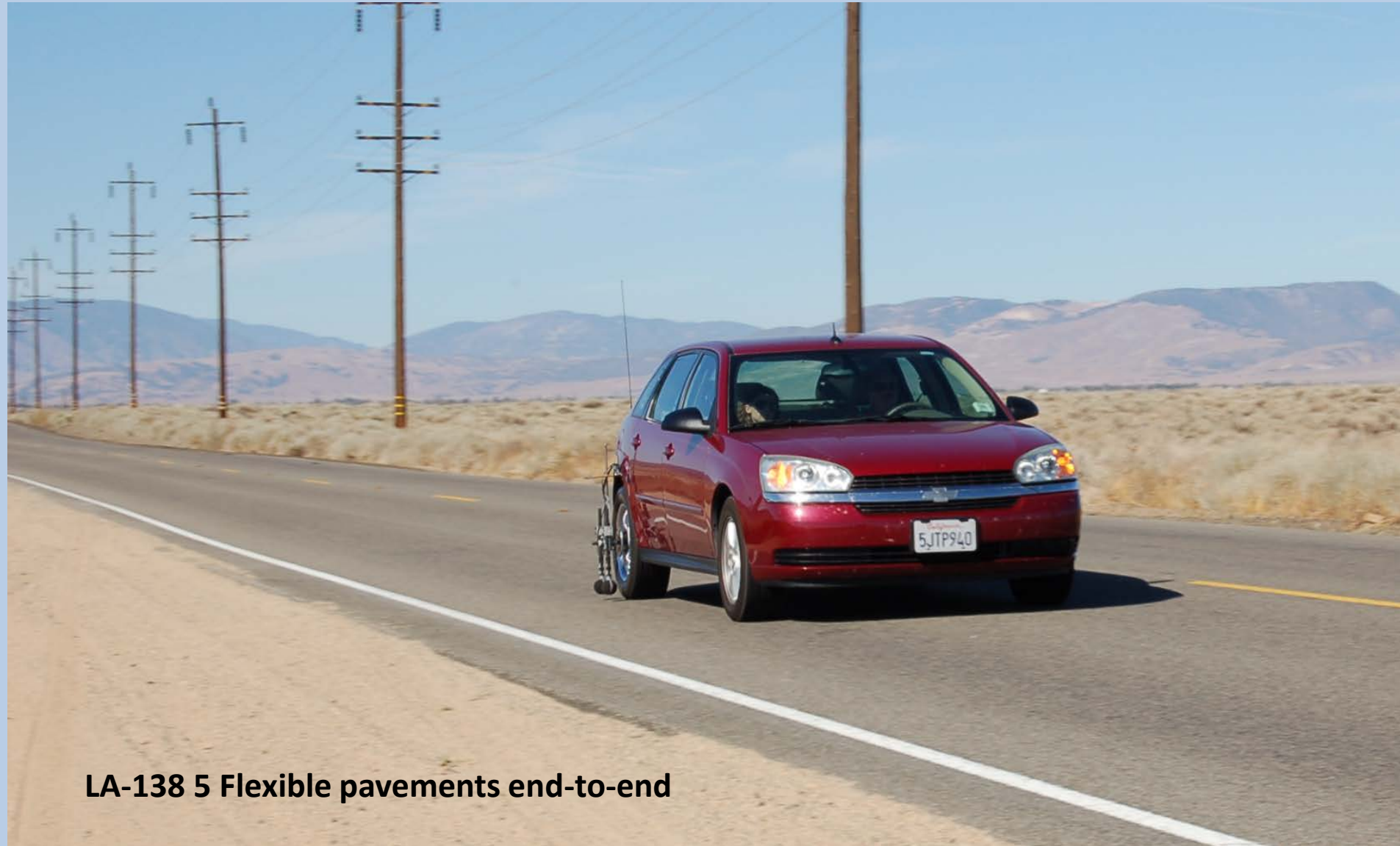


# Close Proximity Method (CPX) or Trailer Method at NCAT Test Track



European ISO 11819-2 DRAFT

# Tire-Pavement Noise Surveys



**LA-138 5 Flexible pavements end-to-end**



# Mojave 58 By Pass

## Rigid Pavement w Various Textures

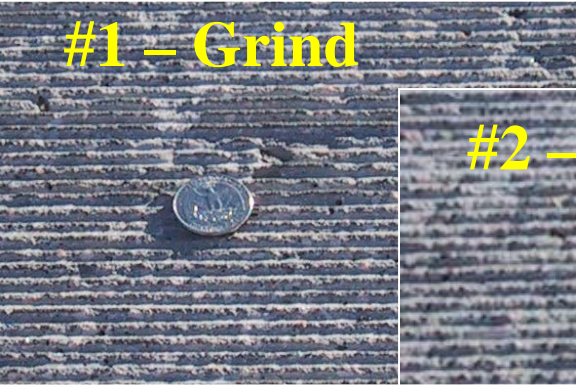


MAR 10 2003



# Applied Textures to Baseline Surfaces

#1 – Grind



#2 – Grind



#5 – Grind



#8 – Grind



#3 – Groove



#4 – Groove



#7 – Groove



#6 – Groove & Grind





## Standard Method of Test for Measurement of Tire/Pavement Noise Using the On-Board Sound Intensity (OBSI) Method

AASHTO Designation: T 360-16<sup>1</sup>

Technical Section: 5a, Pavement Measurement

Release: Group 1 (April 2016)

AASHTO



## GM invented Sound Intensity Measurements

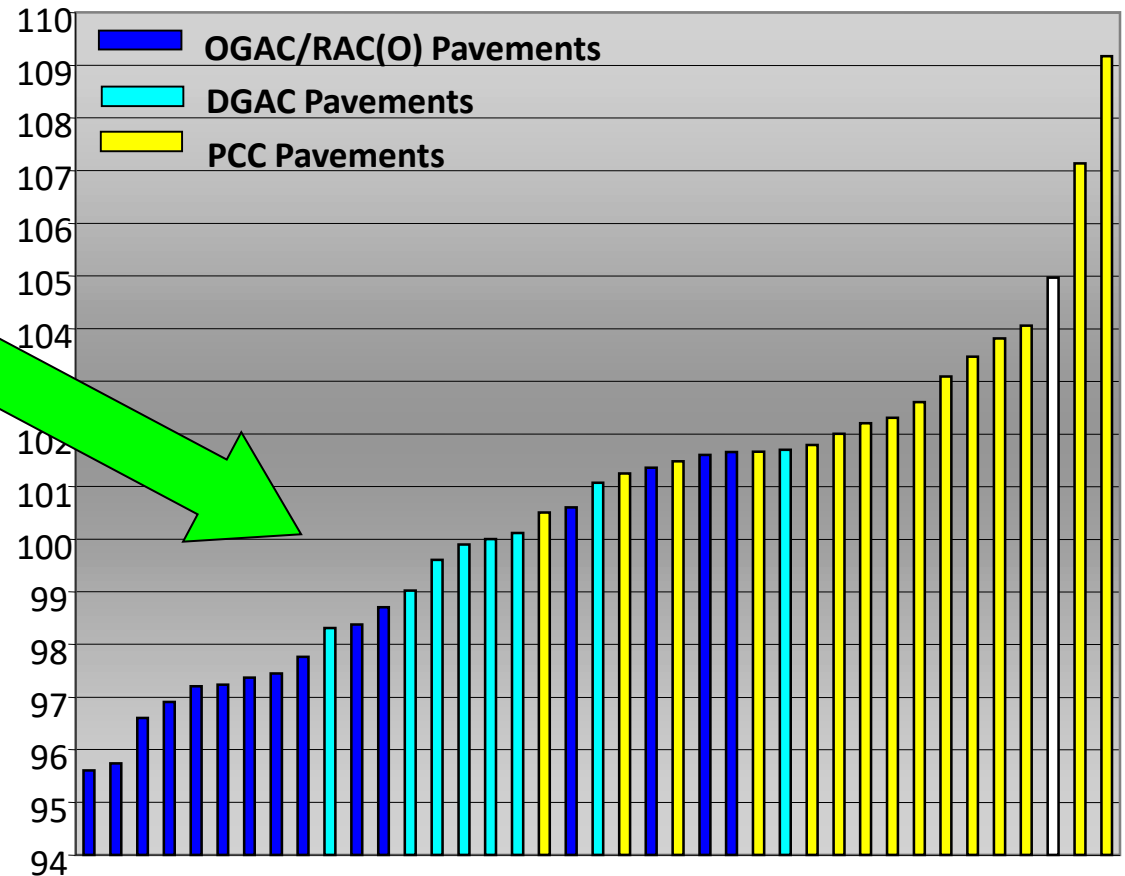
### 1. SCOPE

- 1.1. This test method describes the procedures for measuring tire/pavement noise using the on-board sound intensity (OBSI) method and the procedures for verification of the measurement system. The test method provides an objective measure of the acoustic power per unit area at points near the tire/pavement interface.
- 1.2. The OBSI measurement method described herein permits tire/pavement noise to be measured in isolation of other noise sources allowing the noise performance of pavements to be compared.
- 1.3. *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to consult and establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

### 2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- 2.1. *AASHTO Standards:*
  - TP 98, Determining the Influence of Road Surfaces on Vehicle Noise Using the Statistical Isolated Pass-By (SIP) Method
  - TP 99, Determining the Influence of Road Surfaces on Traffic Noise Using the Continuous-Flow Traffic Time-Integrated Method (CTIM)
- 2.2. *ASTM Standards:*
  - D2240, Standard Test Method for Rubber Property—Durometer Hardness
  - F2493, Standard Specification for P225/60R16 97S Radial Standard Reference Test Tire
- 2.3. *ANSI Standards:*
  - S1.1, Acoustical Terminology
  - S1.9, Instruments for the Measurement of Sound Intensity
  - S1.11, Specification for Octave-Band and Fractional-Octave-Band Analog and Digital Filters
  - S1.40, American National Standard Specifications and Verification Procedures for Sound Calibrators
  - S1.42, American National Standard Design Response of Weighting Networks for Acoustical Measurements
- 2.4. *International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Standard:*
  - IEC 61260, Electroacoustics—Octave-Band and Fractional-Octave-Band Filters
- 2.5. *Other Document:*
  - Donovan, P. R. and D. M. Lodico, *Measuring Tire-Pavement Noise at the Source*, NCHRP Report, Project 1-44(1), National Cooperative Highway Research Program, Transportation Research Board, Washington, 2011. Available at [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/nchrp01-44\(01\)\\_FR.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/nchrp01-44(01)_FR.pdf).

# OBSI Quantifies Pavement Acoustics

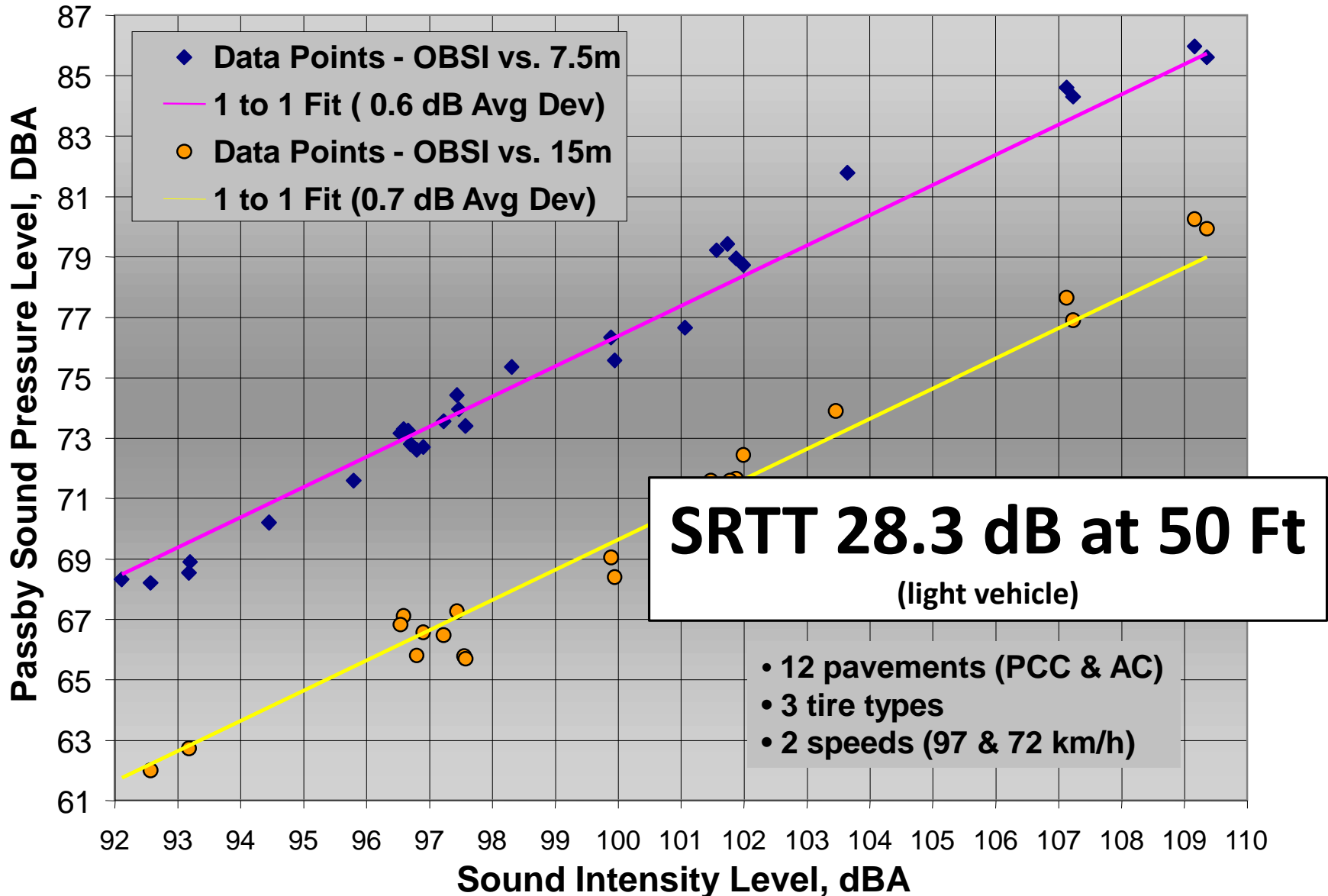


Overlap btw Pavement Types  
Many pavement acronyms

**Collect Database of Pavement  
Acoustics**



# OBSI vs. PB Levels



# Tire/Pavement Source Level to “Passby” Comparison

**105 dB**

**83 dB @ 25 ft**

**77 dB @ 50 ft**

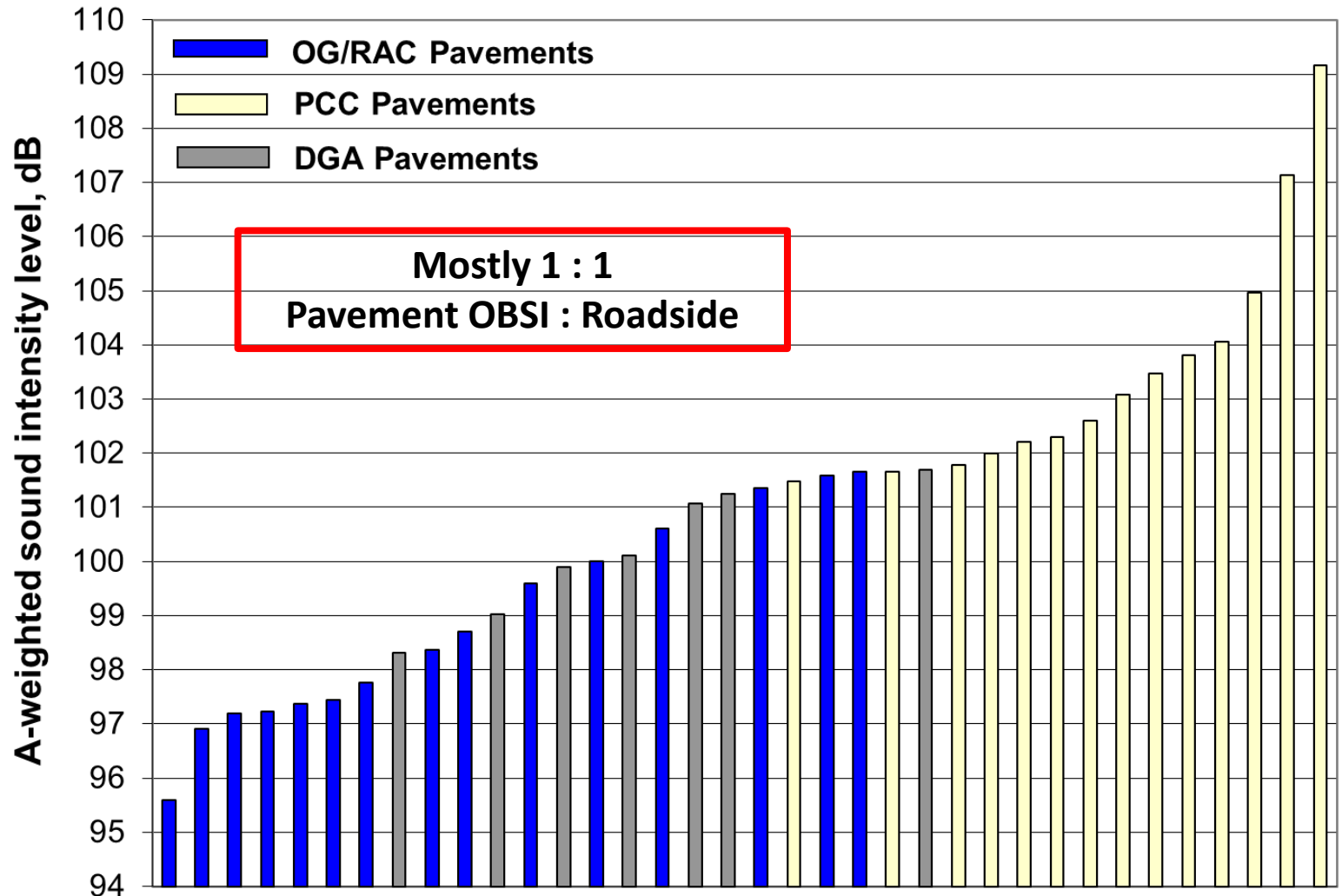
**Test Tires matter  
Aqua-Tread  
& SRTT**







# California & Arizona Data Base



## Sound Propagation Tests

Subtract sound pressure level from average sound intensity level to calculate difference

Measure average sound intensity over face of the loudspeaker

Measure sound pressure at 25 & 50 ft

NCAT Test Track

# Exception : Super Absorptive Flexible Pavement

Marin Co. 101



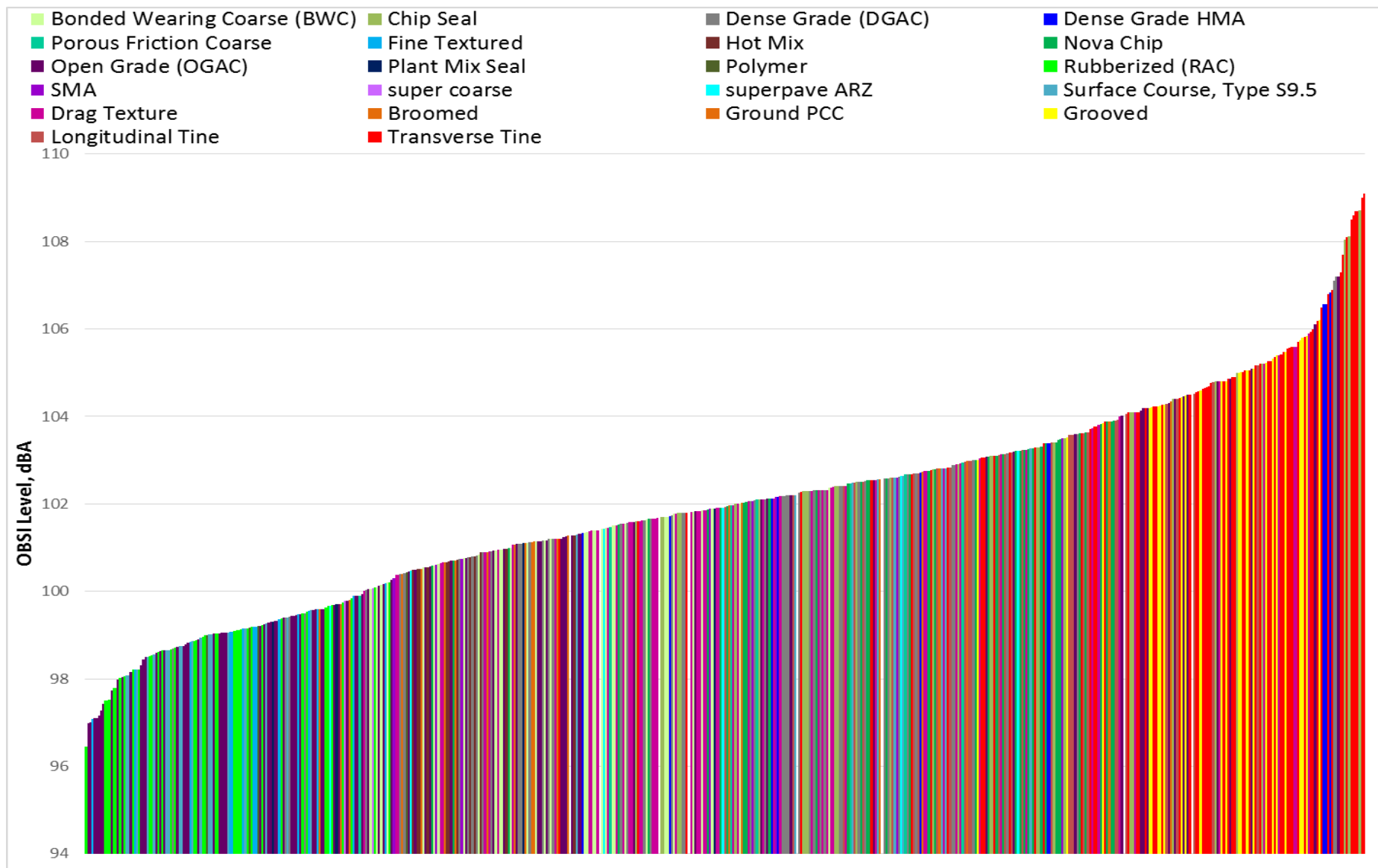


# Flexible Pavements – Texture & Porosity

## Dual Layer Porous Asphalt - \$\$\$



# Current OBSI/SRTT Data Base





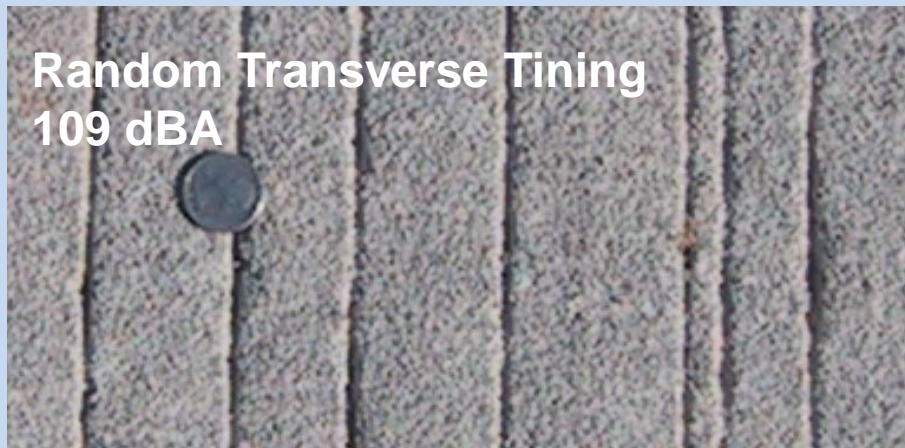


# Examples & Case Studies

## Quieter Rigid Pavements – Direction of Texture



Direction of Travel  
↔

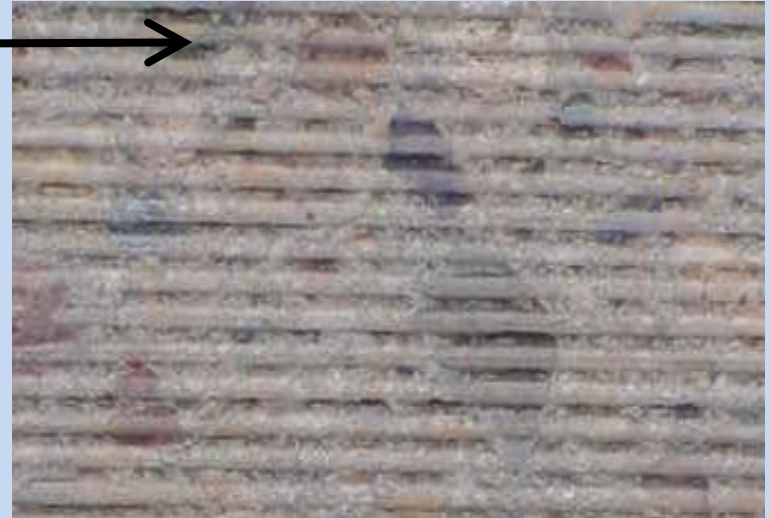


Caltrans history: Only SDOT to do LT for 30 years – off Structures

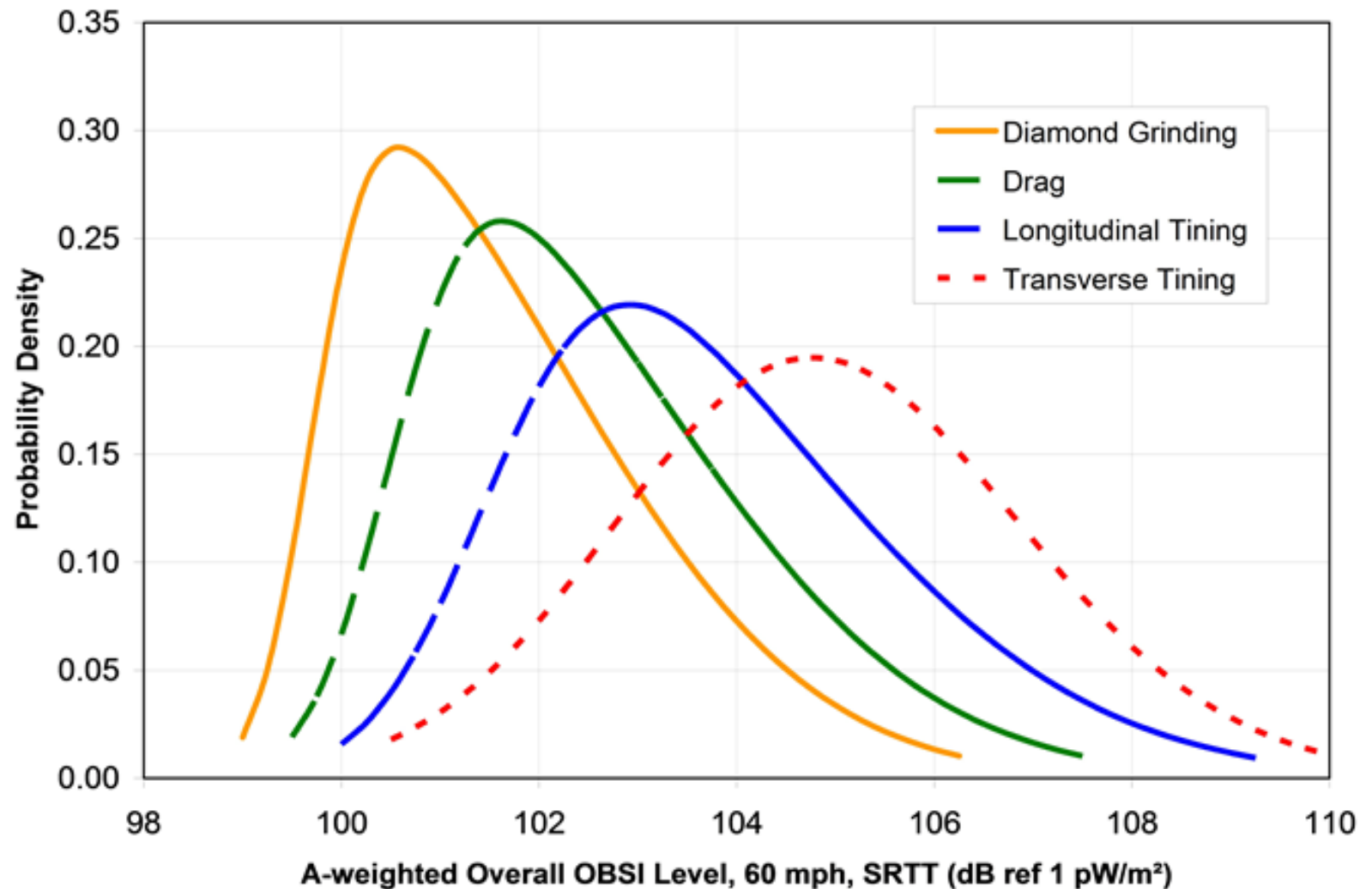


# Quieter Rigid Pavements

Direction of Travel



# Portland Cement Concrete Data Base



Source : Transtec





**Long-term Sound  
Measurement**

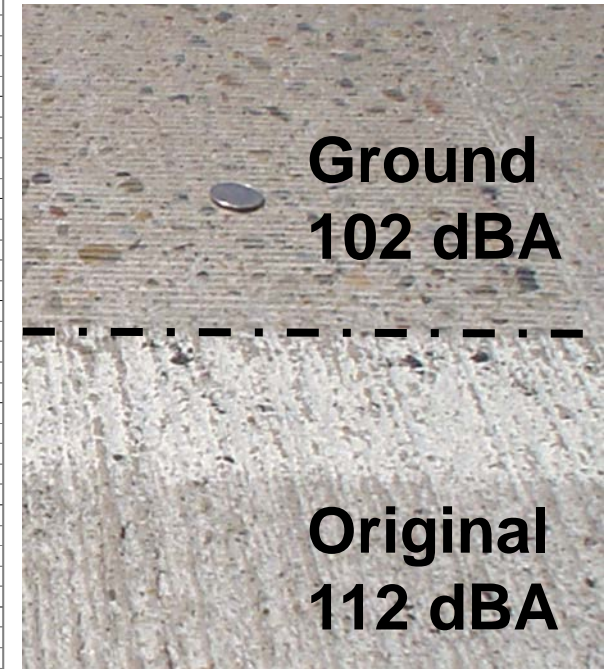
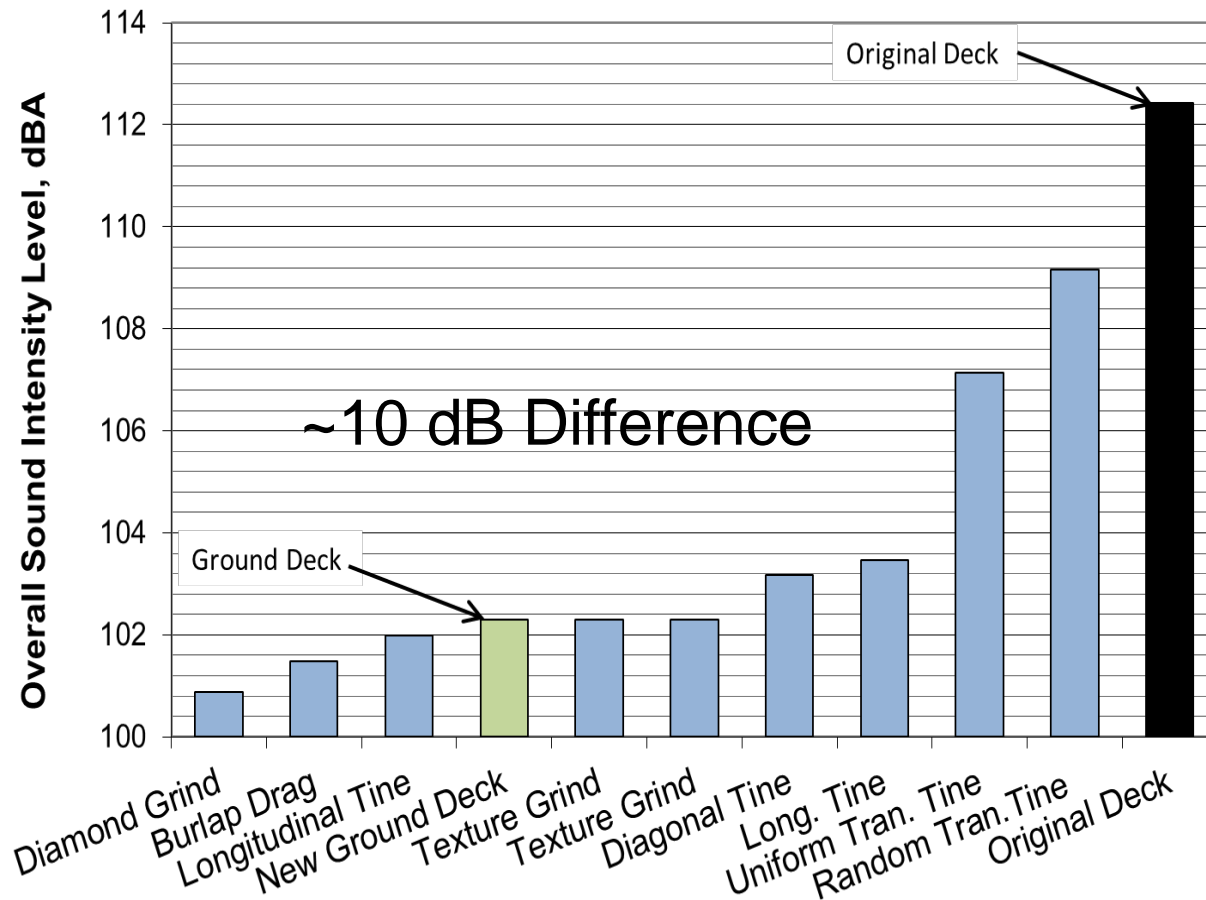
An aerial photograph showing a multi-lane bridge crossing a wide river. The bridge has a light-colored, possibly concrete or painted steel, deck. On either side of the river, there are dense green trees. To the right of the river, there are several houses with dark roofs and green lawns. A white arrow points from the 'Long-term Sound Measurement' text box to a specific location on the right bank of the river, near some trees and a house.

**OBSI Levels  
decreased 10 dB(A)**

**At 500 ft.  
peak hour Leq  
dropped 7-8 dB(A)  
48,000 AADT in 2002  
w/ 14 % Trucks**



# Quieter Rigid Pavements – Grinding



**Direction of Travel**  
→

**TT Texture done to elevate friction; construction process  
SE's don't like to grind; removes protective 'skin', and reduces  
rebar cover  
Safety not an issue - LT off Structures since 1970's**



# San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge



**Two Tales of the 'Bridge Whisperer'**

Oakland

Treasure Island

Yerba Buena Island

San Francisco

**OBSI Tire/Pavement  
Measurements on  
the SFOBB**





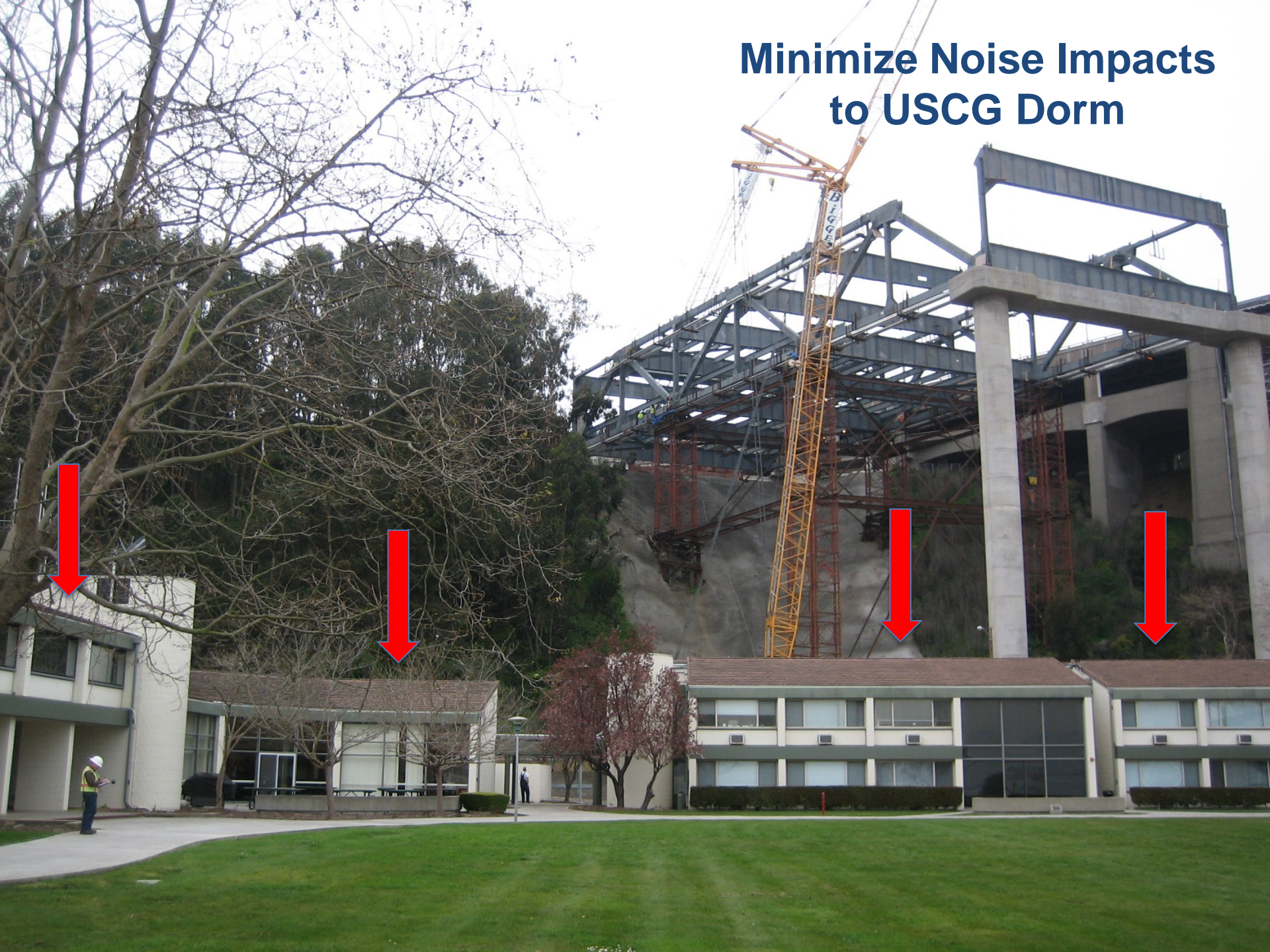


**USCG Dorm**

**SFOBB Temp Viaduct**



# Minimize Noise Impacts to USCG Dorm





# Completed Temporary Viaduct Structure





# Eastbound Lower Deck Average Overall Levels 106.1 dBA

106.1 dBA

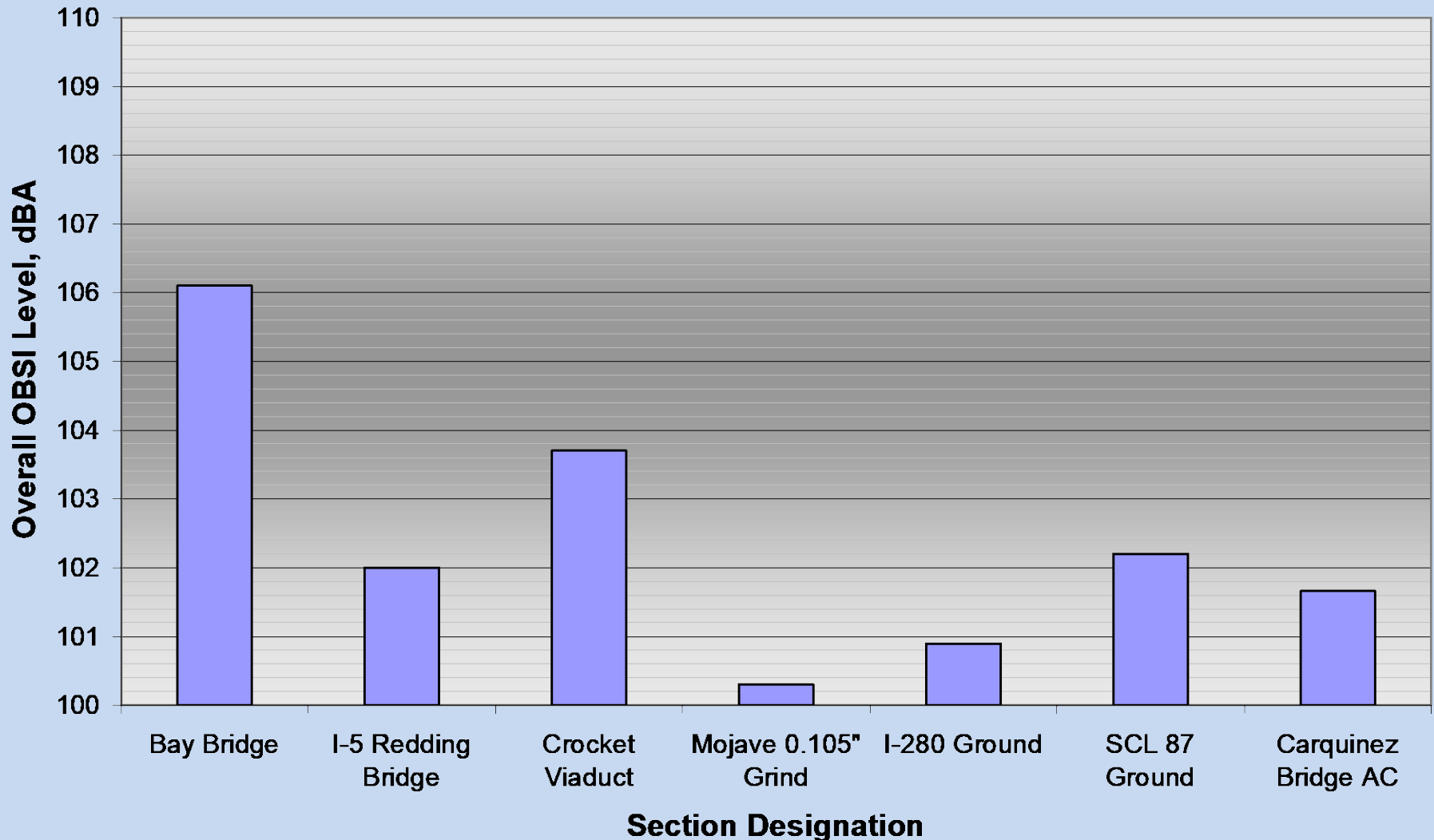




# Westbound Upper Deck Average Overall Levels 106.2 dBA



# Comparison of Bay Bridge Average Level to other Structures and Ground PCC Surfaces





# Advise Structures Division



**Use LT Texture PCC – Avoid Additional Load of OGAC on Temp Viaduct Deck**



## Story 2 - Millions \$\$ Walkway with Million \$ View





# Public Access Walkway to Treasure Island – Cantilevered off EB Structure





# OBSI Post Construction Measurements

Changed Deck Spec from TT to LT Texture

Quieter LT Texture – Lowered Noise Level exposure Adjacent Walkway

LT Deck Texture Reduced Walkway Noise Levels 8-10 dB







# Cautionary Tales of Pavement Promoters

(Rigid & Flexible)

# ADOT Quiet Pavement Pilot Program (QP3)



**AZ – Home to RPA**



# QP3 Project - Pre & Post Overlay



**ARFC Overlay  
(25mm Thick)**



**Transverse  
Tined PCC**

**ADOT would have seen noticeable reduction just by changing rigid pavement specification from TT to LT**

Quiet flexible RAC product marketed to WsDOT; could overcome temperature construction issues & solve noise problem.  
.....SO much quieter than rigid pavement.....

# IH-5 Seattle



WSJ Story - “Quiet Pavement Doesn’t Work !”

(Doesn’t mention heavily rutted WsDOT lanes due to snow tires and chains)





Figure 9: Demo Slab Construction



Figure 10: Demo Slab Finished Surface

# European Exposed Aggregate – “is SO Quiet”

-- Mostly not; need ½ inch or less aggregate to be quiet

# Acoustical Longevity – Long Term Research

- Arizona DOT, QP3
  - 12-Year Study
  - AADT Varies over 330 miles of study area



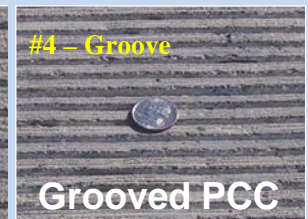
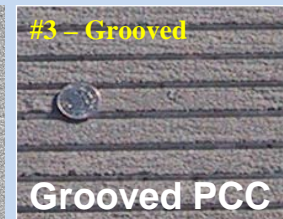
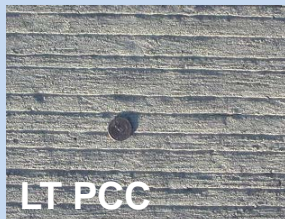
- Caltrans, Davis I-80
  - 16-Year Study
  - 146,000 AADT, 7.6 % trucks



- Caltrans, LA 138: Flexible Pavement (4,400 AADT, 14% trucks)



- Caltrans, Mohave SR 58: Concrete Texturing (17,000 AADT, 37% trucks)





# Quieter Pavement and Heavy Vehicles

- Trucks ~10 dB louder than cars (wayside)
- Tire-noise major contributor
  - More aggressive tires and more of them
- Range in OBSI level for truck tires on a single pavement is 14 dB (similar to pavement range)



- Acoustical characteristics and pavements ranking consistent for car and truck tires
  - Aggressive treaded tires result in smaller ranges

# Acoustic Longevity/Durability LA -138 AC

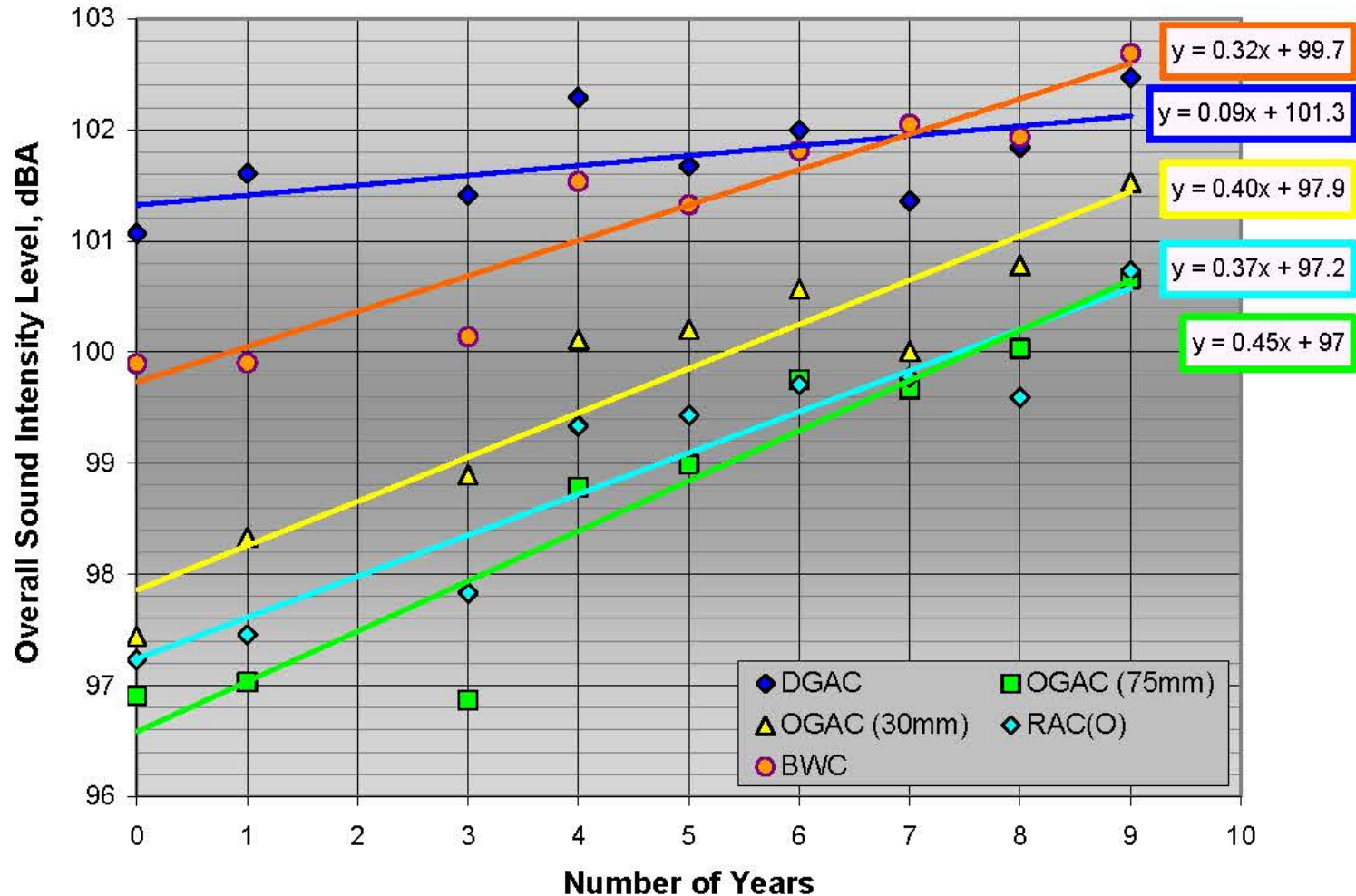


Figure D.12. Overall A-Weighted OBSI levels for each test pavement from October 2002 through October 2011 versus years since construction for Goodyear Aquatred test tire



# Acoustic Longevity/Durability - Mojave PCC

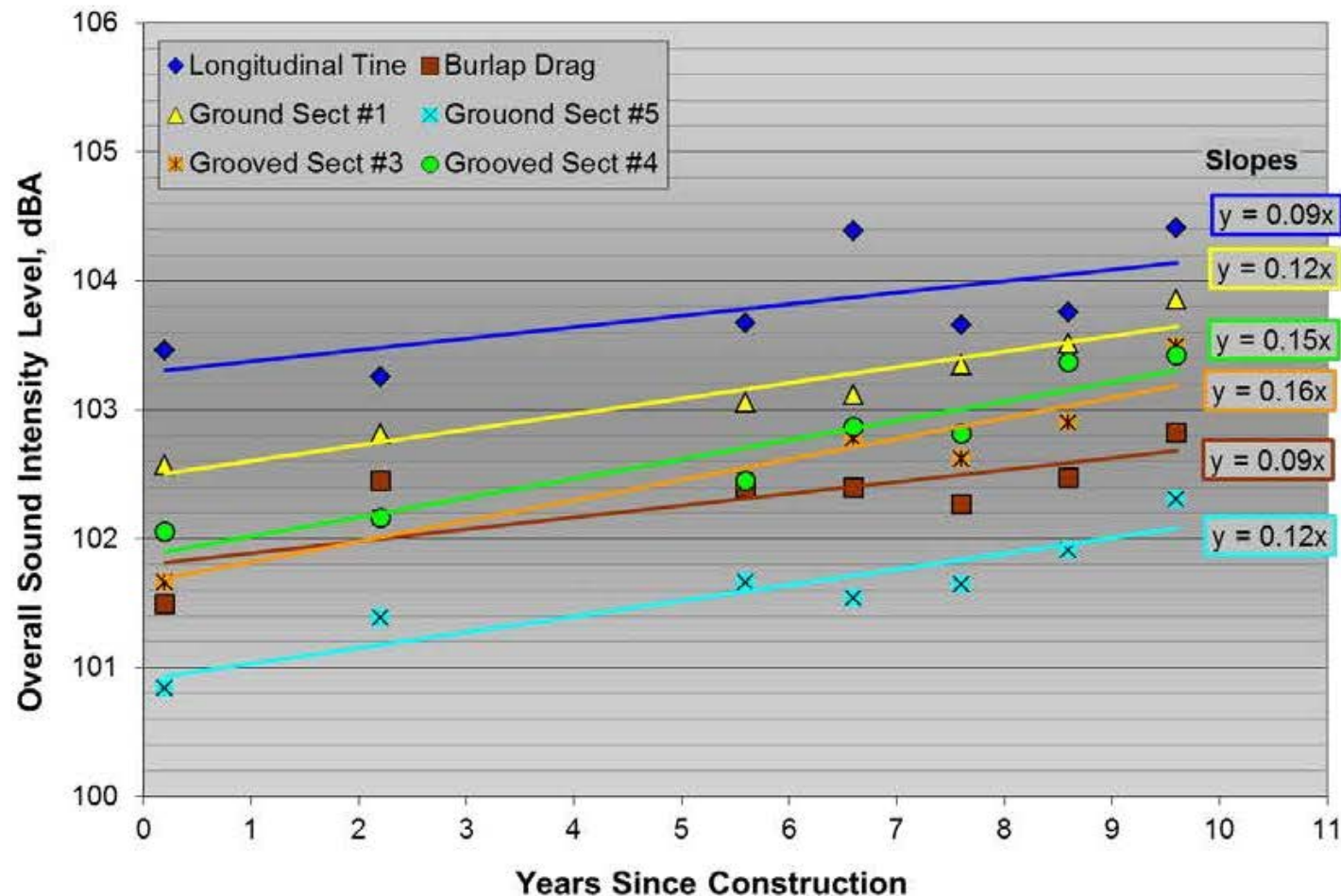


Figure D8. Overall A-Weighted OBSI levels for each test pavement from 2003 to 2012 with rate of increase per year shown for the Goodyear Aquatred test tire

# Pavement Acoustic Longevity Summary

Project	Pavement Details	Rate of Increase, dB/Year	Mid-Project Year Traffic Loading
ADOT QP3	ARFC <sup>3</sup>	0.50	Varies
Davis I-80 (6-lanes)	OGAC <sup>2</sup>	0.3 to 0.4	146,000 AADT, 7.6% Trucks (2006)
LA 138 (2-lanes)	DGAC	0.09	4,400 AADT, 14% Trucks (2007)
	OGAC 75 mm <sup>2</sup>	0.47	
	OGAC 30 mm <sup>2</sup>	0.41	
	RAC(O) <sup>2,3</sup>	0.38	
	BWC	0.33	
Mohave Bypass SR 58 (4-lanes)	LT PCC	0.09	17,000 AADT, 37% Trucks (2007)
	Ground PCC, S1	0.12	
	Ground PCC, S5	0.12	
	Burlap Drag PCC	0.09	
	Grooved PCC, S3	0.16	
	Grooved PCC, S4	0.15	



# Pavement Acoustic Longevity Summary

Project	Pavement Details	Rate of Increase, dB/Year	Mid-Project Year Traffic Loading
SR 85, Saratoga, CA (6-lanes)	Ground and Grooved Long. Tined PCC	0.38	122,000 AADT, 0.57% Trucks (2007)
I-280, San Mateo County (6-lanes)	Diamond Ground PCC	0.28	105,000 AADT, 2.3% Trucks (2006)
	Texture Ground PCC	0.35	
	RAC(O) <sup>3</sup>	0.58	
	OGAC <sup>2</sup>	0.81	
I-10, Casa Grande, AZ (6-lanes)	AR-ACFC <sup>3</sup>	0.33	51,000 AADT (2007)
	ACFC	0.43	
	SMA	0.30	
	Porous-ACFC <sup>2</sup>	0.68	
	Porous Euro Mix <sup>2</sup>	negligible	

## Averages

Asphalt – 0.46 dB/Yr

Concrete – 0.19 dB/Yr

# Acoustic Beam Forming System

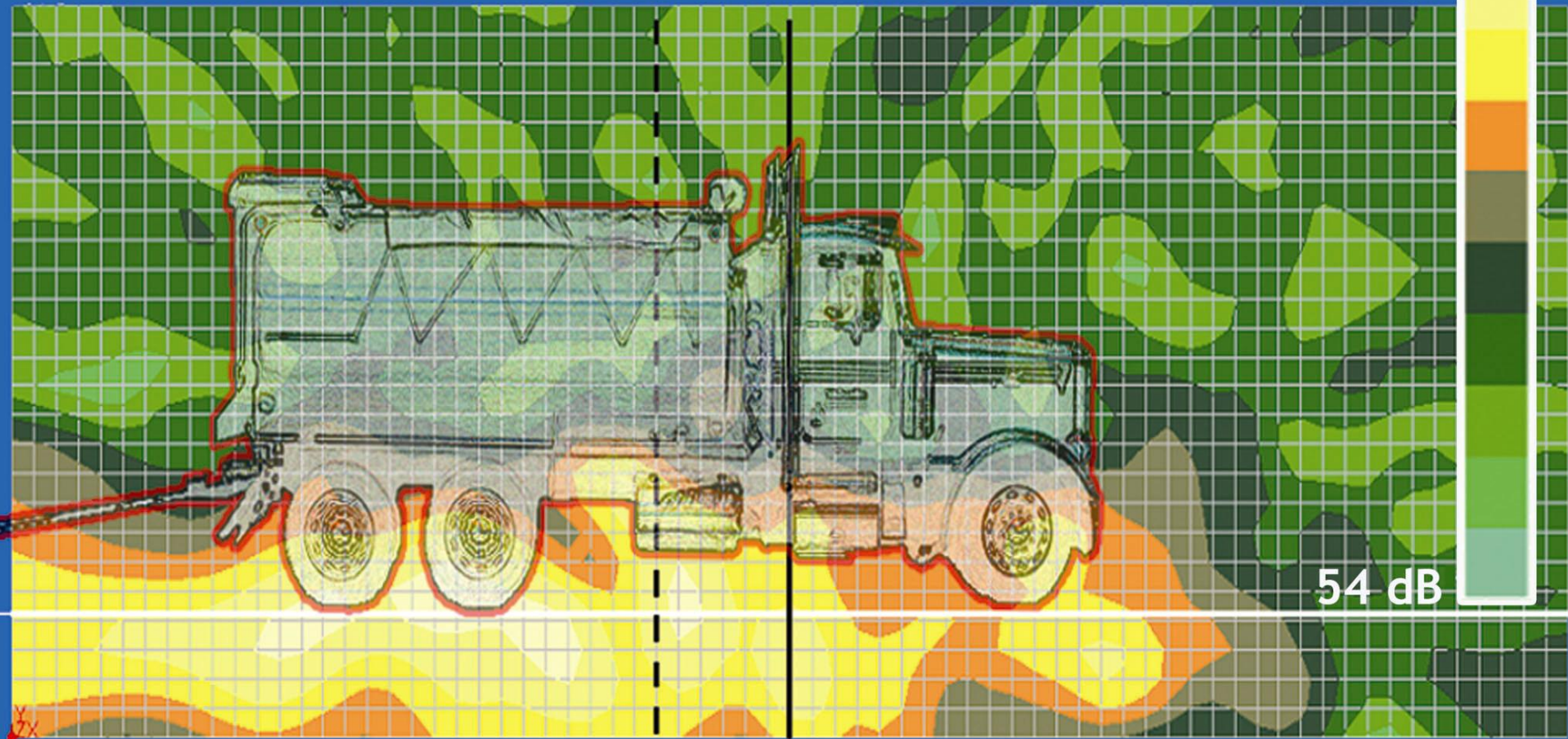


- Type WL9x6D2509 Foldable wheel Array
- Equal length arms
- 8.2ft in diameter
- 54 microphones
- Acquisition by B&K PULSE system
- Data processed by delay & sum method
- 315 to 4,000 Hz



# Frequency = 1600 Hz

64 dB



54 dB

## State Route 50mph

At freeway speed for Autos and Heavy Trucks, ***majority of acoustic energy is at T/P interface*** and below 3.3 feet

# Quieter Pavement Bulletin Design Guidance Oct 2009 (omitted Structures)

## Memorandum

*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

To: DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
CHIEF, DIVISION OF CONSTRUCTION  
CHIEF, DIVISION OF TRAFFIC OPERATIONS  
CHIEF, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS  
CHIEF, DIVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES  
CHIEF, DIVISION OF DESIGN  
CHIEF, DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE  
CHIEF, DIVISION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Date: October 6, 2009

From: SHAKIR SHATNAWI  
State Pavement Engineer  
Chief  
Division of Pavement Management

Subject: Quieter Pavement Bulletin

This transmittal memorandum provides notice that Quieter Pavement Bulletin is now available on the Pavement website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/Translab/ope/QuieterPavements.html>. This bulletin is effective October 15, 2009 for use on all pavement construction or rehabilitation projects in noise sensitive areas of frequent human use where existing noise levels approach or exceed the Federal Noise Abatement Criteria as defined in Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 772 (23 CFR 772).

### BACKGROUND:

Minimizing traffic noise impacts from State highways, while maintaining safe, smooth, and long lasting pavements, is a key goal for all pavement design, construction and maintenance strategies throughout the state. Research done to date has shown that traffic noise can be minimized by incorporating quieter pavement strategies in pavement mix designs and construction practices at little to no added cost. Quieter pavements help reduce the noise generated from the interaction between vehicle tires and pavement (i.e., at the source where the tire meets the road, thereby helping to reduce overall traffic noise impacts to the communities adjacent to the highways. This bulletin is provided as a part of the Department's Quieter Pavement Research (QPR) Program implementation plan to develop design guidance and specifications for quieter pavements in an ongoing effort to address traffic noise issues throughout the state.

### GOAL:

The goal of this bulletin and the overall QPR Program is not just to be able to build quieter pavements, but to build quieter pavements that will maintain noise reduction benefits over time without compromising on safety, ride quality, and sustainability of pavement surfaces. This quieter pavement policy bulletin is needed to facilitate this effort statewide and to provide the Districts with the latest information and direction for when and how to design, build, and maintain quieter pavements.



# Quieter Pavement

- Lower initial cost than barriers
- Larger area of reduction
- Can be used anywhere
- Noise levels increase over time
- Maintaining performance requires periodic rehabilitation





**Developing a Quiet Pavement Strategy  
is an important process for addressing traffic  
noise impacts – OBSI is an important tool**





## **Federal Highway Administration**

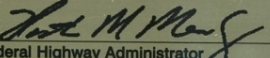
### **2009 Environmental Excellence Award**

**For Excellence in Environmental Research:**

**Quieter Pavement Research: Development of Technology for Measurement of Tire/Pavement Noise Using the On-Board Sound Intensity Method**

**California Department of Transportation  
Arizona Department of Transportation  
Illingworth and Rodkin, Inc.  
General Motors**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Environmental Analysis adapted a little-known General Motors measurement methodology to precisely quantify tire/pavement acoustics. The new methodology, On Board Sound Intensity (OBSI), is based on acoustic work done on test tracks in the 1970's by General Motors. The dominant noise source on light vehicles operating at freeway speed is tire/pavement noise. The noise levels between different pavements can vary widely depending on material type and surface texture. It was this tire/pavement noise phenomenon that led Caltrans to develop a precise measurement methodology for quantifying pavement acoustics. The Caltrans modified approach uses one standard tire to evaluate many different pavements in real time with traffic on active freeways. The unique aspect of this procedure is that it allows pavement noise to be separated from other noise generators on a moving vehicle. This work has demonstrated that lowering pavement noise levels also lowers community noise adjacent to highways. Development of quieter pavement is a tool transportation departments may use to lower overall traffic noise levels in the community. A better understanding of tire/pavement acoustics will improve noise modeling calculations and noise-mitigating design features. This Caltrans/GM developed process is now being adopted as a measurement standard by AASHTO, ASTM, and SAE.

  
Federal Highway Administrator

September 14, 2009

# Questions?