

Planning and
Development

Derek L. Delacourt

DATE: December 1, 2010

TO: Planning Commission

RE: Sound Wall Design

The Michigan Department of Transportation is planning to construct two noise barriers along M-59 to mitigate increased noise levels resulting from the recent work to construct the third lane between Ryan and Crooks. Although 13 sites were reviewed, only two sites qualified as being both physically feasible and cost reasonable to construct.

One location is along the south side of M-59 east of Rochester Road for the benefit of homes along Michelson Road and the second site is along the north side of M-59 west of Dequindre Road and for the benefit of the Whispering Winds condominiums. The attached plans provide complete location details

Included in your packet are two designs. The first is a pattern currently being planned by MDOT for the noise barrier (flower). This pattern was one of two options presented to residents that attended a public information meeting held by MDOT on January 7, 2010 at Rochester Hills City Hall. The flower pattern was selected in a 3 to 2 vote by residents as the pattern that should be installed along M-59 for the noise barriers. MDOT's typical process is to send meeting letters only to the residents that are benefitting or adjacent to the proposed noise barrier locations. Thus, residents along Michelson and in the Whispering Winds condominium community were personally invited to the January 7th meeting.

The second is a design developed by the City. Staff, including the Mayor, has suggested that the noise barriers along M-59 will be a direct reflection on our entire community and that the City Planning Commission is the appropriate group to decide on the noise barrier pattern for the community. Our appeal to MDOT has been approved subject to the community determining a change to the pattern or confirming the currently proposed pattern without jeopardizing the current project schedule. Since there are countless design patterns that could be proposed, the City has suggested one option be reviewed by the Planning Commission in addition to the flower pattern in order to meet the limited time constraint. The Planning Commission is being requested to review and vote on which noise barrier pattern design is desired on behalf of Rochester Hills - the flower pattern or city logo version.

Staff is recommending approval of the design reflective of the City and based on the City's Heritage Oak Tree located at Livernois and Auburn.

Attached are plans identifying the proposed wall locations and conceptual designs for both options.