



Metro Green Line Sound Barrier Completed ...but City Wants it Extended

(March 14) Metro Construction recently completed construction of a 2,200-foot long sound barrier along the Metro Green Line elevated tracks in Hawthorne. Now, the wall will be extended another 112 feet at the city's request.

"The city was concerned that noise from the trains would bounce off existing structures and disturb neighbors on the south end of the barrier," said Al Nijland, the MTA's project engineer. "We got approval to extend the barrier if it would cost no more than \$50,000." The cost of the extension is estimated at \$49,000.

The total cost of the original project, which was completed on time and on budget, was \$945,232. Nijland expects the sound barrier extension will be completed later this month, depending upon arrival of acoustical panels from the east coast manufacturer.

The six-foot-tall barrier extends down both sides of the elevated rail structure from the south end of the Douglas/Rosecrans station to about 600 feet south of the intersection of Rosecrans Avenue and Aviation Boulevard.

Before beginning construction, the MTA conducted extensive noise studies that indicated passing trains produced between 55 and 72 decibels, depending upon time of day. The barrier is expected to cut noise by at least 10 decibels in the adjacent Holly Glen neighborhood.

The MTA also attempted such noise abatement measures as grinding train wheels to reduce friction against the tracks and running trains at slower speeds. When those efforts were not as successful as hoped, the agency decided to construct a sound wall.

Construction workers erected some 275 steel columns at 16-foot intervals along the outside edge of the aerial structure. Then, the 16-foot-long, two-foot-wide panels were slipped into place between the

columns, three high to make a six-foot wall. The panels are made of fiberglass sandwiched between sheet metal.

Metro Builders of Laguna Niguel is the prime contractor on the project. The MTA's Tom Lee is resident engineer.

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