

Good afternoon. Thank you for your time in listening to our testimony.

My name is Vicki Kapaun and my husband Brian and I have lived on Helena Rd N in Oakdale for over 20 years. Since I-694 was re-done several years ago, the traffic noise in our backyard has increased significantly. The road was raised approximately 10" and a sound wall on the opposite side of the freeway was installed. Now the freeway is even with the top of our berm instead of previously being below it so the berm no longer deflects any of the noise. The vehicle noise also now bounces off of the sound wall on the opposite side of the road.

When MNDOT has come out to test decibel levels, we have had concerns that they have not come out during peak traffic times and that they have tested with their equipment either with a house or shed between it and 694. The current rules also state that the decibel levels be tested at ground level, however almost all of the houses along 694 have their decks on the upper level of the homes, and I'm sure the tested levels would be even higher on the decks, where we all like to hang out in the summer, but have to talk over the din of traffic. With the prospect of adding an additional lane to 694 and the construction on the 694/94 interchange, we know that traffic levels will likely increase in the future. Semis that are by-passing St. Paul and Minneapolis are particularly noisy.

We bought our house knowing that 694 was in our backyard, but due to the changes in the height of the road and the new wall on the other side of the road, we are looking for remediation for the additional traffic noise those two things have caused.

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