



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Texas Division

December 19, 2017

300 East 8th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
Phone: 512-536-5900
Fax: 512-536-5990
www.fhwa.dot.gov/txdiv/

In Reply Refer To:
HPP-TX

Mr. Carlos Swonke
Director of Environmental Affairs Division
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Subject: Reasonable Cost Proposal for 2018 Noise Policy

Dear Mr. Swonke:

Thank you for your letter dated November 30, 2017 detailing the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) proposal to update the cost effectiveness criteria for noise abatement reasonableness determination as required by 23 CFR 772.13(d)(2)(ii).

Based on a recent Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) study entitled "Review of Current TxDOT Decision-Making Process and Cost-Effectiveness Criteria Used for Noise Abatement," the real, wall-only costs per square foot has increased from \$18 per square foot to \$35 per square foot. TxDOT's current cost effectiveness numbers provide for 1,388 square feet of barrier per benefiter. TxDOT proposes to increase the square footage of abatement per benefiting receiver to 1,500 square feet based on the current costs of \$35 per square foot.

Based on the above, the proposal is approved and should be included in the new 2018 TxDOT Noise Policy. TxDOT may begin using the new cost effectiveness criteria as of this date.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Mr. Greg Wood, Environmental and Transportation Planning Coordinator, at (512) 536-5942 or greg.p.wood@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Leary
Director
Planning and Program Development

