

Central Ave & Parsons Rd Improvements

Noise Evaluation Process

Dorchester County is following the “South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) Traffic Noise Abatement Policy” and federal regulations under 23 CFR 722 to determine whether there are existing noise impacts at homes along the corridor, or if future noise impacts could occur when the proposed road construction is complete.



1 **MONITOR** Existing Conditions

Dorchester County took field measurements within the project corridor to validate existing noise levels



2 **MODEL** Noise Change

Computer models for calculating existing (2023), No-Build (2050) and Build (2050) conditions were created to compare all three scenarios



3 **IDENTIFY** Noise Impacts

Based on model results, Dorchester County identified existing and future noise impacts within the project corridor

What is a noise impact?

Noise is defined as unwanted or excessive sound. FHWA and SCDOT have established thresholds, or Noise Abatement Criteria, to determine when noise impacts occur. These thresholds establish what further analysis is required to determine if noise levels can be reduced as part of the project.



4 **CONSIDER** Noise Reduction Measures

Dorchester County evaluated if it is reasonable and feasible to reduce noise levels for impacted properties

What are the next steps for the noise analysis?

The noise analysis has been completed as part of the environmental review. Results indicate that **five locations** along the corridor meet the criteria for **potential** noise walls.

These findings are preliminary and do not guarantee that a noise barrier will be constructed. Final decisions regarding noise abatement will be made during final design and through the ongoing public involvement process.



Noise Barriers

These images are examples of what a proposed noise barrier could look like along the roadway.

