

Standard Questions & Answers

How are the soundwalls funded?

Through the Governor Gray Davis' Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) which allocated \$5.3 billion for a total of 141 projects statewide. Orange County received \$206.5 million for the TCRP project with \$22.3 million dedicated to soundwalls. In addition, the Community Noise Attenuation Program dedicated \$226 million state wide with \$13.4 million set aside for soundwalls. A total of \$35.7 million will be spent on building Orange County soundwalls. This project is the second TCRP highway project statewide to start construction.

Will the soundwalls have to be removed to accommodate for the future 22 widening for carpool lanes?

No. Funding for the Community Noise Attenuation Program's soundwalls is supplemented by partial funding from the Traffic Congestion Relief Program. All soundwalls are being designed and constructed to accommodate an ultimate widening for HOV lanes on SR-22.

Were the residents notified in advance about the new soundwalls?

Yes. Caltrans held several community meetings in partnership with the city of Garden Grove and Westminster to get public consensus on features of the proposed soundwalls.

What are the soundwalls going to look like?

Caltrans held several open houses to meet with residents and inform them of this upcoming project. We encouraged community involvement and consensus on the soundwall aesthetics. The walls, in general, will be the maximum, 16 feet tall, using split-faced concrete blocks with a grooved capstone. They will be a brown-beige color to match the existing soundwalls. Vine plants will be used wherever possible to enhance the look and deter graffiti.

Why aren't you building all the soundwalls?

These first seven walls had the least design and right of way impacts and as such, we were able to process them independent of, yet coordinated with the widening project.

Why did it take so long to build?

Four of the soundwalls were previously identified as part of the Soundwall Retrofit Program (formerly the HB-311 program, currently known as the Community Noise Attenuation Program) established as part of the transportation Blueprint Legislation of 1989. Delays were due to the shifting of funds for emergency repairs as a result of the Northridge Earthquake.

What is the soundwall schedule?

Caltrans worked aggressively to accelerate the schedule to build the soundwalls that were originally slated to be completed with the HOV project. When the governor released the funds, Caltrans staff worked diligently to deliver this project 5 years ahead of schedule. Construction starts in July 2001 and all seven walls are expected to be completed by the end of 2002. (See graphic map schedule)

(Continued) Q & A

History

State Route 22 (Garden Grove freeway) was built in the 1960's as a six-lane freeway that extends 12.5 miles from the I-405 on the west to SR-55 in the east. Presently, it has an average daily traffic volume of 163,000 vehicles daily. This route serves as one of the two primary east/west freeway routes in Orange County.

SR-22 HOV Project

Presently, this project is in the environmental process stage. The Draft Environmental Document will be ready for public review by late-August, 2001. A public hearing is scheduled for the following month in September. The Final Environmental Document is expected to be done by Spring of 2002. It is anticipated that we will start construction by 2004. Caltrans is working aggressively with OCTA to deliver this project sooner.