

Alexandria Marquis
118 Fordway Ext.
Derry, NH 03038
603.818.9566
alexandriamarquis@gmail.com

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Wendy A. Johnson, P.E., Project Manager
Jay S. Levine, P.E., I93 Corridor Supervisor
NH Department of Transportation
Bureau of Highway Design
John O. Morton Building
7 Hazen Drive
P.O. Box 483
Concord, NH 03302-0483

**RE: Rebuilding I-93 Highway Project/Fordway Extension (Location18)
Sound Wall**

Mr. Levine and Ms. Johnson,

As I have not heard back from you since my previous correspondence of June 1, 2017, I am again writing to request a "sound wall" for the Fordway Ext. area abutting I-93 southbound. I have personally researched the amount of homes abutting the I-93 southbound corridor which will be affected by highway traffic noise and they are as follows:

- Approximately 12 homes on Fordway, Ext.;
- Approximately 6 homes on Tracey Drive;
- Approximately 10 homes on Spinnaker.

Total homes affected = 28

More importantly, the Northbound/Southbound bridges present at Fordway Ext., according to the literature on the "Rebuilding I93" website, "Bridge constructions represents a source of higher noise levels due to pile driving and other activities."¹ The bridges are being reconstructed and will therefore have more traffic, emitting more noise/vibration/echoing and will be 6-8 feet closer to the residential properties at Fordway Ext.

"The construction associated with the widening of the corridor and the widening and/or modification of seven bridges would require a substantial capital investment and have potential environmental impacts. While using the shoulder lane as a means of increasing the capacity of the corridor would help in the near-term, it would be a temporary solution only. The use of a shoulder lane is a tradeoff of capacity needs for safety. Statistically, adding a shoulder lane will lead to an increase in vehicle accidents. The potential increase in accidents will further exacerbate the ability of emergency personnel to respond to an incident in a timely fashion. The construction activities, including traffic control, necessary to complete the construction of the shoulder lane would further disrupt the existing traffic flow and further increase congestion for, in all likelihood, a two-year construction period."²

¹ FEIS Volume 1, 4-153

² FEIS Part 1, 2-22

Although this project is to eliminate traffic jams, it is impossible to fully eliminate traffic in the overpopulated world that we live in. You are simply adding extra lanes and welcoming more vehicles, vacationers/increase revenue. With the expansion comes increased numbers of vehicles, traffic, noise, accidents, pollution etc. which simultaneously/continuously disturbs our privacy/right to quiet enjoyment. I93 is a highway that NEVER sleeps no matter what the hour.

A "sound wall" was installed at Derryfield Road, Derry, NH where the highway sits hundreds of feet above the residential area, therefore, it is not unusual for a "sound wall" to be built at the Fordway Ext. area. Also, the homes at Fordway Ext. are in closer proximity to I93.

"Noise is defined as unwanted or excessive sound. Sound becomes unwanted when it interferes with normal activities such as sleep, work, or recreation. The individual human response to noise is subject to considerable variability since there are many emotional and physical factors that contribute to the differences in reaction to noise" (footnote FEIS Volume 1 Chapter 3, 3-113 Affected Environment). The noise/vibration/spotlights during all hours of the night, is absolutely unbearable. My children are 4 and 7 and continuously wake during the night due to flashing lights/construction site in our back yard!

You cannot tell me or my family that we can no longer use our backyard due to safety and increased noise. That is not an acceptable answer. There are very clearly sound effects at Fordway Extension and it must be remedied. A stockade fence does not cancel any noise, it simply blocks the view of the highway. The view is merely a problem compared to the noise. The noise is unwanted, excessive and becomes unwanted when it interferes with my children/animals' lives, family functions, sleep, sleep effects our professions and recreation throughout the entire year! A stockade fence is not a solution.

In July of 2017, the Union Leader indicated that the project is considering 4 lanes over 3 lanes, which will cut the project cost in half "If the fourth lane is approved by next summer, that would save the project millions"... Given this information, the budget may include plans for more "sound walls" to the affected areas of the highway that were previously found "ineligible". There is no reason that "sound walls" cannot be purchased and divvied up between the smaller "ineligible" areas of the highway. AFTEC LLC indicates that you can purchase "sound walls" for 300' or less. Also, Mr. Levine indicates "work crews will need to add 6 to 8 feet of pavement in the three-lane areas to complete a fourth lane..." In the beginning of the project, it was understood that the highway would be moved approximately 10 inches closer to the resident's homes, we later learned the highway would be moved 6 feet closer to the resident's homes and NOW, 6-8 feet? When will the line be drawn? 10 inches to 8 feet is a very big difference!

We again respectfully request a "sound wall" be constructed at Fordway Ext. Again, a stockade fence is NOT a solution. It is completely asinine given the current/future circumstances in regard to noise abatement. If the music were too loud, would you shield your eyes?!

Thank you,


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