

HIGHLANDS RANCH METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING ADDENDUM

March 31, 2015

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<http://highlandsranch.org>

or

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- Letter to the Board from Highlands Ranch Neighborhood Coalition

Highlands Ranch Neighborhood Coalition (HRNC)

March 31, 2015

Highlands Ranch Metro District
Board of Directors
62 Plaza Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Re: C-470 Highway Expansion and Noise Mitigation

Dear Board of Directors:

We are residents of Highlands Ranch who reside in the neighborhoods of High Gate, Summerhill, Dad Clark north, Falcon Hills, and Gleneagles Village. Our neighborhoods are impacted by traffic noise generated by C-470. We are requesting your endorsement of our initiative to reinstate the noise mitigation walls and berms that were originally recommended as part of the Environmental Assessment approved in 2006.

Background: The C-470 corridor is in need of expansion to handle the current and future growth of traffic of up to 50% by 2035. In 2006 an Environmental Analysis (EA) was prepared and approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The 2006 EA recommended that 11 residential communities along the C-470 corridor receive noise mitigation walls and berms. In February 2015 CDOT and the C-470 Corridor Coalition presented the "Final Analysis of Traffic Noise Impacts and Recommended Mitigation" contained in the revised EA. Comparison of the 2006 EA to the revised EA shows that 67% of the noise mitigation originally recommended in 2006 has been eliminated in Highlands Ranch along C-470 between Broadway and Quebec.

In addition, the 2006 EA committed to perform a full noise analysis for the residents north of Dad Clark Dr. between Broadway and University to determine if noise mitigation could be feasible prior to final design.

2006 EA Noise Mitigation compared to Revised EA		
Highlands Ranch Communities	2006 Noise Mitigation (Feet)	2015 Noise Mitigation (Feet)
Canyon Ranch, Copper Canyon Apartments	5,220	4,730
High Gate, Summer Hill, Falcon Hills	4,975	0
Gleneagles Village	2,150	0
Palomino Park	2,050	0
Total	14,395	4,730

Province Center (Not in Highlands Ranch or HRMD)	1,530	0
Shadow Canyon (Not in HRMD or 2006 recommendations)	0	1,700

The original noise levels in our neighborhoods were measured for a one week duration in 2006. The updated noise levels were measured over a two day period on July 2-3rd in 2013 (per CDOT). It is our belief that the updated noise levels are not representative of normal traffic noise conditions due to a holiday week and the short duration of the most recent testing. In addition, The Traffic Noise Model User's Guide for Colorado DOT Projects Section 4.0 November 2006 states:

“Long-term measurements provide a clear understanding of the loudest-hour noise level that repeats from day to day. Therefore 3 to 4 days of data is required at a minimum, and one week of data is desired. Measurements should be conducted in 15-minute intervals or one-hour intervals. This type of information may be required only for large corridor projects.”

The above guideline is consistent with the original 2006 EA and should be repeated in the updated EA to provide an accurate representation of existing noise levels. As a result of the shortened two day testing duration over July 2-3rd, the noise mitigation measures have been drastically reduced as depicted in the above table comparing 2006 to today. Furthermore, we can attest as full time residents that the noise levels have not subsided since 2006 and will, without question, increase with the proposed project.

Our goals are to:

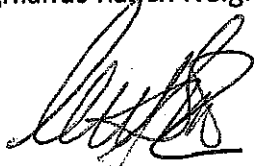
1. Compel Douglas County and CDOT to complete a fair and comparable updated noise study and Traffic Noise Model (TNM) as part of the revised EA prior to any final recommendation or final approval of the project for construction.
2. Have CDOT publish the new results to the public, for public comment, of the aforementioned noise study and TNM prior to final recommendation or approval.
3. Have CDOT publish the results of the full noise analysis and TNM for the residents north of Dad Clark Dr. as originally committed to in the 2006 EA and prior to final design.

We can all agree that in order for the C-470 project to be a total success, all components must be addressed, well designed, and satisfied. For example the roadway, access ramps, bridges, lighting, signage, auto and pedestrian safety features, environmental, and noise design all blend together to make this a safe, harmonious, and successful project for future generations. Noise generation and mitigation measures are just as important as the other components. If potentially invalid noise testing and resultant mitigation recommendations are allowed to stand it will be a vast disservice to the community, highway users, impacted residents, and Highlands Ranch.

Therefore we are committed to ensuring that the updated EA and noise abatement recommendations are valid and properly documented. We hope you will join us in this commitment. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and we look forward to your favorable endorsement and proactive support of our initiative.

Respectfully Submitted

Highlands Ranch Neighborhood Coalition

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carter Sales', written in a cursive style.

By: Carter Sales

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Highlands Ranch, CO 80126