

[DATE]

Tonita LeShore Director Community Development and Human Resources Village of Bellwood 3200 Washington Boulevard Bellwood, IL 60104

Re: Traffic Noise Information for Undeveloped Lands Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) Reconstruction

The Illinois Department of Transportation is currently conducting environmental (Phase I) preliminary engineering studies for proposed improvements to the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) in Cook County, IL. The proposed improvements include reconstruction of the expressway from I-88 to Cicero Avenue/IL Route 50, as well as roadway restriping from Cicero Avenue/IL Route 50 to Racine Avenue.

As part of the Phase I Environmental Study for this proposed project, projected future traffic noise levels were evaluated for lands (either currently under your jurisdiction or land that may come under your jurisdiction) near the proposed roadway improvement. For your information, this study area includes land that may be planned for future development in a comprehensive land use plan.

This letter includes an exhibit showing the predicted design year (2040) build traffic noise levels for the undeveloped lands along the project corridor within your jurisdiction. This information is for your use in planning and permitting future development. We recommend that you carefully consider the future predicted noise levels to avoid potential issues of public concern over incompatible noise levels.

The figure shows currently vacant/future development areas in red, and also shows the distance from the center of the nearest outside I-290 mainline travel lane (based on the proposed improvement) to both the 66- and 71-dB(A) noise level contours.

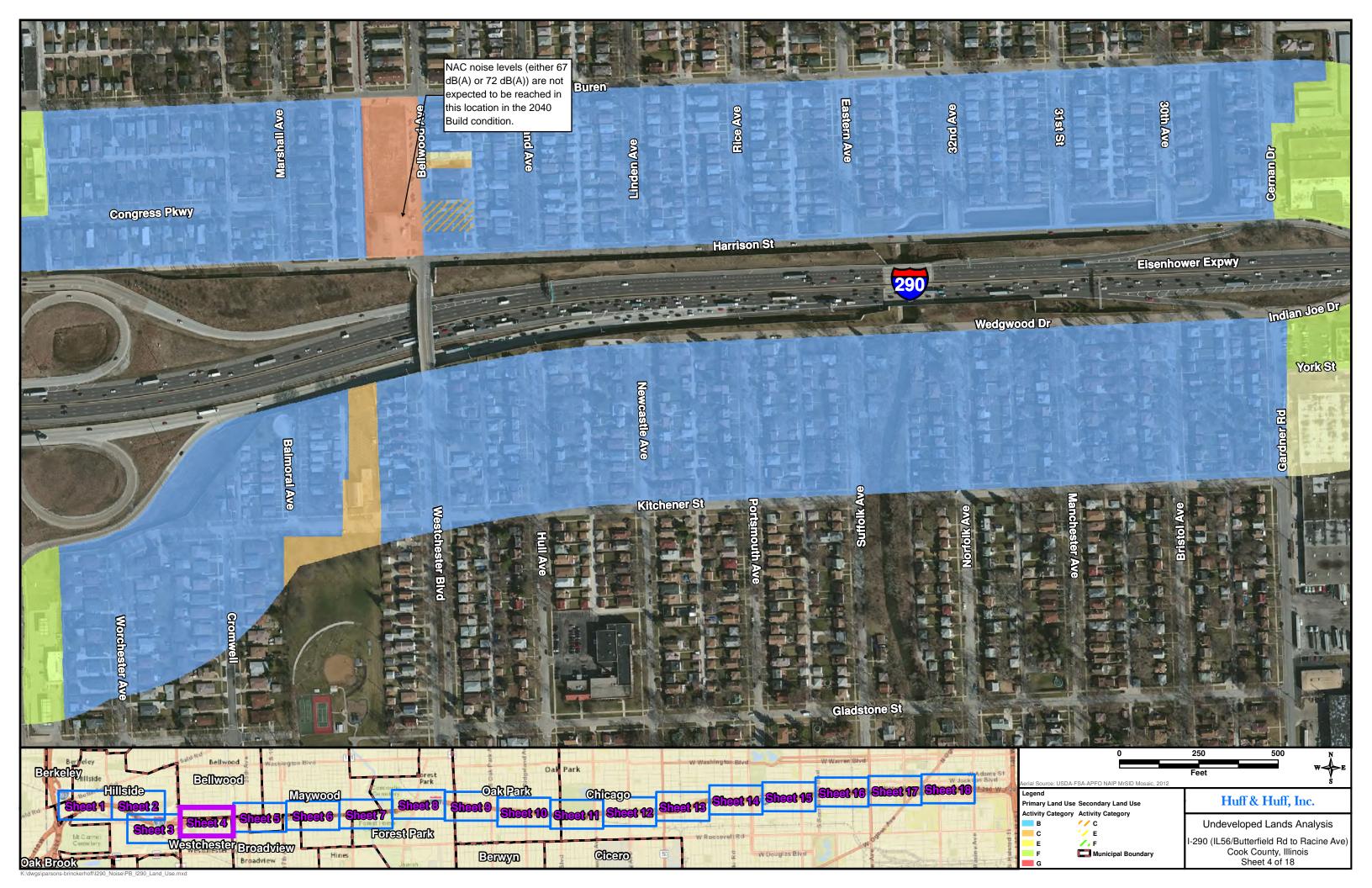
- A 66-dB(A) noise contour represents noise levels that would be a noise impact for residential areas, schools, places of worship, medical offices, recreational areas, and institutional uses.
- A 71-dB(A) noise contour represents noise levels that would be a noise impact for hotels, restaurants, and offices.

To help with your future planning and discernment regarding permitting decisions, we encourage you to obtain the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) publication titled *Entering the Quiet Zone: Noise Compatible Land Use Planning*. This publication can be obtained from the FHWA website:

 $\underline{www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/noise_compatible_planning/federal_approach/land_use/quit} \\ \underline{ezon.pdf}$

For additional information regarding traffic noise, regulations and policy, noise analyses or noise abatement, we encourage you to visit the Department's web site at: http://www.dot.il.gov/. Click on the "Environment" link and then the "Traffic Noise" link to access this information.

Sincerely,



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Andrew Mooney Commissioner Planning and Development City of Chicago 121 N. LaSalle Street Chicago, IL 60602

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