

## **Noise Barrier Information Sheet**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is considering construction of a noise barrier between your property or residence and I-4 (see enclosed aerial plan sheets). The location, length and height of the recommended noise barrier have been optimized to reduce traffic noise levels at the adjacent residences. The proposed noise barrier would be constructed of concrete and within the existing FDOT right of way. The maintenance of the proposed noise barrier would be the responsibility of FDOT.

FDOT is soliciting the opinions of property owners and residents regarding the construction of this noise barrier and would like you to consider the following information when making your decision.

### **Advantages and Disadvantages**

A noise barrier is a permanent structure of significant height and cannot be removed once constructed. For this reason, it is important that you understand the advantages and disadvantages of a noise barrier adjacent to your property or residence. Some of these advantages and disadvantages are listed below.

#### **Advantages of Noise Barriers**

- Noise barriers, when designed at the proper height and length, can provide an audible reduction in roadway traffic noise to residences directly behind the barrier.
- Noise barriers can be designed to be aesthetically pleasing from both the roadway and property owner sides of the barrier.
- Noise barriers provide privacy from passing motorists.

#### **Disadvantages of Noise Barriers**

- Noise barriers can affect sunlight by casting a fairly large shadow as the sun rises and sets or permanently shade some areas. This may adversely impact nearby vegetation.
- Noise barriers act as visual barriers, blocking views for residents and creating a tunnel effect for motorists.
- Noise barriers may present a public safety concern because the view of police and other safety patrols traversing the roadway will be blocked. Noise barriers can also create nighttime shadow areas.
- Noise barriers can obstruct breezes and sunlight.
- Noise barriers can attract graffiti.
- Noise barriers may reduce, but cannot eliminate, the traffic noise.