



## PUBLIC WORKS

CITY HALL  
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### CITY COUNCIL INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

Date: August 14, 2025

To: Cupertino City Council

From: Chad Mosley, Director of Public Works

Re: Noise Concerns on Blaney Avenue at Highway 280

#### Background

There is a gap in the soundwall that runs along the southerly boundary of Highway 280. The gap starts at the Blaney Ave overpass and extends approximately 700' to the east. This gap results in little to now sound attenuation from the traffic on Highway 280, and nearby residents have requested that the City explore potential solutions to address the resulting noise impacts.

The Public Works Department has contacted Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) regarding this concern. VTA indicated that there is currently no funding available for new soundwall construction at this location, but they have agreed to notify the City if funding does become available in the future.

VTA did share recent bid results from two soundwall projects elsewhere in the County. Based on those bids, the estimated cost for a new soundwall ranges from \$2,500 to \$5,500 per linear foot.

A portion of the 700-foot gap runs adjacent to a storage facility, which provides some level of noise screening. If the City were to consider funding a soundwall independently, a more cost-effective option would be to extend the existing wall approximately 200 feet eastward from the Blaney Avenue overpass—just past the end of the storage facility. This would provide significant noise reduction for nearby homes while limiting the project's scope.

However, even a 200-foot extension would cost between \$500,000 and \$1.1 million, not including soft costs such as design, permitting, and project management, which could add an additional 25% to 50%. Given these costs, City funding for a new wall does not appear to be a feasible option at this time.

As a lower-cost alternative, the City is evaluated installing a 10- to 12-foot-tall chain-link fence along the City's right-of-way and partially within Valley Water property. This fence would be outfitted with sound-attenuating panels. While both the fence and the panels have a projected useful life of approximately 20 years, the panels may be more susceptible to vandalism and graffiti, which could shorten their lifespan. It is important to note that this type of installation would not provide the same level of noise reduction as a concrete soundwall, but it could offer some interim relief.

The estimated cost for this interim option is approximately \$200 per linear foot for the fence and \$200 per linear foot for the sound panels, resulting in a total estimated cost of approximately \$80,000 (excluding soft costs). This option would require coordination and a permit from Valley Water.

In addition, City staff discussed with VTA the potential to install noise-reducing pavement along this segment of I-280. Rubberized asphalt or similar surfaces can reduce noise levels by 4 to 6 decibels—a noticeable improvement, though not a complete solution. While VTA has no current plans to resurface this section, the City will recommend that noise-reducing pavement be considered when a future paving project is initiated.

Sustainability Impact

No sustainability impact.

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact.

City Work Program (CWP) Item/Description

None

Council Goal:

Quality of Life

California Environmental Quality Act

No California Environmental Quality Act impact.

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Prepared by: Chad Mosley, Director of Public Works

Reviewed by: Kirsten Squarcia, Interim Deputy City Manager/City Clerk

Approved for Submission by: Tina Kapoor, Interim City Manager

Attachments:

A – Aerial Exhibit

## A - Aerial Exhibit

