



Shawn Machado
Assistant City Manager

MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Shawn Machado, Assistant City Manager

CC: Doreen Burgess & Conor Baldwin

DATE: May 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Motion Response - C. Scott 4/29/2025 Request the City Manager send a letter to the delegation and MassDOT to inquire about the process to install noise barriers along Route 495, along exit 91 and the Gorham Street bridge.

Dear State Delegation and MassDOT Officials,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inquire about the potential installation of noise barriers along Route 495, in the vicinity of Exit 91 and the Gorham St bridge area. We have received complaints that noise levels from Route 495 can be quite disruptive, particularly during peak hours.

I understand that noise barriers can provide significant relief to communities affected by roadway noise, and I would like to learn more about the criteria and processes involved in constructing such barriers.

- 1) What is the formal process for requesting the installation of noise barriers along Route 495?
- 2) What criteria must be met for a noise barrier to be considered for construction?
- 3) Is the decibel test or a similar measurement used in evaluating the need for noise barriers, and if so, how is it conducted?
- 4) Are there specific programs or initiatives within MassDOT that support noise mitigation efforts?



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It would be helpful to understand the necessary steps and resources involved in addressing this concern. I appreciate the efforts of our state delegation and MassDOT in maintaining our transportation infrastructure and addressing our community needs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response, and any guidance you can provide.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Golden Jr.