

**Interstate 95 HOV Re Evaluation Highway Traffic Noise Impact Analysis; Palm
Beach County Florida**

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The Florida Department of Transportation recently conducted an extensive four-month field re-evaluation along two specific sections of the Interstate 95 study corridor located in Palm Beach County, Florida. The purpose of this evaluation was to analyze the existing and future highway traffic noise impacts at specific noise sensitive receptor sites and to determine if past noise abatement commitments were justifiable. While this process proved to be time consuming, it was necessary to conduct field verification studies of all proposed noise barrier segments prior to final recommendation. Failure to do so could lead to ineffective expenditures of transportation resources, which currently approach two million dollars a mile for noise barrier placement in the State of Florida.

The study corridor re-evaluation focused on twenty-two noise sensitive receptor sites, which were subject to an extensive field measurement process. Additional sites were selected for both vertical array studies and field insertion loss studies associated with existing noise barriers. The level of field analysis at these locations was necessary in order to properly establish the existing highway traffic noise impacts along the study corridor. The results of this analysis concurred with the decisions regarding noise abatement as documented in the 1996 Noise Study Report.