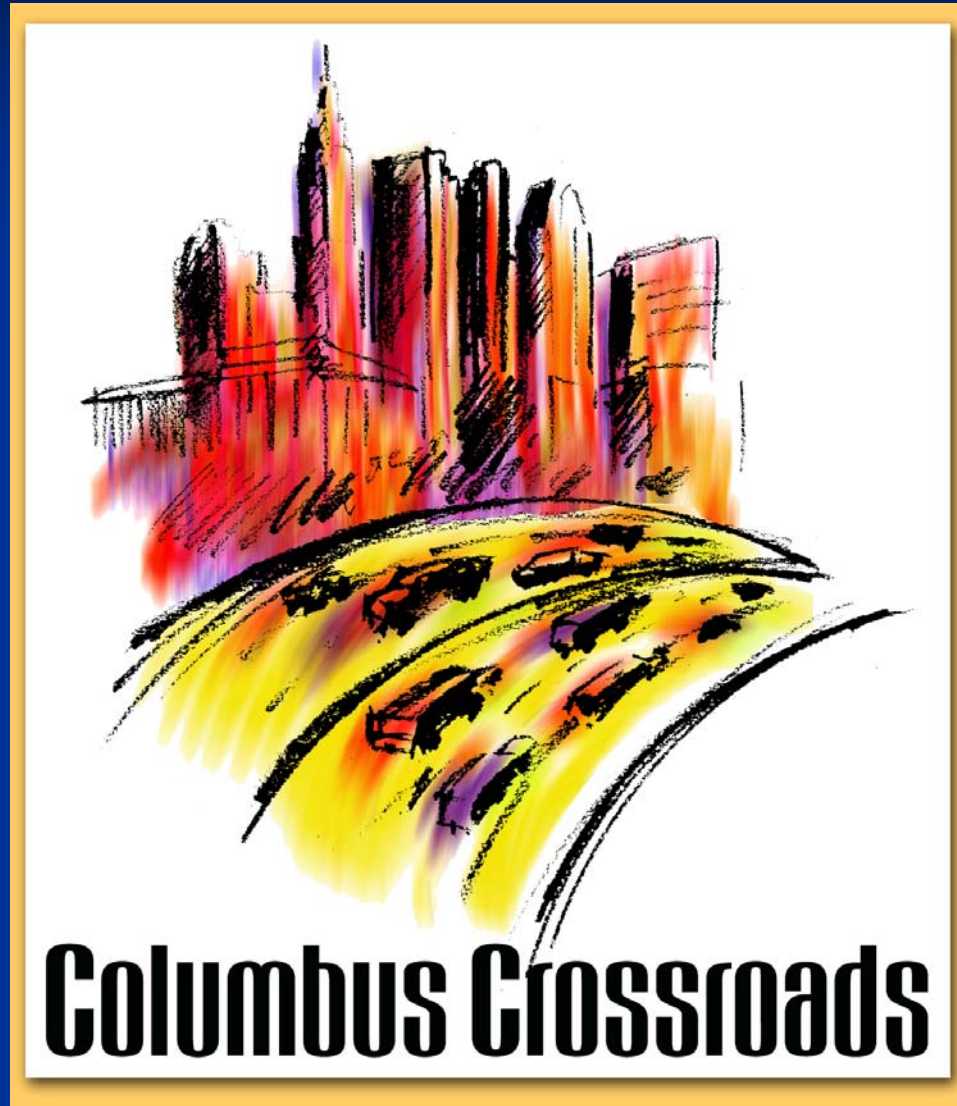


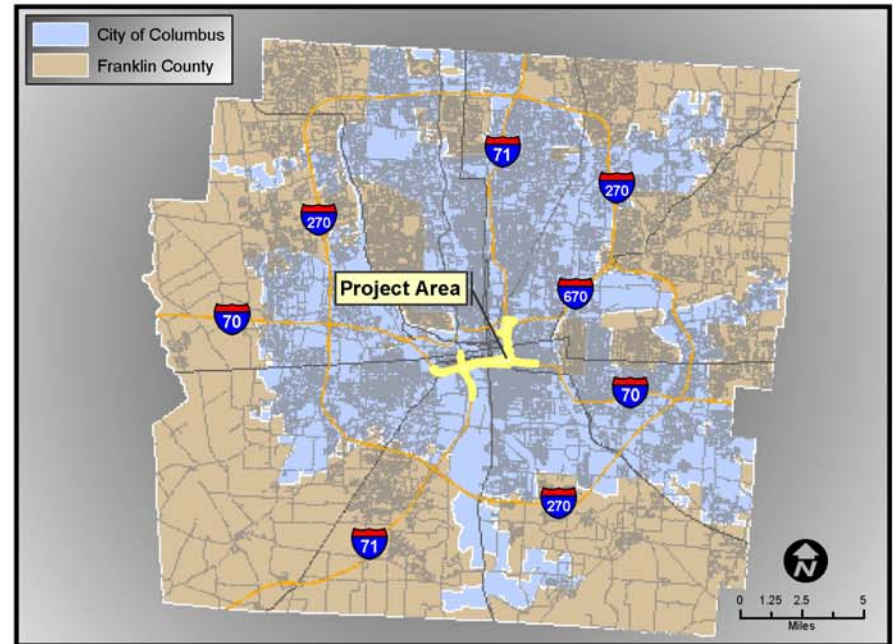
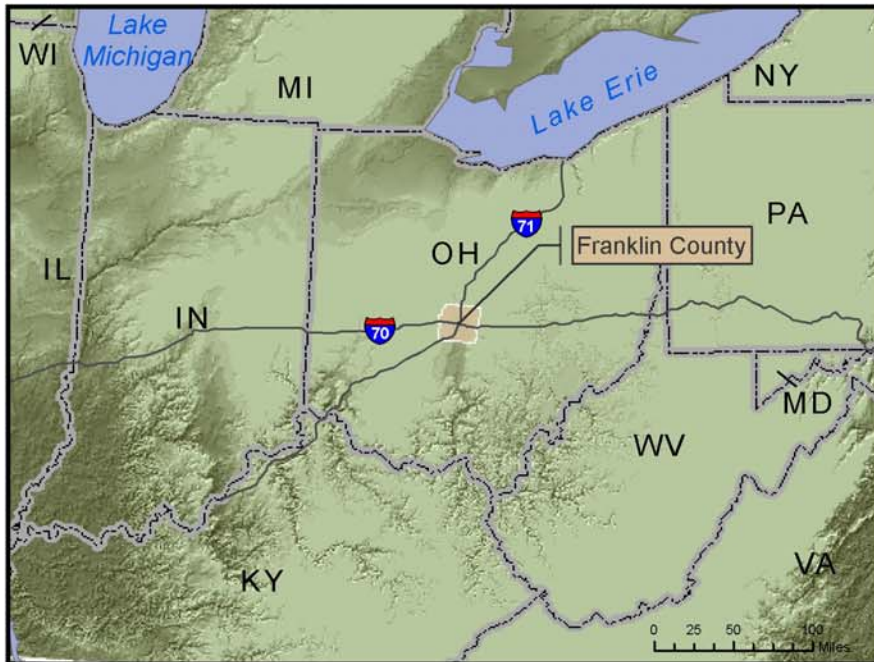
# Comparing Alternatives and Neutralizing Squeaky Wheels on a Major Urban Project

Karel L. Cubick  
ms consultants, inc.

# I-70/71 – Columbus, Ohio

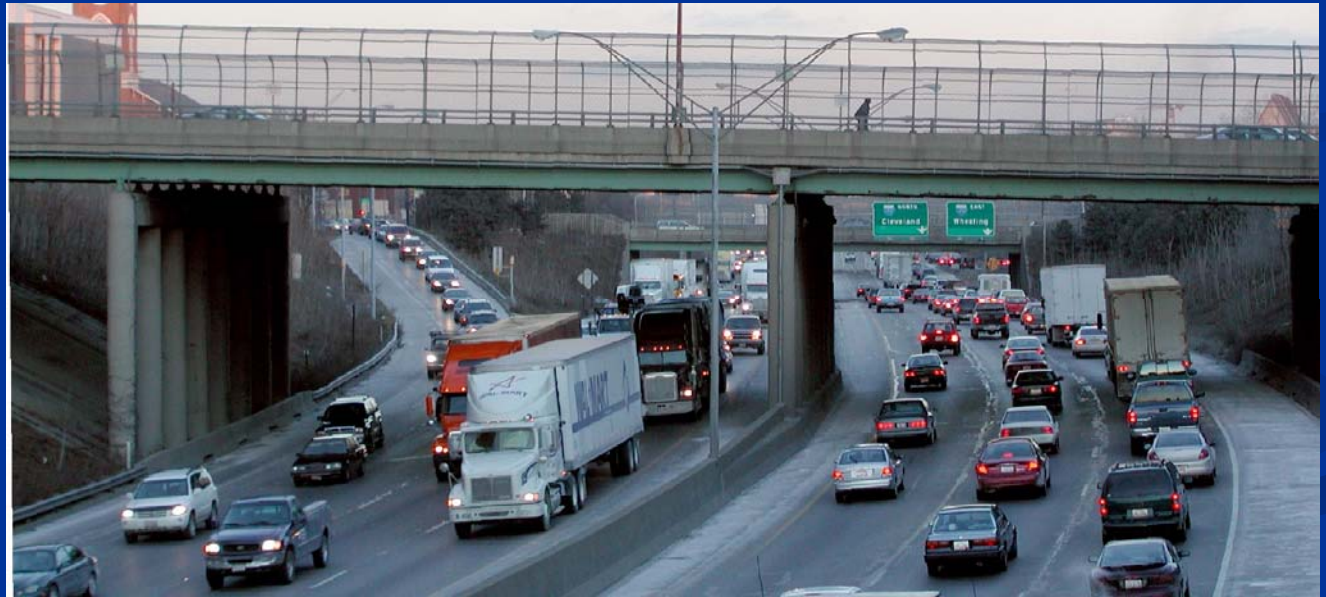


# I-70/71 – Columbus Ohio



# I-70/71 – Columbus Ohio

## *The Problem*



# I-70/71 – Columbus Ohio

- I-70/71 planned in 1950s
- Constructed in the 1960s
- Capacity of 125,000 vehicles per day
- Now carries 175,000 vehicles per day
- High crash location

*averages over 2 crashes per day*

- Year 2030 = 249,000 vehicles per day

# Purpose and Need



# Purpose and Need Summary

**Reduce Congestion**  
**Improve Safety**

Additional Capacity

Route Continuity

Eliminate Weaves

# I-70/71 – Columbus Ohio

## *The Project*



# I-70/71 Alternatives

- Initial Study Area was downtown Columbus - 2002
- 4 Alternative Concepts (corridors) - 2004
- 5 Conceptual Alternatives (1 corridor) - 2005
- **2 Feasible Alternatives** advanced – 2006
  - Subject of Noise Analysis 2006-2007
  - EA scheduled for Fall 2008

# Design Highlights

10-lane Freeway & 6-lane CD Streets

Full Height Retaining Walls (cap foundations)

2 System Interchanges with 90 New Bridges





# Mound-Fulton Alternative



# Fulton-Livingston Alternative



# I-70/71 – Columbus Ohio

*The Neighbors*



# Sensitive Resources

## *Squeaky Wheels*

- 7 National Register listed Historic Districts
- 7 City of Columbus Historic Neighborhoods
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- Major City Park and Recreation Center
- New County Metropark w/ Audubon Nature Center
- High-rise Condominiums

**All are represented by well-educated, well-financed, vocal individuals.**

# German Village

## *Squeaky Wheel*

- Hundreds of buildings, nearly all residential
- Full-time professional historic preservation staff
- Immediately adjacent to I-70/71 overlap  
(remember 16-lanes & 249,000 ADT)



# Miranova/Waterford

## *Squeaky Wheel*

- 20 story high-rise condos, \$ 1M +
- Occupied by judges, lawyers, & elected officials
- Immediately adjacent to I-70/71 overlap





# I-70/71 – Columbus Ohio

## *The Noise Study*



# Preliminary Noise Analysis

## ■ Technical Goals

- Determine Noise Levels for:
  - Existing Situation
  - Design Year No-build
  - Design Year Build – Both Alternatives
- Compare Build Alternatives
  - Is one really worse?
  - Should traffic noise influence the alternative selection?
- Finish within time/budget

# Preliminary Noise Analysis

- Public Relations Goals
  - Show understanding of project area... feel their pain
  - Study “critical” sites
  - **Illustrate differences between alternatives**
    - Is one really worse?
    - Should traffic noise influence the alternative selection?

# Methodology

- Scope limited to 12 “typical” sites
- Selected 12 sites that:
  - Exemplify development pattern
  - Are recognizable to the “squeaky wheels”
  - Can be modeled given the available data
- Required an understanding of the Stakeholders, Community Activists, and the Public.

**You're going to need the PR folks at the end,  
so get them involved at the beginning.**

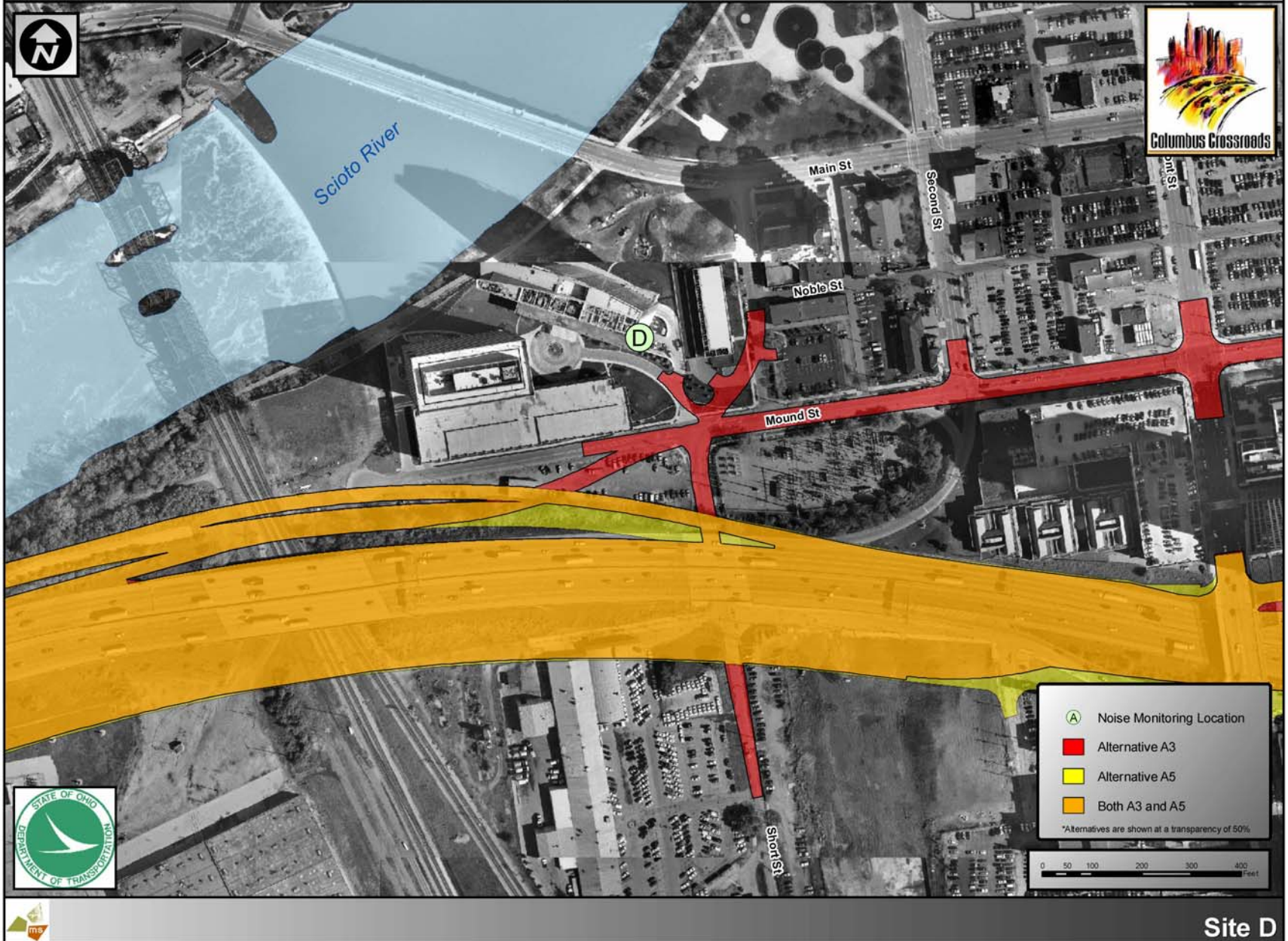
# Methodology

- TNM 2.5
- Verify & Document Assumptions
  - Highway Engineers (elevation of lanes)
  - Traffic Engineers (speeds, % trucks)

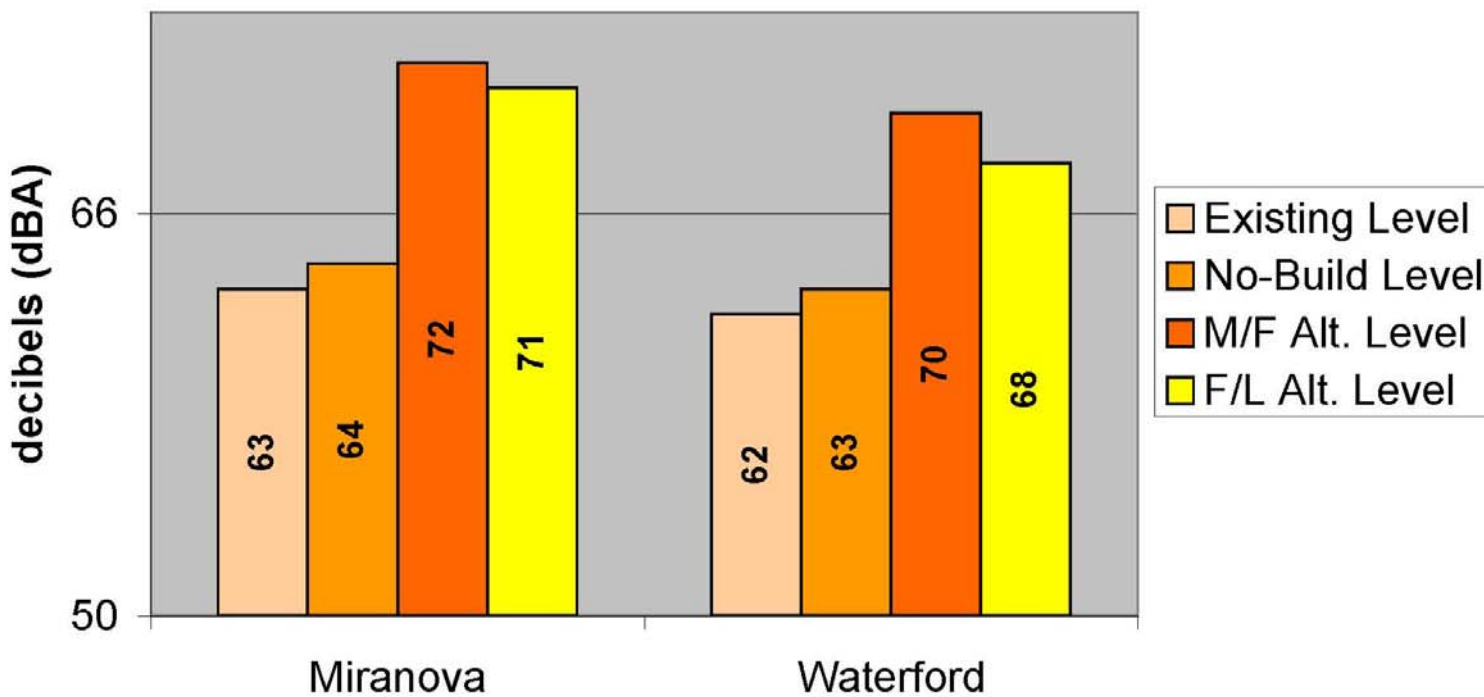


# Report

- Document was/is ready for Court
  - Details – specifics - no blanks
- Lots of Graphics – help the PR folks
- The **ONE** source of information, assume technical files and individual memory will not be available.



# I-70/71 Traffic Noise Study Site D



# Public Relations

- Remember the goals and make the information *painfully* clear.
  - “There will be an increase in traffic noise with any build alternative.”
  - “At this site, no perceptible difference in the build noise levels is predicted.”
  - “We will have to investigate mitigation regardless of which alternative advances.”

# Public Relations

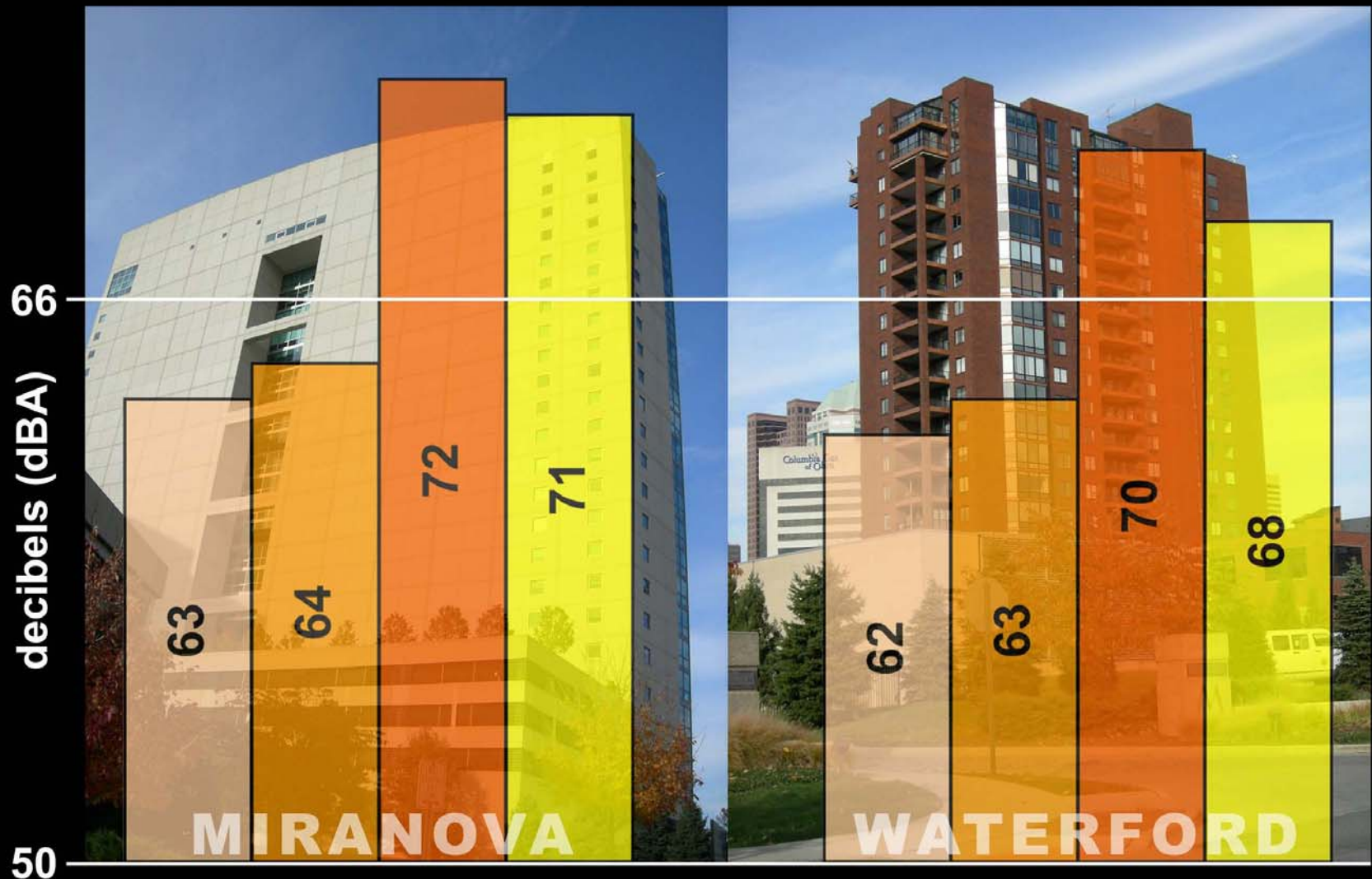
## ■ Public Meetings

- Required explanations of process and policy
- Frequent requests to review report
- Many requests for site specific meetings

## ■ Special Graphics

- Required for site specific meetings
- Talk to the PR people, if they don't get it the public never will.

## I-70/71 Traffic Noise Study - Site D



**ms consultants, inc.**  
engineers, architects, planners



EXISTING LEVEL



NO-BUILD LEVEL - YEAR 2030

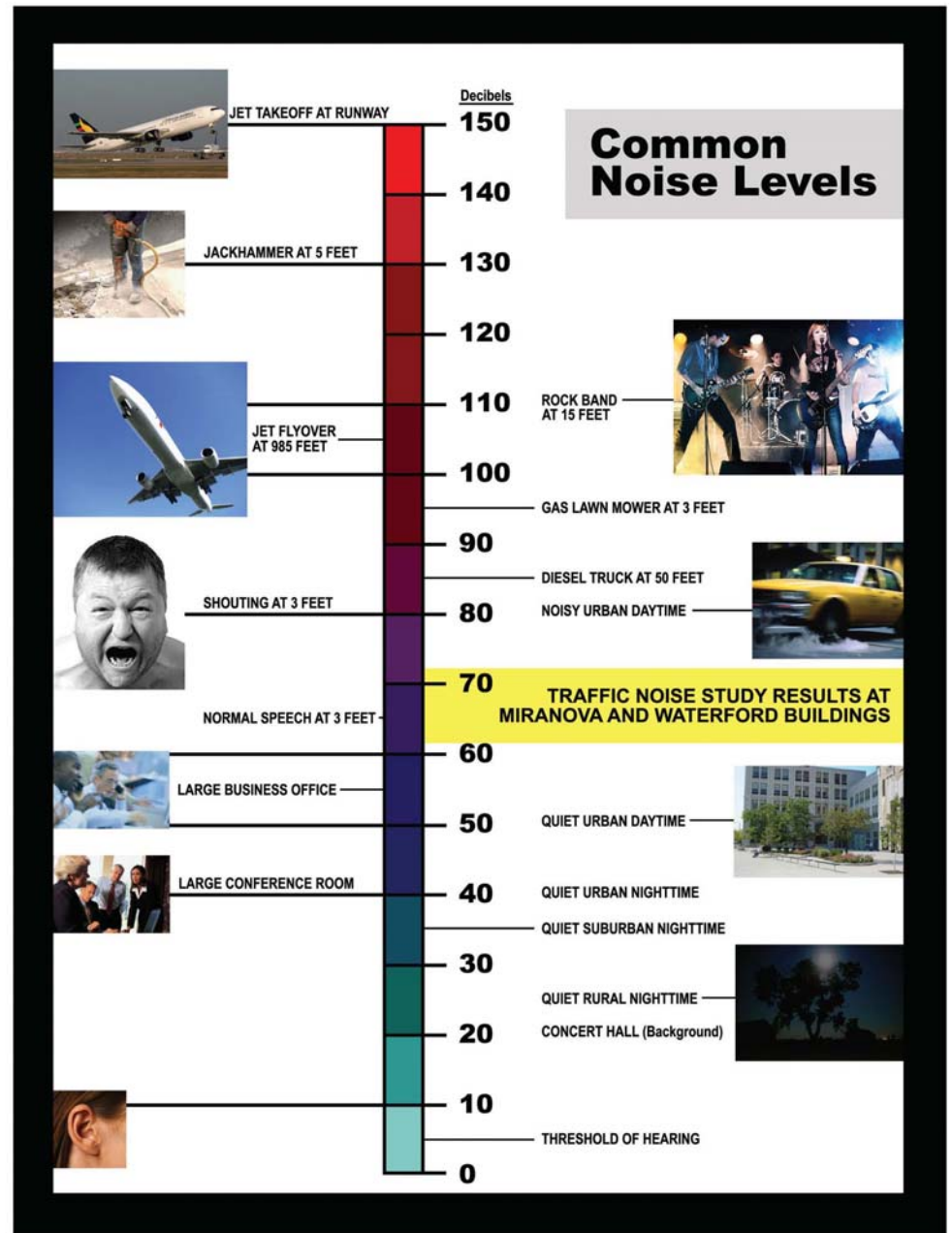


MOUND/FULTON ALT. LEVEL - YEAR 2030



FULTON/LIVINGSTON ALT. LEVEL - YEAR 2030

The PR folks loved  
it, the public  
understood it.



## ... at the end of the day

- A noise report was approved by ODOT.
- It appears traffic noise is not likely to be a major criteria in alternative selection.
- The *squeaky wheels* felt the project team:
  - understood their concerns,
  - adjusted the study to address those concerns, and
  - could be believed.

# Thank You

- Ohio Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Services  
District 6 – 70/71 Management Team
- Elvin Pinckney, Environmental Supervisor  
*retired yet still there*
- Adam Alexander,  
*now with the Dark Side*

