

Honorable Nikki R. Haley,

This is a letter of grievance regarding the negative impact of noise pollution and other related factors recently put upon my community. We are currently, and will continue to be adversely affected due to the construction along a portion of the 85/385 Gateway Project in Greenville, South Carolina. The project is slated for completion in 2018.

To the dismay of many homeowners including myself, the SCDOT cleared away the trees along the embankment of our community, thus destroying the natural sound and visual buffer they provided from the traffic. We are now plagued with increased noise pollution and the visual eyesore of traffic.

Many of the residents and I have complained to the appropriate representative(s) at the SCDOT to no avail. Essentially, we have all been told that although our community borders a section of the I-385; there is no plan to install a sound barrier wall despite the culminating increase of traffic volume.

We are requesting that an updated environmental assessment be conducted because the initial assessment was performed in 2008, prior to the construction of the Gateway project.

However, this community did not exist eight years ago and the environment at that time would have been more conducive to such a study.

Apparently, the 2008 study concluded that sound barrier walls were deemed not feasible or reasonable. Attached are email correspondences with a Project Engineer on the Gateway Project, and the Greenville County councilman for our location.

In addition, there is great concern among the homeowners re:

- As prospective buyers in this community, we were not informed about the long-term construction of the Gateway project, and the negative impacts it would have on our homes and livelihood.
- The devaluation of our homes during and upon completion of the project due to the increased noise pollution, and the lack of a sound and visual abatement device.
- The noise pollution undermining the structural integrity of many homes, and the increased exposure to carbon monoxide fumes for those residents closest to the highway.

As citizens of Greenville County, we are seeking your intervention/assistance in resolving this serious matter and look forward to your response. My contact information is listed below.

Respectfully,

Sandra Bivens, Homeowner

Townes At Cardinal Creek (located by Smith-Hines Rd. and the I-385 overpass)

Greenville, SC 29607

864-534-1864

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year.

2. The second part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year.

3. The third part of the report deals with the financial statement of the year.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the conclusions of the year.

5. The fifth part of the report deals with the recommendations of the year.

6. The sixth part of the report deals with the summary of the year.

7. The seventh part of the report deals with the appendix of the year.

8. The eighth part of the report deals with the index of the year.

9. The ninth part of the report deals with the bibliography of the year.

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Re: Regulations for installing a highway traffic noise barrier

Sandra Bivens

Sat 4/2/2016 9:59 AM

To: Payne, Fred <fpayne@greenvillecounty.org>;

Cc: Billy Coleman <billy.coleman@ice-eng.com>;

Bcc: Aiyana Waldron <a.n.waldron@gmail.com>;

Mr. Payne,

Thank you for your response. However, I was informed by Mr. Coleman that this environmental assessment was conducted in 2008. This neighborhood did not exist eight years ago, and the environment at that time would have been more conducive to such a study.

An updated study should now be conducted, especially after the recent clearing away of most of the trees that were acting as a noise and visual buffer. Many of the residents have noticed a difference, and SCDOT haven't expanded the lanes yet. There will definitely be a marked increase in noise, as well as the visual eyesore.

Also, it was stated that the public meetings were held in the past. Apparently, it will not be necessary to hold any public meetings in the future. In essence, the SCDOT is moving forward with this project regardless of complaints; and the negative impact on residents in this community.

Regards,

Sandra & Gary Bivens

Residents of Townes At Cardinal Creek

From: Payne, Fred <FPayne@greenvillecounty.org>

Sent: Friday, April 1, 2016 7:57 PM

To: Sandra Bivens

Subject: Re: Regulations for installing a highway traffic noise barrier

Ms Bivens,

I have received information from Billy Coleman who is a Project Engineer on the Gateway project. Here is an excerpt that he shared:

"attached is an excerpt of the environmental assessment that was conducted prior to the construction of this project. In that study, sound barrier walls were deemed "not feasible or reasonable to construct along the subject project". "

I felt certain that SCDOT had done studies to guide their planning and actions.

I will stay in touch and advise when there is another public meeting.

Best wishes,
Fred Payne

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 30, 2016, at 6:42 PM, Sandra Bivens <sannada216@hotmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Payne,

Thank you for your response via telephone concerning a highway traffic noise barrier for my community. *Please inform me when and where the public meetings are held regarding the 85-385 Gateway Project.*

I felt relieved when you stated that noise barriers are usually installed adjacent to residential areas. However, the SCDOT rep that I recently spoke to stated that they weren't responsible for the noise barrier. He further stated that it was the responsibility of the land developer for my community. Obviously, the land developer rep stated that the opposite was true.

Naturally, we're frustrated with the conflicting statements and need legitimate facts. We will attend the next scheduled public meeting.

Respectfully,
Sandra Bivens

From: Sandra Bivens <sannada216@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 11:22 AM
To: fpayne@greenvillecounty.org
Subject: Regulations for installing a highway traffic noise barrier

Greetings Mr. Payne,

I am a resident of a community in your jurisdiction that will be greatly impacted, both auditorally and visually, by the massive 85-385 Gateway Project currently underway.

I have spoken to representatives of the SCDOT, Project Manager of my community (which is almost completed), and the current HOA Director to inquire about the installation of a highway traffic noise barrier. I haven't gotten a definitive response from any of these reps. Apparently, erecting such a barrier was never considered as part of this project.

I would like to be informed about the regulations surrounding this issue. It appears that the residents in this relatively newly developed community will be "left out in the cold" once everything is completed.

There are many concerned residents regarding this situation. We'd like to finally get a

straight-forward answer about future plans for this beautiful, quiet community.

We are located off Smith-Hines Rd. by the I-385 overpass. Your attention to this serious matter would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,
Sandra Bivens
Resident of Townes At Cardinal Creek
864-534-1864

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