



January 31, 2025

Re: Proposed Noise Barrier Survey – The Gate Apartments
Moving I-4 Forward: I-4 from East of U.S. 27 to West of S.R. 429, Polk and Osceola County
Financial Project ID: 201210-8

Dear Property Owner or Resident:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is currently designing improvements to provide motorists with immediate congestion relief. FDOT is prioritizing the construction of two new congestion relief lanes – one additional lane in each direction -- along 4.1 miles of Interstate 4 (I-4) from east of U.S. 27 to west of State Road 429. Construction is scheduled to begin in early 2025, and the congestion relief lanes will open by the end of 2025. The new lanes will be located on the inside of the existing mainlines to help reduce congestion. After those lanes are open, additional work in the Accelerated Start Project will add the pavement to expand I-4 to the full width for 10 total lanes – four general use lanes in each direction and one express lane in each direction – at two interchanges: Champions Gate Boulevard and World Drive. By expanding these sections earlier in the project timeline, it better allows FDOT to prepare for the adjoining I-4 projects and build them simultaneously.

A traffic noise evaluation has determined that a noise barrier in the vicinity of your community is a cost reasonable and feasible measure to reduce traffic noise at residences near I-4. Therefore, as part of the project, FDOT is proposing construction of a noise barrier in the vicinity of your community along I-4.

The barrier is designed to primarily reduce traffic noise for the first row of residences, although others may be provided some limited benefit. The noise barrier would be permanently located within the FDOT right-of-way adjacent to your community. The proposed noise barrier would be two 8 feet high barriers approximately 800 and 1,200 feet long near the northern edge of the FDOT's right-of-way (property). The location of the barrier is shown on the enclosed exhibit. The FDOT will take reasonable steps to minimize any potential construction impacts. However, please note that construction of the proposed noise barrier may adversely affect adjacent vegetation. Construction of the barrier will block the view of signs along I-4 if present and will require the removal of vegetation located within the FDOT right of way for I-4. The proposed noise barrier will not require the displacement of any adjacent residents or the acquisition of any additional property.

The FDOT is seeking input from you, an affected property owner and/or resident, to verify your support for or opposition to construction of the noise barrier within the FDOT right-of-way. The decision to construct a noise barrier, and the continuous length of wall constructed, will be dependent upon the support or opposition provided by the adjacent property owners and residents. Therefore, your input is an important part of the decision-making process. Property owner or resident opposition may result in a shortened length of barrier or no barrier at all. The final decision regarding any aspect of the noise barrier will rest solely with the FDOT.

The property owners and residents that are affected will relinquish to the FDOT any access, light, air,

and view rights between their property and I-4 for the length of the noise barrier. You must agree to not pursue compensation for damages of any kind or inverse condemnation as a result of the placement and construction of the barrier along the FDOT right-of-way line.

Enclosed is a Noise Barrier Survey to document your position. To aid in your decision, we ask that you review the Noise Barrier Information Sheet which identifies some of the advantages and disadvantages to having a noise barrier adjacent to your residence.

Please complete and return the enclosed Noise Barrier Survey postcard to the FDOT by (DATE) using the enclosed paid postage envelope or scan the QR code on the back of the postcard to fill out the survey online. You may also submit the survey by email at FDOT-CPOCOMM@dot.state.fl.us. FDOT will make a final decision taking into consideration owner and resident input after that date.

If you have any questions or wish to further discuss the proposed noise barrier, please contact me by email at Mark.Owen@dot.state.fl.us. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Owens, P.E.
Senior Project Management Engineer

Moving I-4 Forward

Survey # _____

Noise Barrier Survey Form – The Gate Apartments

**Moving I-4 Forward: I-4 from East of U.S. 27 to
West of S.R. 429, Polk and Osceola County Financial
Project ID: 201210-8**

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is considering construction of a precast concrete post and panel noise barrier within the Interstate 4 (I-4) right-of-way adjacent to your community. As property owner or resident near the proposed noise barrier location, the FDOT is seeking your position regarding support for or opposition to this proposed noise barrier.

A noise barrier is a permanent structure primarily designed to reduce traffic noise from a roadway. However, there are other advantages and disadvantages to having a noise barrier adjacent to your property. One of those disadvantages is that a noise barrier can adversely impact or result in the death of nearby vegetation. In addition, construction of a noise barrier may require removal of vegetation located within the roadway's right of way. Please refer to the Noise Barrier Information Sheet provided in this package.

If you are in support of the noise barrier, the FDOT requires that you also agree to the following conditions. If you or any other affected property owner does not agree to the conditions, then the noise barrier length may be decreased, or the barrier may not be constructed at all.

1. If required, the property owner and residents will honor an access permit for the purpose of temporary access for constructing the noise barrier.
2. The property owner and residents will relinquish to the FDOT any access, light, air or view rights between their property and I-4 that are affected by the noise barrier.
3. The property owner and residents will not pursue compensation for damages of any kind or inverse condemnation as a result of the placement and construction of the noise barrier within the FDOT right-of-way.

FDOT requires documented support in favor of the barrier from affected property owners or residents. If you do not support construction and the noise barrier remains a feasible and reasonable abatement measure for other properties, the barrier may still be built along other properties that are adjacent to both your property and I-4. The continuous length of the barrier will be dependent upon the decision of owners whose property is adjacent to I-4 and the ability to provide a noise barrier that is a feasible and reasonable noise abatement measure. If the design process results in a noise barrier that meets the FDOT criteria that were established to assess the feasibility and reasonableness of providing abatement, then the noise barrier will be incorporated into the design plans and the FDOT will be committed to constructing the noise barrier within a time frame consistent with the scheduled roadway construction period and the FDOT Noise Abatement Policy. The final decision regarding any aspect of the noise barrier will rest solely with the FDOT.

The enclosed survey has been distributed to you as an affected property owner/resident to document your support for or opposition to the proposed noise barrier. **Please complete and return the enclosed Noise Barrier Survey postcard to the FDOT by (DATE) using the enclosed paid postage envelope or scan the QR code on the back of the postcard to fill out the survey online. You may also submit the survey by email at FDOT-CPOCOMM@dot.state.fl.us.** Your expeditious reply would be greatly appreciated.



Legend

- Proposed Improvements
- Proposed Noise Barrier (Recommended)

Moving I-4 Forward
Accelerated Start Project Segment A (ASA)
along I-4 (SR 400) from East of US 27 to West of SR 429
Polk & Osceola County, Florida
Financial Project ID (FPID)
Number: 201210-8

Proposed Noise Barrier at
The Gate Apartments



Noise Barrier Information Sheet

In fulfillment of a commitment made during the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is considering construction of a noise barrier in the vicinity of The Gate Apartments (See the enclosed aerial map). The recommended noise barrier will optimize the location, length, and height needed to reduce traffic noise levels at residences

adjacent to I-4. The proposed noise barrier would be constructed within the existing FDOT right-of-way. The maintenance of the noise barrier would be the responsibility of the FDOT.

The FDOT is soliciting the opinion of adjacent property owners and residents regarding the construction of this noise barrier and would like you to consider the following information when making your decision.

Advantages and Disadvantages

A noise barrier is a permanent structure of significant height and cannot be removed once constructed. For this reason, it is important that you understand the advantages and disadvantages of a noise barrier adjacent to your property. Some of these advantages and disadvantages are listed below.

Advantages of Noise Barriers

- Noise barriers, when designed at the proper height and length, can provide an audible reduction in highway traffic noise to residences directly behind the barrier.
- Noise barriers can be designed to be aesthetically pleasing from both the highway and property owner sides of the barrier.
- Noise barriers provide privacy from passing motorists.

Disadvantages of Noise Barriers

- Noise barriers may block the view of commercial or landmark signs from the users of the roadway.
- Noise barriers can affect sunlight by casting a fairly large shadow as the sun rises and sets or permanently shade some areas.
- Noise barriers may adversely affect vegetation located in close proximity to the barrier.
- Noise barriers act as visual barriers, blocking views for residents and creating a tunnel effect for motorists.
- Noise barriers may present a public safety concern because the view of police and other safety patrols traversing the highway will be blocked. Noise barriers can also create nighttime shadow areas.
- Noise barriers can obstruct breezes and sunlight.
- Noise barriers tend to attract graffiti.
- Noise barriers may reduce, but cannot eliminate, the traffic noise.