

## NORTH ACCESS U-MED DISTRICT NOISE STUDY SUMMARY

This noise study was conducted at the study area on July 16, 2009 and September 8, 2009. The study was conducted on each of these two days between the hours of 12:00 and 3:00pm.

A total of nine individual data points were collected during this study. General notes were documented and approximate distances from major roads were noted at each data point. In addition, photographs depicting the general site characteristics were taken (attached).

The data points consisted of collecting noise data from each point in 10-second intervals over a fifteen minute time window. The data were then averaged to obtain a mean decibel (dba) measurement for each data point. It appears by the data collected that once you get away from Northern Lights (approximately 300 to 500 feet), the sound from the road dissipates to a level that does not interfere with a quiet hiking/biking experience.

The average dba reading of each data point and general notes regarding each point are summarized below:

**Point 1** - Located on paved trail, approximately 25 to 30 feet south of Northern Lights blvd, at the intersection of Nichols Street. Average dba recorded was 68.9. This point was very noisy due to close proximity to traffic. It felt like we were standing right on the main road.

**Point 2** - Located on the paved trail at the intersection of Northern Lights and Bragaw. The average dba was 68.0. This point was similar to point 1 in that it was very noisy due to the close proximity of the main road. It was difficult to hear someone talking in a normal voice.

**Point 3** – This point was located approximately 300 feet south of Northern Lights and Bragaw (point 2) within a wooded dirt trail that leads south to UAA. The average dba was 47.5. As can be seen by the dba reading, this point was much quieter than the previous 2 points along Northern Lights. While you could still hear some background noise from the road, it did not seem to detract from a hiking/biking experience.

**Point 4** – Point 4 was located approximately 25 to 30 feet south of Northern Lights on the paved trail. This point is located east of Bragaw and across from east High School. A stand of trees separate the data point from Northern Lights. The average dba was 61.8. While the reading was slightly lower than points 1 and 2, for a similar setting, the noise level appeared to be similar in that it felt like you were right beside the highway and it was difficult to hear someone talk in a normal voice.

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**Point 5** - This point was located approximately 400 to 500 feet southwest of Northern Lights within a wooded portion of the paved trail. The average dba was 49.3. As can be seen by the dba reading, this point was similar to noise levels collected at Point 3. While you could still hear some background noise from the road, it did not seem to detract from a hiking/biking experience.

**Point 6** - Point 6 was located approximately 25 to 30 feet southwest of Northern Lights on the paved trail at the intersection leading to an adjacent power substation. This point is located southeast of point 5. The average dba was 66.5. The noise level appeared to be similar to Points 1,2, and 4 in that it was difficult to hear someone talk in a normal voice. The sound of the traffic did appear to detract from a hiking/biking experience. It felt more like you were walking on a busy city street sidewalk (which in essence you are at this location).

**Point 7** – Point 7 was collected along a power line right of way in the central portion of the study area. Point 7 was collected within a large wetland located approximately 1,200 feet south of Northern Lights, and north east of the UAA Science building. The average dba collected at point 7 was 42.7. This point was very quiet and little to no background noise could be heard from Northern Lights. Occasional noise from the UAA Science Center construction could be heard, but overall it felt like a secluded trail.

**Point 8** – Point 8 was collected along a power line right of way in the central portion of the study area, west of Point 7. Point 8 was collected approximately 1,200 feet south of Northern Lights, and north of the UAA Science building. The average dba collected at point 7 was 45.6. This point was very quiet and little to no background noise could be heard from Northern Lights. Occasional noise from the UAA Science Center construction could be heard, but overall it felt like a secluded trail.

**Point 9** - Point 9 was collected just south of the University Drive extension on APU campus. Point 9 is located approximately 2,300 feet south of Northern lights on a secluded dirt trail, adjacent to student housing units. This was by far the quietest point collected with an average dba of 38.1. No discernable roadway traffic could be heard other than the very occasional single vehicle driving along University Drive.