

6.2.3

Using GIS for Highway Noise Analysis

Presenter

Ken Avery, P.E.
Highway Noise Business Segment
Leader
Bergmann Associates
kavery@bergmannpc.com

Co-Presenter

Jeffrey Volpe, GISP
GIS Business Segment Leader
Bergmann Associates
jvolpe@bergmannpc.com

Highway noise can significantly reduce the quality of life for people using or occupying noise sensitive land uses. Yet often the noise problem occurs because of land use decisions that bring people to the highway, before nuisance levels of highway noise have been reached. Local governments control land use decisions, but DOT's and local road authorities control highway right-of-way decisions. If they work independently, adverse noise impacts are likely. Montana DOT is currently engaged with this work to educate about highway noise prevention and mitigation and to implement a series of tools designed to protect future quality of life for people living or using property next to a highway. This presentation will discuss how a GIS solution (noise contour extension to ArcMap) was developed and implemented to assist with identifying and analyzing sensitive areas.