

**ROADWAY TRAFFIC NOISE  
ASSESSMENT**

157-159 James Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

REPORT: GW22-085-Traffic Noise



April 12, 2022

PREPARED FOR

**Aliferous Group of Companies**

590 Queen Elizabeth Driveway

Ottawa, ON

K1S 3N5

PREPARED BY

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes a roadway traffic noise assessment undertaken for a proposed residential development at 157-159 James Street in Ottawa, Ontario. The major source of roadway traffic noise is Lyon Street North to the east of the study site. Roadways located beyond 100 metres of the study site are not included as sources influencing the study site as per ENCG Section 2.1. Figure 1 illustrates a complete site plan with surrounding context.

The assessment is based on (i) theoretical noise prediction methods that conform to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and City of Ottawa requirements; (ii) noise level criteria as specified by the City of Ottawa's Environmental Noise Control Guidelines (ENCG); (iii) future vehicular traffic volumes based on the City of Ottawa's Official Plan roadway classifications; and (iv) architectural drawings received from David Bekkers M.A.A.T.O.

The results of the current analysis indicate that noise levels will fall below the ENCG 55 dBA daytime and 50 dBA nighttime criteria, therefore there are no requirements for upgraded building components, ventilation systems or warning clauses, as discussed in Section 4.2.1. Standard OBC (2020) building components will be adequate to achieve the indoor noise level criteria.

Regarding stationary noise, impacts from the surroundings on the study building and vice versa are expected to be minimal. As the site is surrounded by low-rise residential dwellings, there are no significant existing sources of stationary noise, nor are there any significant sources associated with the development. Small air conditioning units are expected to be in compliance with the MECP's noise guideline NPC-216 - Residential Air Conditioning and City of Ottawa Noise By-Law No. 2017-255.



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Gradient Wind Engineering Inc. (Gradient Wind) was retained by Aliferous Group of Companies to undertake a roadway traffic noise assessment for a proposed residential development at 157-159 James Street in Ottawa, Ontario. This report summarizes the methodology, results, and recommendations related to the assessment of exterior and interior noise levels generated by local roadway traffic.

Our work is based on theoretical noise calculation methods conforming to the City of Ottawa<sup>1</sup> and Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)<sup>2</sup> guidelines. Noise calculations were based on architectural drawings received from David Bekkers M.A.A.T.O., with future traffic volumes corresponding to the City of Ottawa's Official Plan (OP) roadway classifications.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The focus of this roadway traffic noise assessment is a proposed residential development comprising an renovation to an existing three-storey residential building with balconies/porches along the north and south elevations. The interior of the building will be redone to include four residential units on each floor between levels one and three. The building also includes a basement level. The study site is located Southwest of the James Street & Lyon Street North intersection. Outdoor Living Areas (OLAs) will be provided at the rear yard for building. The site is surrounded by low-rise residential buildings. The major source of roadway traffic noise is Lyon Street North to the east. Roadways located beyond 100 metres of the study site are not included as sources influencing the study site as per ENCG Section 2.1. Figure 1 illustrates a complete site plan with surrounding context.

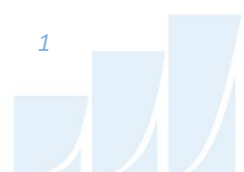
## **3. OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of this study are to (i) calculate the future noise levels on the study buildings produced by local roadway traffic, and (ii) ensure that interior and exterior noise levels do not exceed the

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<sup>1</sup> City of Ottawa Environmental Noise Control Guidelines, January 2016

<sup>2</sup> Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change – Environmental Noise Guidelines, Publication NPC-300, Queens Printer for Ontario, Toronto, 2013



allowable limits specified by the City of Ottawa's Environmental Noise Control Guidelines as outlined in Section 4.2 of this report.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Background**

Noise can be defined as any obtrusive sound. It is created at a source, transmitted through a medium, such as air, and intercepted by a receiver. Noise may be characterized in terms of the power of the source or the sound pressure at a specific distance. While the power of a source is characteristic of that particular source, the sound pressure depends on the location of the receiver and the path that the noise takes to reach the receiver. Measurement of noise is based on the decibel unit, dBA, which is a logarithmic ratio referenced to a standard noise level ( $2 \times 10^{-5}$  Pascals). The 'A' suffix refers to a weighting scale, which better represents how the noise is perceived by the human ear. With this scale, a doubling of power results in a 3 dBA increase in measured noise levels and is just perceptible to most people. An increase of 10 dBA is often perceived to be twice as loud.

### **4.2 Roadway Traffic Noise**

#### **4.2.1 Criteria for Roadway Traffic Noise**

For surface roadway traffic noise, the equivalent sound energy level,  $L_{eq}$ , provides a measure of the time varying noise levels, which is well correlated with the annoyance of sound. It is defined as the continuous sound level, which has the same energy as a time varying noise level over a period of time. For roadways, the  $L_{eq}$  is commonly calculated on the basis of a 16-hour ( $L_{eq16}$ ) daytime (07:00-23:00) / 8-hour ( $L_{eq8}$ ) nighttime (23:00-07:00) split to assess its impact on residential buildings. The City of Ottawa's Environmental Noise Control Guidelines (ENCG) specifies that the recommended indoor noise limit range (that is relevant to this study) is 45 and 40 dBA for living rooms and sleeping quarters respectively for roadway as listed in Table 1.



**TABLE 1: INDOOR SOUND LEVEL CRITERIA (ROAD)<sup>3</sup>**

Type of Space	Time Period	Leq (dBA)
General offices, reception areas, retail stores, etc.	07:00 – 23:00	50
Living/dining/den areas of <b>residences</b> , hospitals, schools, nursing/retirement homes, day-care centres, theatres, places of worship, libraries, individual or semi-private offices, conference rooms, etc.	07:00 – 23:00	45
Sleeping quarters of hotels/motels	23:00 – 07:00	45
Sleeping quarters of <b>residences</b> , hospitals, nursing/retirement homes, etc.	23:00 – 07:00	40

Predicted noise levels at the plane of window (POW) dictate the action required to achieve the recommended sound levels. An open window is considered to provide a 10 dBA reduction in noise, while a standard closed window is capable of providing a minimum 20 dBA noise reduction<sup>4</sup>. A closed window due to a ventilation requirement will bring noise levels down to achieve an acceptable indoor environment<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, where noise levels exceed 55 dBA daytime and 50 dBA nighttime, the ventilation for the building should consider the need for having windows and doors closed, which triggers the need for forced air heating with provision for central air conditioning. Where noise levels exceed 65 dBA daytime and 60 dBA nighttime, air conditioning will be required and building components will require higher levels of sound attenuation<sup>6</sup>.

The sound level criterion for outdoor living areas is 55 dBA, which applies during the daytime (07:00 to 23:00). When noise levels exceed 55 dBA, mitigation must be provided to reduce noise levels where technically and administratively feasible to acceptable levels at or below the criterion.

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from ENCG 2016 – Tables 2.2b and 2.2c

<sup>4</sup> Burberry, P.B. (2014). Mitchell’s Environment and Services. Routledge, Page 125

<sup>5</sup> MECP, Environmental Noise Guidelines, NPC 300 – Part C, Section 7.8

<sup>6</sup> MECP, Environmental Noise Guidelines, NPC 300 – Part C, Section 7.1.3

## 4.2.2 Theoretical Roadway Noise Predictions

Noise predictions were performed with the aid of the MECP computerized noise assessment program, STAMSON 5.04, for road analysis. Appendix A includes the STAMSON 5.04 input and output data.

Roadway traffic noise calculations were performed by treating each roadway segment as separate line sources of noise. In addition to the traffic volumes summarized in Table 2, theoretical noise predictions were based on the following parameters:

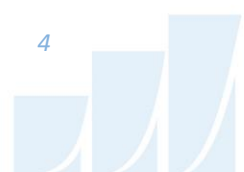
- Truck traffic on all roadways was taken to comprise 5% heavy trucks and 7% medium trucks, as per ENCG requirements for noise level predictions.
- The day/night split for all streets was taken to be 92%/8%, respectively.
- Ground surfaces were taken to be absorptive or reflective based on intermediate ground characteristics.
- Topography was assumed to be a flat/gentle slope surrounding the study building.
- Receptor height was taken to be 7.5 metres at Level 3 for the centre of the window (height to 3<sup>rd</sup> floor slab + 1.5 metres) for Receptor 1-3.
- One noise receptor was strategically placed within the study site at a worst-case location to determine the maximum noise level within the study site (see Figure 1).
- Receptor distances and exposure angles are illustrated in Figure 1.

## 4.2.3 Roadway Traffic Volumes

The ENCG dictates that noise calculations should consider future sound levels based on a roadway's classification at the mature state of development. Therefore, traffic volumes are based on the roadway classifications outlined in the City of Ottawa's Official Plan (OP) and Transportation Master Plan<sup>7</sup> which provide additional details on future roadway expansions. Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) volumes are then based on data in Table B1 of the ENCG for each roadway classification. Table 2 (below) summarizes the AADT values used for each roadway included in this assessment.

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<sup>7</sup> City of Ottawa Transportation Master Plan, November 2013



**TABLE 2: ROADWAY TRAFFIC DATA**

Segment	Roadway Traffic Data	Speed Limit (km/h)	Traffic Volumes
Lyon Street North	2-Lane Urban Arterial	40	<b>15,000</b>

## 5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Roadway Traffic Noise Levels

The results of the roadway traffic noise calculations are summarized in Table 3 below. A complete set of input and output data from all STAMSON 5.04 calculations are available in Appendix A.

**TABLE 3: EXTERIOR NOISE LEVELS DUE TO ROAD TRAFFIC**

Receptor Number	Receptor Height Above Grade (m)	Receptor Location	STAMSON 5.04 Noise Level (dBA)	
			Day	Night
1	7.5	Level 3 – East Façade	51	43

The results of the current analysis indicate that noise levels will not exceed 51 dBA during the daytime period (07:00-23:00) and 43 dBA during the nighttime period (23:00-07:00). The highest noise levels will occur on the eastern edged of the property, which is nearest and most exposed to Lyon Street North.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the current analysis indicate that noise levels will fall below the ENCG 55 dBA daytime and 50 dBA nighttime criteria, therefore there are no requirements for upgraded building components, ventilation systems or warning clauses, as discussed in Section 4.2.1. Standard OBC (2020) building components will be adequate to achieve the indoor noise level criteria.

Regarding stationary noise, impacts from the surroundings on the study building and vice versa are expected to be minimal. As the site is surrounded by low-rise residential dwellings, there are no significant existing sources of stationary noise, nor are there any significant sources associated with the development. Small air conditioning units are expected to be in compliance with the MECP’s noise guideline NPC-216 - Residential Air Conditioning and City of Ottawa Noise By-Law No. 2017-255.





This concludes our traffic noise assessment and report. If you have any questions or wish to discuss our findings, please advise us. In the interim, we thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely,

**Gradient Wind Engineering Inc.**

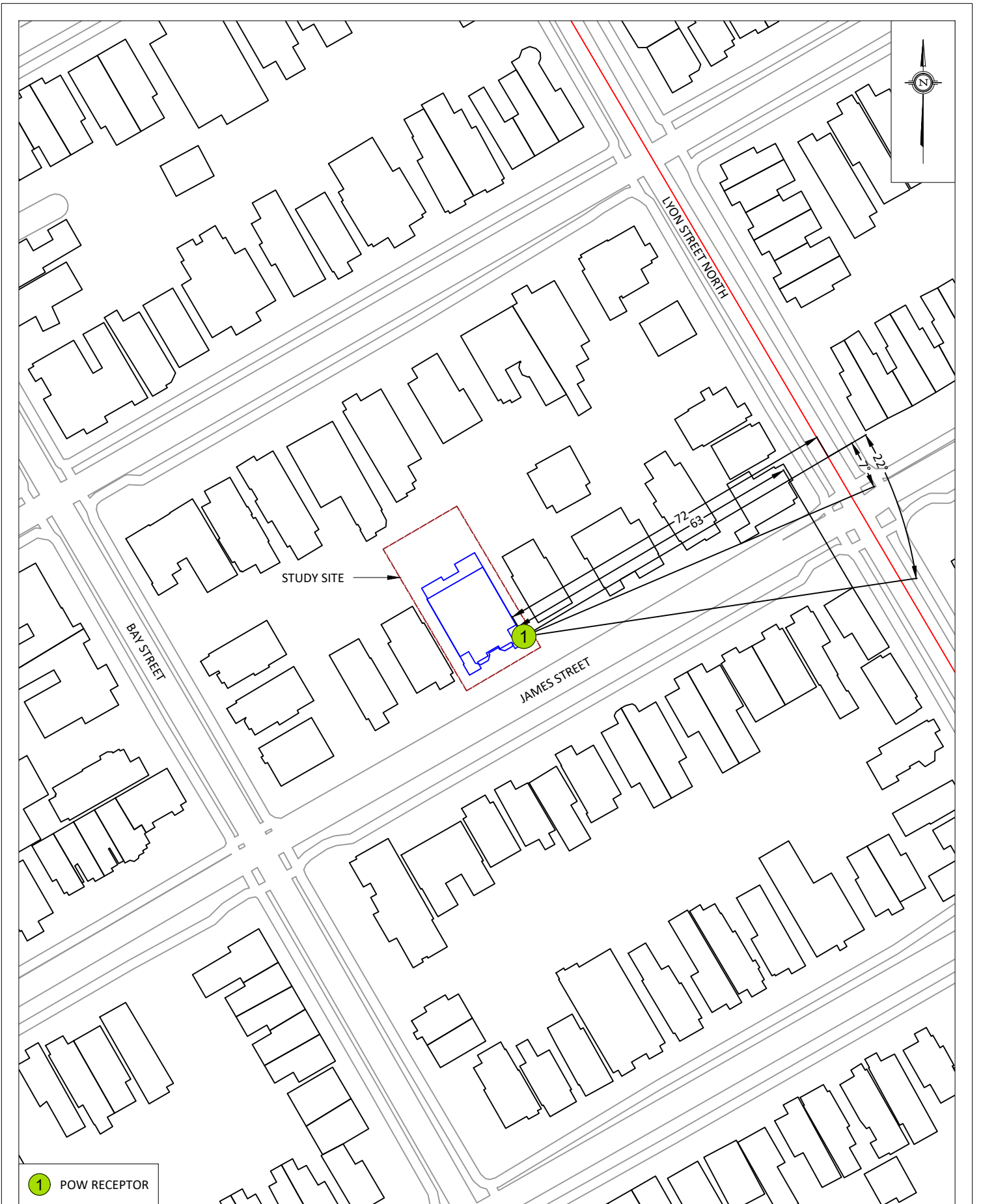


Michael Lafortune, C.E.T.  
Environmental Scientist

*Gradient Wind File #22-085-Traffic Noise*



Joshua Foster, P.Eng.  
Lead Engineer



1 POW RECEPTOR

<b>GRADIENTWIND</b> ENGINEERS & SCIENTISTS 127 WALGREEN ROAD, OTTAWA, ON 613 836 0934 • GRADIENTWIND.COM	PROJECT 157-159 JAMES STREET, OTTAWA ROADWAY TRAFFIC NOISE ASSESSMENT		DESCRIPTION FIGURE 1: SITE PLAN AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT RECEPTOR LOCATIONS STAMSON INPUT PARAMETERS
	SCALE 1:1000 (APPROX.)	DRAWING NO. GW22-085-1	
	DATE APRIL 6, 2022	DRAWN BY M.L.	

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## APPENDIX A

### STAMSON 5.04 – INPUT AND OUTPUT DATA

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STAMSON 5.0                      NORMAL REPORT                      Date: 06-04-2022 10:09:25  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY / NOISE ASSESSMENT

Filename: R1.te    Time Period: Day/Night 16/8 hours  
Description:

Road data, segment # 1: Lyon1 (day/night)

-----  
Car traffic volume : 12144/1056 veh/TimePeriod \*  
Medium truck volume : 966/84 veh/TimePeriod \*  
Heavy truck volume : 690/60 veh/TimePeriod \*  
Posted speed limit : 40 km/h  
Road gradient : 0 %  
Road pavement : 1 (Typical asphalt or concrete)

\* Refers to calculated road volumes based on the following input:

24 hr Traffic Volume (AADT or SADT): 15000  
Percentage of Annual Growth : 0.00  
Number of Years of Growth : 0.00  
Medium Truck % of Total Volume : 7.00  
Heavy Truck % of Total Volume : 5.00  
Day (16 hrs) % of Total Volume : 92.00

Data for Segment # 1: Lyon1 (day/night)

-----  
Angle1    Angle2                      : -90.00 deg    22.00 deg  
Wood depth                            :            0            (No woods.)  
No of house rows                     :            0 / 0  
Surface                                :            2            (Reflective ground surface)  
Receiver source distance             : 72.00 / 72.00 m  
Receiver height                        : 7.50 / 7.50 m  
Topography                             :            2            (Flat/gentle slope; with barrier)  
Barrier angle1                        : -90.00 deg    Angle2 : 7.00 deg  
Barrier height                         : 7.00 m  
Barrier receiver distance             : 63.00 / 63.00 m  
Source elevation                       : 0.00 m  
Receiver elevation                     : 0.00 m  
Barrier elevation                      : 0.00 m  
Reference angle                        : 0.00



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Road data, segment # 2: Lyon2 (day/night)

-----  
Car traffic volume : 12144/1056 veh/TimePeriod \*  
Medium truck volume : 966/84 veh/TimePeriod \*  
Heavy truck volume : 690/60 veh/TimePeriod \*  
Posted speed limit : 40 km/h  
Road gradient : 0 %  
Road pavement : 1 (Typical asphalt or concrete)

\* Refers to calculated road volumes based on the following input:

24 hr Traffic Volume (AADT or SADT): 15000  
Percentage of Annual Growth : 0.00  
Number of Years of Growth : 0.00  
Medium Truck % of Total Volume : 7.00  
Heavy Truck % of Total Volume : 5.00  
Day (16 hrs) % of Total Volume : 92.00

Data for Segment # 2: Lyon2 (day/night)

-----  
Angle1 Angle2 : 22.00 deg 90.00 deg  
Wood depth : 0 (No woods.)  
No of house rows : 0 / 0  
Surface : 2 (Reflective ground surface)  
Receiver source distance : 72.00 / 72.00 m  
Receiver height : 7.50 / 7.50 m  
Topography : 2 (Flat/gentle slope; with barrier)  
Barrier angle1 : 22.00 deg Angle2 : 90.00 deg  
Barrier height : 7.00 m  
Barrier receiver distance : 63.00 / 63.00 m  
Source elevation : 0.00 m  
Receiver elevation : 0.00 m  
Barrier elevation : 0.00 m  
Reference angle : 0.00



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Results segment # 1: Lyon1 (day)

Source height = 1.50 m

Barrier height for grazing incidence

Source Height (m)	Receiver Height (m)	Barrier Height (m)	Elevation of Barrier Top (m)
1.50	7.50	2.25	2.25

ROAD (0.00 + 42.56 + 49.08) = 49.95 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
-90	7	0.00	66.69	0.00	-6.81	-2.69	0.00	0.00	-14.63
7	22	0.00	66.69	0.00	-6.81	-10.79	0.00	0.00	0.00

SubLeq

42.56

49.08

Segment Leq : 49.95 dBA



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Results segment # 2: Lyon2 (day)

Source height = 1.50 m

Barrier height for grazing incidence

Source Height (m)	Receiver Height (m)	Barrier Height (m)	Elevation of Barrier Top (m)
1.50	7.50	2.25	2.25

ROAD (0.00 + 42.02 + 0.00) = 42.02 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
22	90	0.00	66.69	0.00	-6.81	-4.23	0.00	0.00	-13.62

SubLeq

-----

--

42.02

-----

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Segment Leq : 42.02 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 50.60 dBA



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Results segment # 1: Lyon1 (night)

Source height = 1.50 m

Barrier height for grazing incidence

Source Height (m)	Receiver Height (m)	Barrier Height (m)	Elevation of Barrier Top (m)
1.50	7.50	2.25	2.25

ROAD (0.00 + 34.96 + 41.48) = 42.36 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
-90	7	0.00	59.09	0.00	-6.81	-2.69	0.00	0.00	-14.63
7	22	0.00	59.09	0.00	-6.81	-10.79	0.00	0.00	0.00

SubLeq

34.96

41.48

Segment Leq : 42.36 dBA





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Results segment # 2: Lyon2 (night)

Source height = 1.50 m

Barrier height for grazing incidence

Source Height (m)	Receiver Height (m)	Barrier Height (m)	Elevation of Barrier Top (m)
1.50	7.50	2.25	2.25

ROAD (0.00 + 34.42 + 0.00) = 34.42 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
22	90	0.00	59.09	0.00	-6.81	-4.23	0.00	0.00	-13.62

SubLeq  
34.42

Segment Leq : 34.42 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 43.01 dBA

TOTAL Leq FROM ALL SOURCES (DAY): 50.60  
(NIGHT): 43.01

