



Roadway Traffic Noise Feasibility Assessment

**Kanata North Development
936 March Road
Kanata, Ontario**

REPORT: GWE18-149 - Traffic Noise

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document describes a roadway traffic noise feasibility assessment performed in support of Zoning By-Law Amendment (ZBA) and Draft Plan of Subdivision Approval (DPA) applications for a proposed residential subdivision development. The study site is situated near the northeast corner of March Road and Maxwell Bridge Road in Kanata, Ontario. The assessment would analyze road traffic noise impacts on the development to ensure that future occupants are afforded comfortable use of the outdoor and indoor living spaces, as directed by the City of Ottawa's Environmental Noise Control Guidelines (ENCG).

The proposed development is near a segment of March Road north of Maxwell Bridge Road. The site is bordered by future commercial development (by others) to the west, agricultural land to the north, an abandoned railway corridor to the east, and existing residential to the south. The development comprises 455 single family homes, 401 executive townhouses, and a school site. The development will include creation of new residential streets and collector feeding into the subdivision from March Road. Features of the community also include parks, a storm water retention ponds and woodlot east of the rail corridor. The major sources of roadway noise affecting the development are the internal Collectors Street No. 1 and No. 2, which are identified on Schedule E of the City of Ottawa's official plan

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) a concept plan prepared by NAK Design Strategies, dated August 7, 2018, in addition to a draft plan of the subdivision dated November 22, 2018. As the site plan may be subject to change, the approach undertaken in this feasibility study is to establish noise contours around the site without the consideration of site massing. The contours, based on the City of Ottawa noise criteria, were used to determine what level of noise control would be required for various areas on site.

The results of the current study indicate that noise levels due to roadway traffic over the site will range between approximately 59 and 61 dBA during the daytime period (07:00-23:00). The highest roadway traffic noise levels will occur nearest to Street No. 1 and Street No. 2. Results of the roadway traffic noise



calculations also indicate that outdoor living areas having direct exposure to the noise sources that are within approximately 30 metres of Street No. 1 and Street No. 2 may require noise control measures.

A detailed roadway traffic noise study will be required at the time of site plan approval to determine specific noise control measures for the development. These are discussed in brief in Section 5.2.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Gradient Wind Engineering Inc. (GWE) was retained by Minto Communities - Canada to undertake a roadway traffic noise feasibility assessment of the proposed Kanata residential subdivision located at 936 March Road in Kanata, Ontario. This report summarizes the methodology, results and recommendations related to a roadway traffic noise feasibility assessment and was prepared in consideration of the client's draft plan of subdivision application. GWE's scope of work involved assessing exterior noise levels throughout the site, generated by local roadway traffic. The report also quantitatively addresses any potential noise impact mitigation. The assessment was performed on the basis of theoretical noise calculation methods conforming to the City of Ottawa¹ and Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change² guidelines. Noise calculations were based on an initial concept plan prepared by NAK Design Strategies, 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 feasibility assessment is a proposed subdivision located at 936 March Road, in proximity to where the roadway intersects with Maxwell Bridge Road and Halton Terrace in Ottawa, Ontario. The site is bordered by future commercial development (by others) to the west, agricultural land to the north, an abandoned railway corridor to the east, and existing residential land to the south. The development comprises 455 single family homes, 401 executive townhouses, and a school site. The development will include creation of new residential streets and a collector feeding into the subdivision from March Road. The community will also include parks, a storm water retention pond and woodlot east of the rail corridor. This proposal is based on a concept plan drawing prepared by NAK Design Strategies, dated August 7, 2018.

The major sources of roadway noise affecting the development are the internal Collector Street No. 1 and No. 2, as identified on Schedule E of the City of Ottawa's Official Plan. March Road (an arterial roadway) is located along the west perimeter of the site. Since March Road is more than 100 m away from the site, it is considered an insignificant source of traffic noise. As per the community design plan, the abandoned rail

¹ City of Ottawa Environmental Noise Control Guidelines, January 2016

² Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change – Publication NPC-300

corridor will be converted into a recreation pathway and is not considered to be a significant source of noise. Figure 1 illustrates the site location with surrounding context.

Due to the current state of the development, the final site configuration is uncertain and may be subject to change. Therefore, the approach undertaken in this feasibility assessment was to establish noise contours around the site as per the current plans, however site massing was ignored.

3. OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of this work is to calculate the future noise levels on the study site produced by local roadway traffic and explore potential for noise mitigation where required. Noise calculations were based on an initial concept plan prepared by NAK Design Strategies, with future traffic volumes corresponding to the City of Ottawa's Official Plan (OP) roadway classifications.

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 (2×10^{-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 vehicle traffic, 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 Outdoor Living Area (OLA) noise limit is 55 dBA during the daytime period. OLA do not need to be considered during the nighttime period.

Predicted noise levels at the outdoor living area dictate the action required to achieve the recommended sound levels. According to the ENCG, if an area is to be used as an outdoor living area (OLA), noise control measures are required to reduce the L_{eq} to 55 dBA. This is typically done with noise control measures outlined in Section 5.2. When noise levels at these areas exceed the criteria, specific Warning Clause requirements may apply. As this is a preliminary assessment, noise control recommendations are of a general nature. Specific mitigation requirements would be the work of a future study.

4.3 Roadway Noise Assessment

4.3.1 Theoretical Roadway Traffic Noise Predictions

Noise predictions were determined by computer modelling using two programs. To provide a general sense of noise across the site, the employed software program was *Predictor-Lima (TNM calculation)*, which incorporates the United States Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Transportation Noise Model (TNM) 2.5. This computer program is capable of representing three-dimensional surface and first reflections of sound waves over a suitable spectrum for human hearing. A receptor grid with 5 × 5 m spacing was placed across the study site, along with a number of discrete receptors at key sensitive areas. Although this program outputs noise contours, it is not the approved model for roadway predictions by the City of Ottawa. Therefore, the results were confirmed by performing discrete noise calculations with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) computerized noise assessment program, STAMSON 5.04, at key receptor locations coinciding with receptor locations in Predictor as shown in Figure 2. Receptor distances and exposure angles are also illustrated in Figure 2. Appendix A includes the STAMSON 5.04 input and output data.

Roadway noise calculations were performed by treating each road segment as separate line sources of noise. In addition to the traffic volumes summarized in Table 1 below, 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 was taken to be 92% / 8% respectively for all streets
- Absorptive ground surface between source and receivers
- The study site was treated as having flat or gently sloping topography
- No massing considered as potential noise screening elements

4.3.2 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 Plan³ (TMP) which provides 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 1 (below) summarizes the AADT values used for each roadway included in this assessment.

TABLE 1: ROADWAY TRAFFIC DATA*

Roadway	Roadway Class	Speed Limit (km/h)	Official Plan AADT
Street No. 1	2-Lane Urban Collector (2-UCU)	40	8,000
Street No. 2	2-Lane Urban Collector (2-UCU)	40	8,000

*Daytime and Nighttime volumes based on correspondence with the City of Ottawa

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Roadway Traffic Noise Levels

The results of the roadway traffic noise calculations for the daytime period, covering the entire study site, are shown in Figure 3. Discrete receptors were also placed at ground level at key locations throughout the site. The noise contours were generated using *TNM* and verified with discrete receptors using *STAMSON 5.04*, as shown in Figure 2 and summarized in Table 2 below. Receptors 1 to 3 are located in the central west section of the site, and Receptor 4 on the north most block. Appendix A contains the complete set of input and output data from all *STAMSON 5.04* calculations.

³ City of Ottawa Transportation Master Plan, November 2013

TABLE 2: EXTERIOR NOISE LEVELS DUE TO ROAD TRAFFIC

Receptor Number	Receptor Height Above Grade (m)	Zone Location	STAMSON 5.04 Noise Level (dBA)	Predictor-Lima Noise Level (dBA)
			Day	Day
1	1.5	OLA – Grade Level – Block 5/6	59	59
2	1.5	OLA – Grade Level – Block 35/36	61	61
3	1.5	OLA – Grade Level – Block 63	59	59
4	1.5	OLA – Grade Level – Block 30/31	59	59

As shown above, the results calculated from *TNM* have good correlation with calculations performed in STAMSON 5.04. A tolerance of 3 dBA between models is generally considered acceptable given human hearing cannot detect a change in sound level of less than 3 dBA. As stated in Section 4.3.1, no massing of proposed buildings was considered as potential screening elements. Results of the roadway traffic noise calculations also indicate that outdoor living areas having direct exposure to the noise sources that are within approximately 30 metres of Street No. 1 and Street No. 2 may require noise control measures. These measures are described in Section 5.2, with the aim to reduce the L_{eq} at the OLA to as close to 55 dBA as technically, economically and administratively feasible.

5.2 Summary of Noise Control Measures

The OLA noise levels predicted due to roadway traffic, at a number of receptors, exceed the criteria listed in the ENCG for outdoor living areas, as discussed in Section 4.2. Therefore, noise control measures as described below, subscribing to Table 2.3a in the ENCG and listed in order of preference, will be required to reduce the L_{eq} to 55 dBA:

- Distance setback with soft ground
- Insertion of noise insensitive land uses between the source and sensitive points of reception
- Orientation of buildings to provide sheltered zones in rear yards
- Shared outdoor amenity areas
- Earth berms (sound barriers)
- Acoustic barriers

Examining the noise control measures listed above, these conclusions consider the possibility that not all of the proposed buildings will be oriented to provide screening elements for their OLA against roadway traffic sources. Distance setback, insertion of non-noise sensitive land uses, and building orientation to provide sheltered zones in rear yards may not be feasible due to the requirements of the Community Development Plan. It is also not feasible to have shared outdoor amenity areas for this development with respect to rear yards, as this would have a significant impact on salability. Therefore, the most feasible measures are insertion of earth berms or acoustic wall barriers between the sensitive rear yards and sources of noise. By siding lots along the collector roadway, the extent of barriers is minimized. The use of earth berms or acoustic barriers will depend on the grading plan when it becomes available. Both options can reduce OLA noise levels to below 55 dBA. Regarding Figure 3, the area(s) with noise levels under 55 dBA (yellow and light orange) have no mitigation requirements. The area(s) with noise levels between 55 and 60 dBA (orange) may require forced air heating with provision for central air conditioning.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the current study indicate that noise levels due to roadway traffic over the site will range between approximately 59 and 61 dBA during the daytime period (07:00-23:00). The highest roadway traffic noise levels will occur nearest to Street No. 1 and Street No. 2.

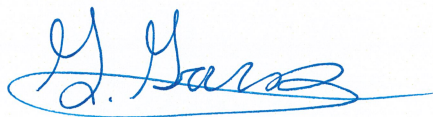
Results of the roadway traffic noise calculations also indicate that outdoor living areas having direct exposure to the noise sources that are within approximately 30 metres of Street No. 1 and Street No. 2 may require noise control measures. Mitigation measures are described in Section 5.2, with the aim to reduce the L_{eq} to as close to 55 dBA as technically, economically and administratively feasible.

A detailed roadway traffic noise study will be required at the time of site plan approval to determine specific noise control measures for the development.

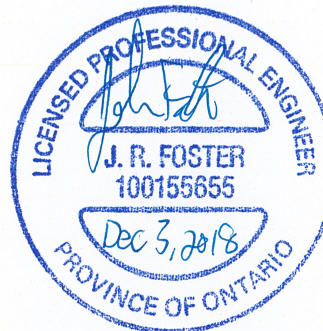
This concludes our assessment and report. If you have any questions or wish to discuss our findings, please advise us. In the interim, we thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Yours truly,

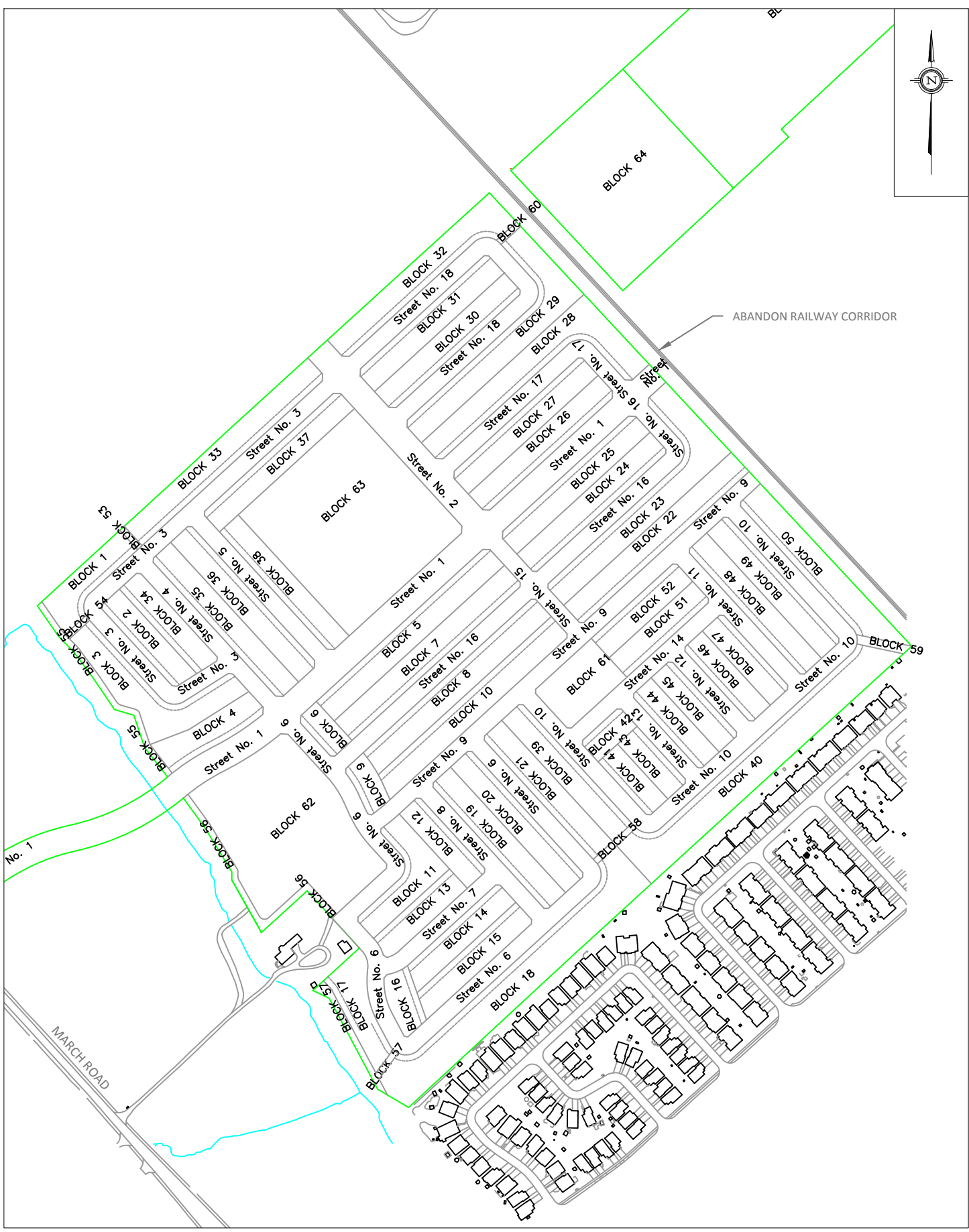
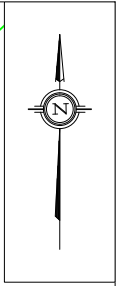
Gradient Wind Engineering Inc.

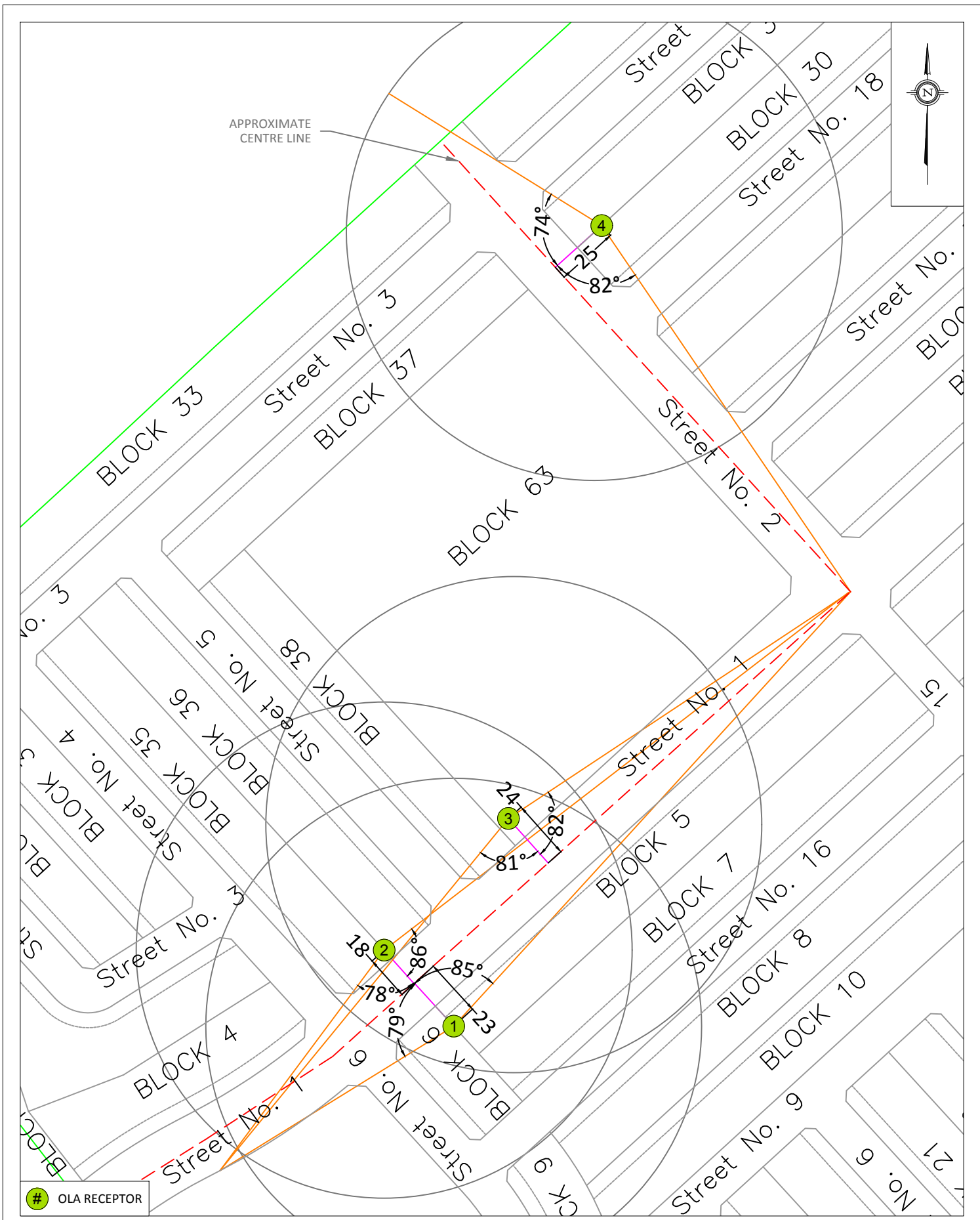


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OLA RECEPTOR

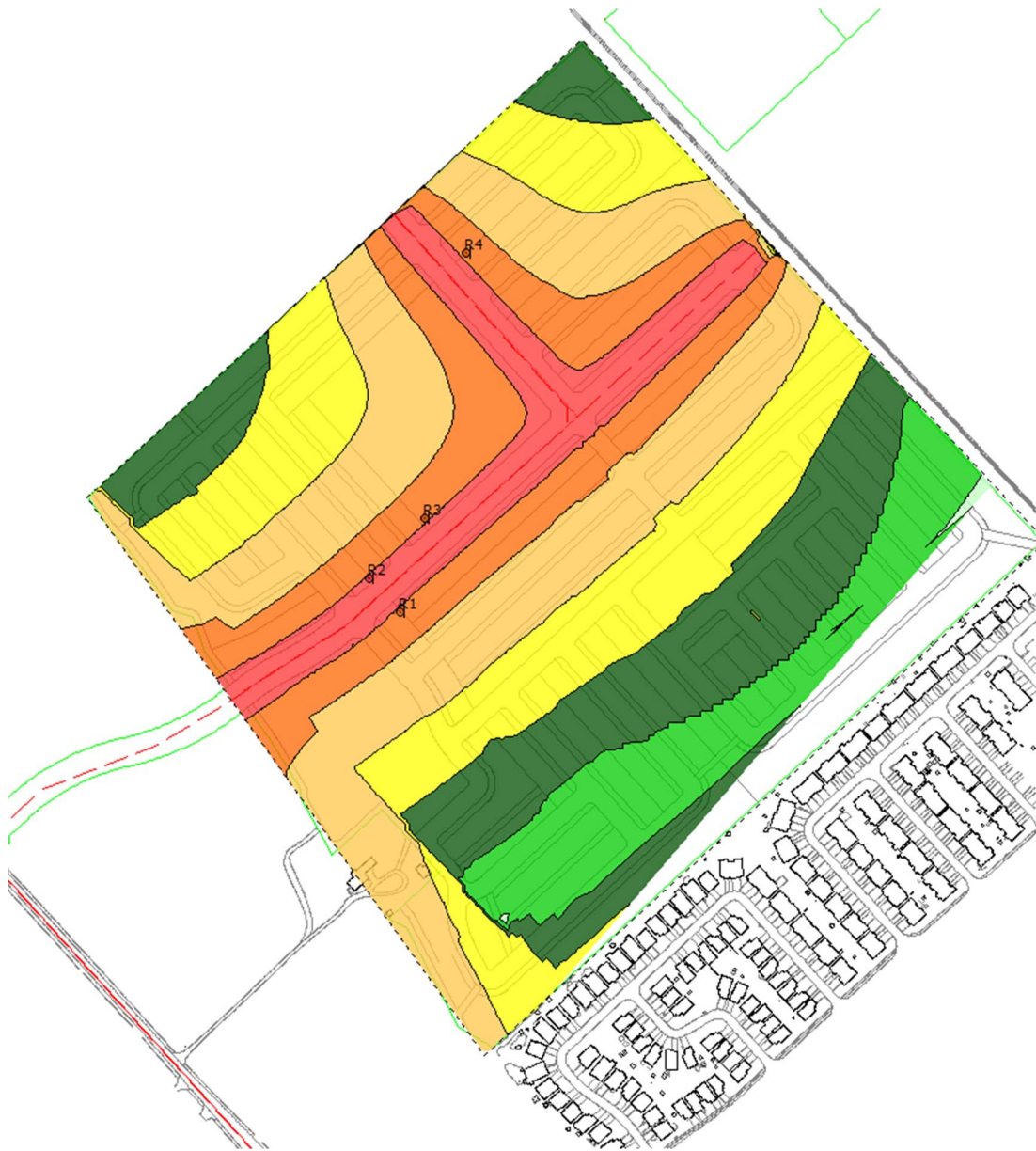
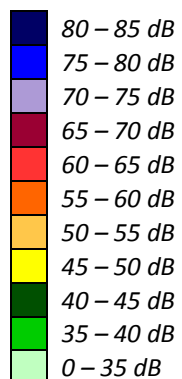


FIGURE 3: GROUND LEVEL NOISE CONTOURS FOR THE SITE (DAYTIME PERIOD)



APPENDIX A

STAMSON 5.04 - INPUT AND OUTPUT DATA



Results segment # 1: St No 1 (day)

Source height = 1.50 m

ROAD (0.00 + 59.32 + 0.00) = 59.32 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
--------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SubLeq

-79	85	0.66	63.96	0.00	-3.08	-1.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
59.32									

Segment Leq : 59.32 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 59.32 dBA

Results segment # 1: St No 1 (night)

Source height = 1.50 m

ROAD (0.00 + 51.73 + 0.00) = 51.73 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
--------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SubLeq

-79	85	0.66	56.36	0.00	-3.08	-1.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
51.73									

Segment Leq : 51.73 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 51.73 dBA

TOTAL Leq FROM ALL SOURCES (DAY): 59.32

(NIGHT): 51.73

#

#



STAMSON 5.0 NORMAL REPORT Date: 03-12-2018 11:30:25
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY / NOISE ASSESSMENT

Filename: r2.te Time Period: Day/Night 16/8 hours
Description:

Road data, segment # 1: St No 1 (day/night)

Car traffic volume : 6477/563 veh/TimePeriod *
Medium truck volume : 515/45 veh/TimePeriod *
Heavy truck volume : 368/32 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): 8000
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: St No 1 (day/night)

Angle1 Angle2 : -86.00 deg 78.00 deg
Wood depth : 0 (No woods.)
No of house rows : 0 / 0
Surface : 1 (Absorptive ground surface)
Receiver source distance : 18.00 / 18.00 m
Receiver height : 1.50 / 4.50 m
Topography : 1 (Flat/gentle slope; no barrier)
Reference angle : 0.00

#



Results segment # 1: St No 1 (day)

Source height = 1.50 m

ROAD (0.00 + 61.08 + 0.00) = 61.08 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
--------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SubLeq

--									
-86	78	0.66	63.96	0.00	-1.31	-1.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
61.08									

--

Segment Leq : 61.08 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 61.08 dBA

Results segment # 1: St No 1 (night)

Source height = 1.50 m

ROAD (0.00 + 53.69 + 0.00) = 53.69 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
--------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SubLeq

--									
-86	78	0.57	56.36	0.00	-1.24	-1.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
53.69									

--

Segment Leq : 53.69 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 53.69 dBA

TOTAL Leq FROM ALL SOURCES (DAY): 61.08

(NIGHT): 53.69

#

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STAMSON 5.0 NORMAL REPORT Date: 03-12-2018 11:30:50
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY / NOISE ASSESSMENT

Filename: r3.te Time Period: Day/Night 16/8 hours
 Description:

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

```
-----
Car traffic volume : 6477/563 veh/TimePeriod *
Medium truck volume : 515/45 veh/TimePeriod *
Heavy truck volume : 368/32 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): 8000
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: . (day/night)

```
-----
Angle1 Angle2 : -82.00 deg 81.00 deg
Wood depth : 0 (No woods.)
No of house rows : 0 / 0
Surface : 1 (Absorptive ground surface)
Receiver source distance : 24.00 / 24.00 m
Receiver height : 1.50 / 4.50 m
Topography : 1 (Flat/gentle slope; no barrier)
Reference angle : 0.00
```

#



Results segment # 1: . (day)

Source height = 1.50 m

ROAD (0.00 + 59.01 + 0.00) = 59.01 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
--------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SubLeq

-82	81	0.66	63.96	0.00	-3.39	-1.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
-----	----	------	-------	------	-------	-------	------	------	------

59.01

Segment Leq : 59.01 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 59.01 dBA

Results segment # 1: . (night)

Source height = 1.50 m

ROAD (0.00 + 51.73 + 0.00) = 51.73 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
--------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SubLeq

-82	81	0.57	56.36	0.00	-3.20	-1.42	0.00	0.00	0.00
-----	----	------	-------	------	-------	-------	------	------	------

51.73

Segment Leq : 51.73 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 51.73 dBA

TOTAL Leq FROM ALL SOURCES (DAY): 59.01

(NIGHT): 51.73

#

#



Results segment # 1: St No 2 (day)

Source height = 1.50 m

ROAD (0.00 + 58.63 + 0.00) = 58.63 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
--------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SubLeq

-82	74	0.66	63.96	0.00	-3.68	-1.64	0.00	0.00	0.00
-----	----	------	-------	------	-------	-------	------	------	------

58.63

Segment Leq : 58.63 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 58.63 dBA

Results segment # 1: St No 2 (night)

Source height = 1.50 m

ROAD (0.00 + 51.36 + 0.00) = 51.36 dBA

Angle1	Angle2	Alpha	RefLeq	P.Adj	D.Adj	F.Adj	W.Adj	H.Adj	B.Adj
--------	--------	-------	--------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

SubLeq

-82	74	0.57	56.36	0.00	-3.48	-1.52	0.00	0.00	0.00
-----	----	------	-------	------	-------	-------	------	------	------

51.36

Segment Leq : 51.36 dBA

Total Leq All Segments: 51.36 dBA

TOTAL Leq FROM ALL SOURCES (DAY): 58.63

(NIGHT): 51.36