Attachment O – Excerpt From the Federal Transit Administration Vibration Impact Mitigation (2018)

The following is an excerpt from the Federal Transit Administration's 2018 Transit Noise and Vibration Assessment Manual. The FIRM shall use the most recent version of this Manual for their assessment and provide acknowledgement within the report which version was used and the date on which it was verified by the FIRM.

Step 5: Determine Construction Vibration Mitigation Measures

Evaluate the need for mitigation and select appropriate mitigation measures where potential human impacts or building damage from construction vibration have been identified according to Section 7.2, Step 4.

5a. Determine the appropriate approach for construction vibration mitigation considering equipment location and processes.

- **Design considerations and project layout**
  - Route heavily-loaded trucks away from residential streets. Select streets with the fewest homes if no alternatives are available.
  - Operate earth-moving equipment on the construction lot as far away from vibration-sensitive sites as possible.

- **Sequence of operations**
  - Phase demolition, earth-moving, and ground-impacting operations so as not to occur in the same time period. Unlike noise, the total vibration level produced could be substantially less when each vibration source operates separately.
  - Avoid nighttime activities. Sensitivity to vibration increases during the nighttime hours in residential neighborhoods.

Source: https://www.transit.dot.gov/research-innovation/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-report-0123

- **Alternative construction methods**
  - Carefully consider the use of impact pile-driving versus drilled piles or the use of a sonic/vibratory pile driver or push pile driver where those processes might create lower vibration levels if geological conditions permit their use.
    - Pile-driving is one of the greatest sources of vibration associated with equipment used during construction of a project. The source levels in Table 7-4 indicate that sonic pile drivers may provide substantial reduction of vibration levels compared to impact pile drivers. But, there are some additional vibration effects of sonic pile drivers that may limit their use in sensitive locations.
    - A sonic pile driver operates by continuously shaking the pile at a fixed frequency, literally vibrating it into the ground. Continuous operation at a fixed frequency may, however, be more noticeable to nearby residents, even at lower vibration levels. Furthermore, the steady-state excitation of the ground may induce a growth in the resonant response of building components. Resonant response may be unacceptable in cases of fragile buildings or vibration-sensitive manufacturing processes. Impact pile drivers, however, produce a high vibration level for a short time (0.2 seconds) with sufficient time between impacts to allow any resonant response to decay.
    - Select demolition methods involving little to no impact, where possible. For example, sawing bridge decks into sections that can be loaded onto trucks results in lower vibration levels than impact demolition by pavement breakers. Milling generates lower vibration levels than excavation using clam shell or chisel drops.
    - Avoid vibratory rollers and packers near sensitive areas.

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5b. Describe and commit to a mitigation plan that will be developed and implemented during the engineering and construction phase when the information available during the project development phase will not be sufficient to define specific construction vibration mitigation measures. The objective of the plan should be to minimize construction vibration damage using all reasonable and feasible means available. The plan should include the following components:

- A procedure for establishing threshold and limiting vibration values for potentially affected structures, based on an assessment of each structure's ability to withstand the loads and displacements due to construction vibrations
- A commitment to develop a vibration monitoring plan during the engineering phase and to implement a compliance monitoring program during construction

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