



Department of Public Works

**PRESENTATION BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
ON THE I-210 HIGHWAY SOUNDWALLS PROGRAM**

City Council  
October 2, 2023  
Special Item # A





# Background

## Department of Public Works

- On May 8, 2023 - City Council authorized execution of maintenance agreements with Caltrans for soundwalls under construction by Metro along I-210.
- City Council requested a follow-up discussion with Metro & Caltrans on implementation of Metro's Highway Soundwall Program.
- City Council emphasized the need for soundwalls as an added measure to improve quality of life for nearby residents



# Metro I-210 Phase I Soundwalls

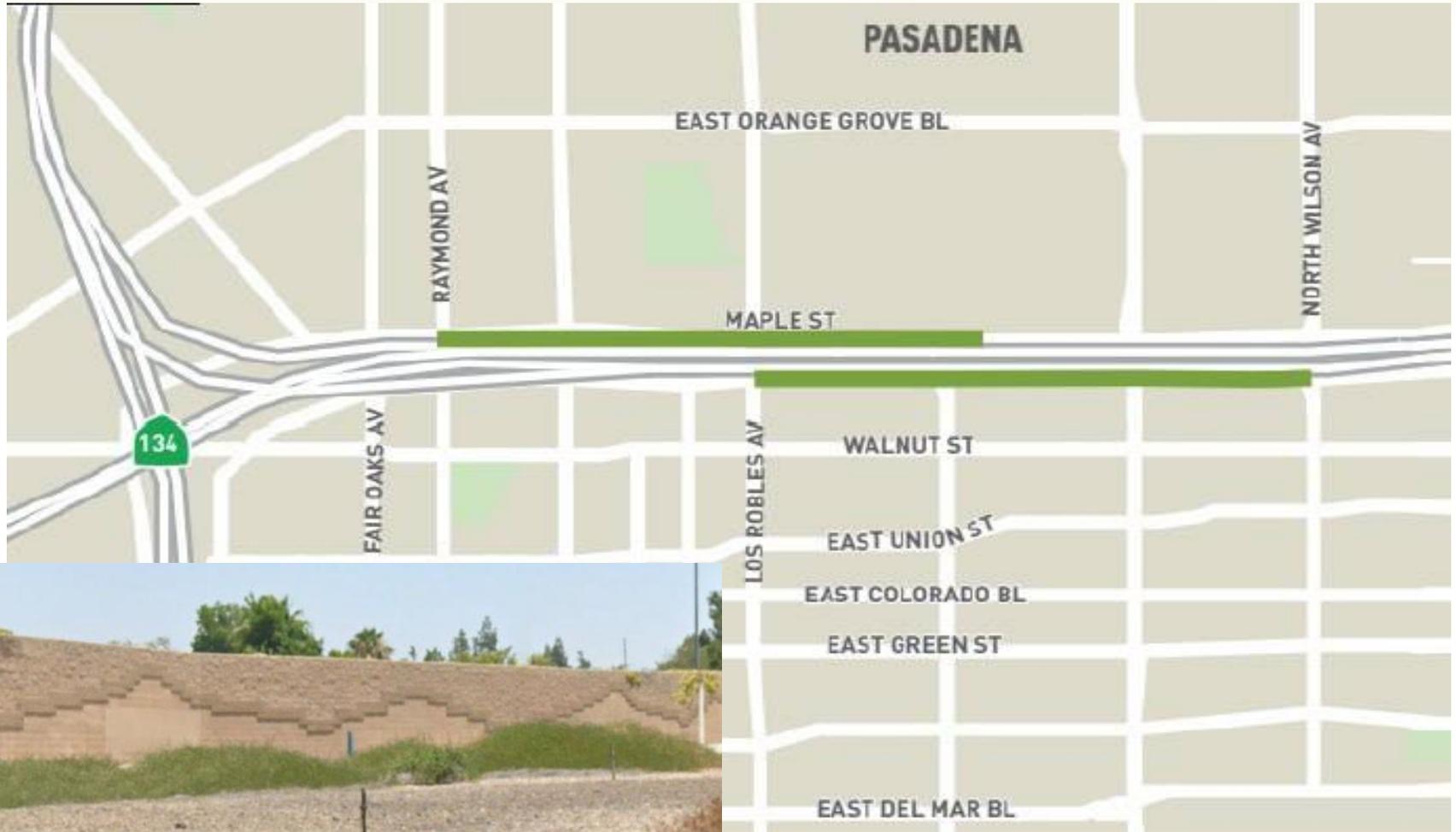
Department of Public Works

- Approx. 1.1 mile of 11 soundwall segments along I-210, between Fair Oaks Ave. & Wilson Ave. and Maple St & Corson St.
- Up to 15-ft tall concrete masonry block walls per Metro design standards
- Construction underway; completion by 2026
  - > One traffic lane open at all times along Maple Street & Corson Street within project limits
  - > Construction hours within 7:00am – 7:00pm per City's Noise Ordinance



# Metro I-210 Phase I Soundwalls

Department of Public Works





# Metro Presentation

Department of Public Works

## I-210 Metro Highway Soundwalls Program

by

**Lourdes Kriste, Metro Manager**

Complete Streets & Highways

Countywide Planning & Development Department



# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program

Countywide Planning & Development

Complete Streets & Highways

October 2023

# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program - Regulatory Requirements

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- ❖ Title 23, Part 772, Code of Federal Regulations – Procedures for conducting noise studies and evaluating noise abatement measures
- ❖ Under 23CFR772.2 projects are categorized as Type I, Type II, or Type III
  - ❖ Type I – New construction or reconstruction projects (i.e., auxiliary lane, relocation of interchange lanes or ramps, HOV/HOT lanes)
  - ❖ **Type II- Retrofit noise abatement projects (Metro's Countywide Soundwall Program)**
  - ❖ Type III- Does not meet Type I or Type II criteria (i.e., maintenance projects)

# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program – Roles & Responsibilities

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- ❖ Prior to 1998 Caltrans nominated soundwalls for funding through the California Transportation Commission (CTC)
- ❖ In 1998, State law transferred the programming from Caltrans to regional agencies
- ❖ In Los Angeles County, Metro identifies and programs funds, and delivers soundwall projects



# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program

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- ❖ In 2000, Metro adopted the Soundwall Implementation Policy, and with Caltrans, developed the *Retrofit Soundwall List*
- ❖ Soundwalls on the list are prioritized and delivered in two phases
  - ❖ Phase I – Soundwall projects along freeway segments where HOV lanes were constructed without soundwalls
  - ❖ Phase II – All other retrofit soundwall locations deemed eligible along various freeways
    - ❖ Based on noise readings conducted by Caltrans

# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program

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**Phase I** consists of three priority categories where HOV lanes were constructed without soundwalls:

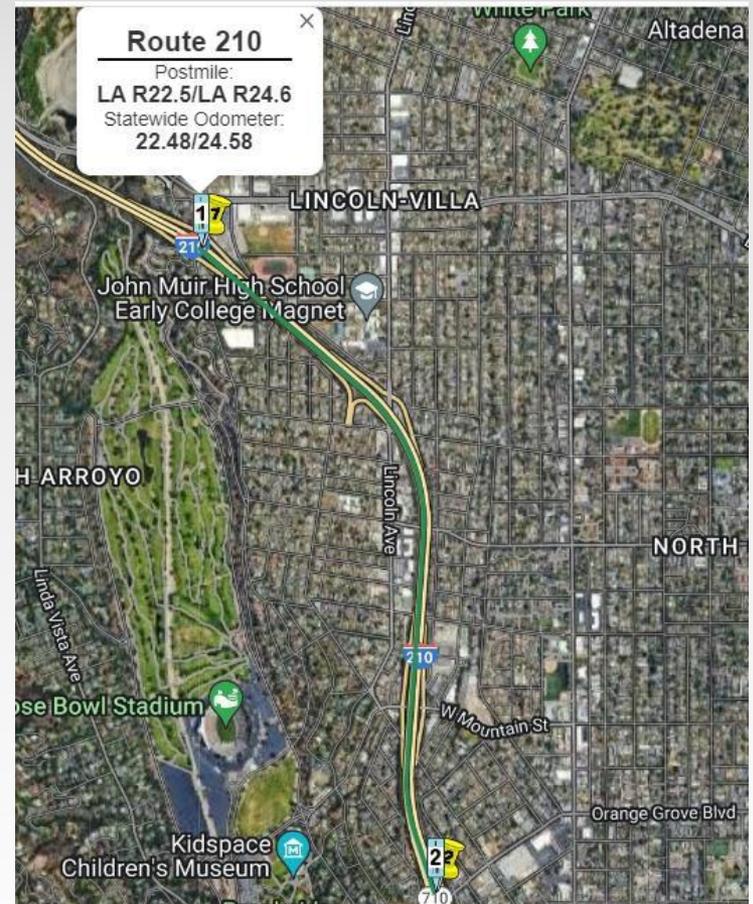
- ❖ Priority 1 (completed) – Soundwalls were constructed on one side of the freeway during HOV construction.
- ❖ Priority 2 – Soundwalls were not constructed on either side of the freeway.
- ❖ Priority 3 – Soundwalls that met requirements to be in the Phase I list but were identified after establishment of the initial Phase I list.

**Phase II** contains soundwalls for all other freeways.

# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program

## Phase II Soundwalls within the City of Pasadena

- Westbound and Eastbound I-210 from N. Arroyo Blvd to Orange Grove Blvd
- Approximately 4.2 miles of soundwalls
- Rough order of magnitude for design and construction cost: \$42 million - \$84 million based on 2019-dollar estimates



# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program

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## Soundwall Project Delivery Steps

1. Noise investigation is completed by Caltrans:
  - a) Pre 2016 was funded by Caltrans
  - b) Post 2016 is funded by Metro
2. Prepare a Project Study Report – Project Report (PSR-PR) to identify the proposed heights and locations of soundwalls; identify utilities and provide cost estimates. Metro secures funding for PSR-PR and Caltrans develops and delivers the report
  - Structures, hazardous waste, environmental, visual, utilities
3. Metro secures funding to proceed to design and construction phases

# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program

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Eligible Fund Source	Eligible Phase	Notes
<b>Proposition C 25%</b>	I	\$94 million invested to build soundwalls within Phase I Priority 1
<b>Measure R</b>		
Metro Allocation	I & II	\$250 million programmed to build soundwalls within Phase I
Subregional Highways Funds & Local Return	I & II	Only Arroyo Verdugo and Gateway Cities programmed part of their allocations to build soundwalls
<b>Measure M</b>		
Subregional Highways Funds & Local Return	I & II	Subregions can program part of their allocations to build soundwalls

# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program

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There are preliminary field tests conducted that establish eligibility for Soundwall Projects. Metro follows Caltrans and FHWA criteria. Criteria include:

- ❖ Hourly noise levels above the 67DbA threshold
- ❖ Cost (reasonable allowance of \$107,000 per benefited receptor)
- ❖ The location is along residential property, parks, churches or other sensitive receptors that **existed prior** to the construction of a highway or proposed improvements of a highway
- ❖ Noise reduction must result from the soundwall (5-decibel reduction)

# Metro's Highway Soundwall Program

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- ❖ Current estimates for design and construction costs based on 2019-dollars:
  - ❖ \$10 million/mile if placed adjacent to the freeway shoulder
  - ❖ \$20 million/mile if on bridge structures or retaining walls
  - ❖ The cost estimate to complete the remaining Phase I (Priority 2, Packages 12-14 and Priority 3 lists) is between \$216.6 million to \$433.2 million
  - ❖ The cost estimate to complete the remaining Phase II list is between \$688 million to \$1.3 billion



# Thank you!

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Soundwall Program Webpage:

<https://www.metro.net/about/highway-soundwalls/>

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