Click here and enter your name and address

Click here and enter the date

Click here and enter your elected official’s name and address

Dear Click here and enter your elected official’s name,

Recent news reports have addressed freeway noise concerns voiced by a relatively small number of citizens living adjacent to the Loop 101 Price Freeway in the Maricopa County region. As a member of the Coalition for Responsible Roads, I feel that these reports and discussions have not included a thorough review of the data, nor have they taken into account the concerns of the overall citizenry. A review of the facts are in order.

When neighborhoods first began complaining about highway noise in 2020, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) conducted testing on the recently widened Loop 101 Price Freeway, which was constructed using concrete with a diamond ground surface texture (a proven technique for creating smooth, quiet pavement). Test results were compared to noise levels of the asphalt rubber surfacing on that section taken in 2013. The noise levels of the diamond ground concrete sections were, in almost all cases, similar or lower than those of asphalt rubber. An important point is that this was true in spite of the fact that in 2013 the freeway had 25% fewer lanes than it does now! More cars and higher speeds result in more traffic noise regardless of the roadway surface.

Although ADOT’s measurements confirmed that the affected properties adjacent to the freeway complied with regulatory requirements, the citizens did not accept ADOT’s information and organized a pressure campaign to return the freeway to asphalt rubber. As a result, the Mayor of Tempe (at a recent MAG meeting) requested an independent noise study in support of these citizens. MAG is moving forward with this study at taxpayer expense. Ironically, ADOT previously spent several million dollars on the largest quiet pavement program ever undertaken in the U.S. This was also funded by taxpayers, yet now MAG and the east valley mayors feel pressure to repeat history by spending more money to appease a few hundred homeowners who chose to live next to a busy freeway corridor*. This money should instead be spent investing in other burgeoning infrastructure needs*.

We are asking our elected officials to act responsibly and accountable with our tax dollars. ADOT has determined that a diamond ground concrete surface represents the best solution for the taxpayers of Arizona. It is safe, quiet, smooth, sustainable, and affordable. We do not need another political decision, but rather one in the best interests of the seven million citizens driving and using the roads.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,