

Belfast Yard Expansion Sound Attenuation Wall
Avenue O & P Consultation Feedback

Background

Thursday June 29th, residents of Avenue O & P were invited to an open house review of sound attenuation wall options as part of Belfast Yard expansion. These included:

1. **Option: North wall/fence**
2. **RTG Sound Attenuation Wall (7 m)**
 - a. **Option:** Basic slate grey finish with sound reflecting qualities
 - b. **Option:** Laminate stone effect with sound reflecting qualities
 - c. **Option:** Basic finish with sound absorption qualities

Feedback Summary

Approximately 35 written submissions were received by the City.

RTG's Sound Attenuation Wall (7 m)

Stone Finish: ~75%

Absorptive: ~20%

The majority of submissions, approximately 75%, indicated preference to the laminate finish with stone effect, while nearly 20% preferred a basic finish with sound absorption qualities.

Sample comments from the community:

'Since the dba levels on all three walls are practically the same, my preference would be option 2-b'

'I like the 2-b option. However, I'd be interested to see how much of an issue the VIA bounce-back noise affects the residents closer to the tracks.'

'It is my belief that we must have erected a structure that will be pleasing, not only to the residents of Avenues O and P, but to the many visitors to Canada's capital.'

'Wall option 2-b looks to be the most appealing. It is this type of appearance – a stone laminate – that I personally had hoped to see'

'I would be in favor of the Belfast yard wall option 2-c (base wall + absorptive materials).'

'If I have to look at a 7 metre wall I want it to be aesthetically pleasing to the eye.'

'I also would like to suggest planting some Ivy to run up the wall and make it even easier on the eyes.'

'Ideally what I would like is a wall that reduces the noise as well as the LIGHT POLLUTION that comes from the site that needs to be lighted 24/7 (seems excessive).'

North Wall/Fence Option

No: ~65%

Yes (composite and/or wood): ~35%

Approximately 65% of submissions addressing this option indicated no desire to pursue any structure on the north side of the VIA corridor, along the residential property line. Approximately 35% indicated interest in a composite or wooden fence.

Sample comments from the community:

'I cannot emphasize enough how absolutely opposed I am to this.'

'Composite & clear panel wall between VIA Rail & us – remove chain link – remove old fence & replace.'

'It takes approximately 10 seconds for the train to pass, so for anyone entertaining in their backyards, you just simply stop talking for those few seconds. This is not, in my opinion, a terrible hardship.'

'I am concerned that if the residents choose this option it will remove all vegetation along the back of our fences. We fought so hard last year to keep the trees/vegetation it doesn't make sense, in my opinion, to remove it all again.'

'I indicated NO to the north wall option... I can't imagine being boxed in more than I need to.'

'VIA train noise does not justify building a north wall, that if many metres high would completely block sight lines in our back yards.'

'Another reason we cannot have a high north wall, and this in my view is very important, relates to the liveability of our backyards for those who live on Avenues P and O. Most if not all Avenue P and Avenue O residents would agree that our southern exposure results in heat from the summer sun collecting behind our houses.'

'We enjoy seeing the foliage on the other side of the tracks and watching the trains go by. A wall in this location would likely cause our yard to appear smaller, and I feel this would impact our property value substantially.'

'In my view, these disadvantages greatly outweigh the moderate reduction in noise from the VIA tracks'

'I have no strong preference as to which noise wall will be put in place, but am strongly opposed to any north side wall both from the perspective of unnecessary cost, and because this would negatively impede on the view of the rail line from my property.'