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Route 85 Noise Mitigation Project Texture-grinding Test Project

Overview

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Board of Directors authorized a texture-grinding (also known as micro-grinding) test project on a section of Route 85 to assess the potential to reduce tire noise along Route 85 between I-280 and Route 87 in Santa Clara County.

Project Description

Texture-grinding is a newer type of pavement grinding in which machines with parallel saw-wheels grind away roadway surface bumps and rough spots, leaving a smooth surface with a pattern of narrow, longitudinal grooves while retaining safe skid resistance. The concrete pavement industry asserts that texture-ground pavement is quieter than traditional diamond-ground pavement.

The test project section was located just north of the Prospect Road area and extended southerly for less than a mile. Grinding operations lasted approximately two weeks. Crews monitored noise levels in the freeway right-of-way and on surface streets both before and after the grinding operations.

The trial study indicated that texture-grinding the freeway pavement reduced overall noise, but it was less than the 3 dBA threshold that is perceptible to the human ear. However, the study determined the grinding caused a downward shift in the tonal characteristics of the sound and decibel reductions at frequencies that are easily heard by humans. Based on comments from the community, the combined effect has been a perceived reduction in noise.

Project Schedule

Texture-grinding started:	July 2002
Texture-grinding completed:	September 2002

How to Reach Us

For more information on this project, please contact VTA Community Outreach (408) 321-7575, TDD for the hearing impaired (408) 321-2330. You may also visit us on the web at www.vta.org, or email us at community.outreach@vta.org.

For more information regarding existing light rail and bus transit service, please contact VTA Customer Service (408) 321-2330, TDD for the hearing impaired (408) 321-2330, or visit us on the web at www.vta.org.

REV 85 Micro 7/1/05-F



Measure B
Transportation Improvement Program
County of Santa Clara



SANTA CLARA
Valley Transportation Authority



Route 85 Test-Grinding Section

