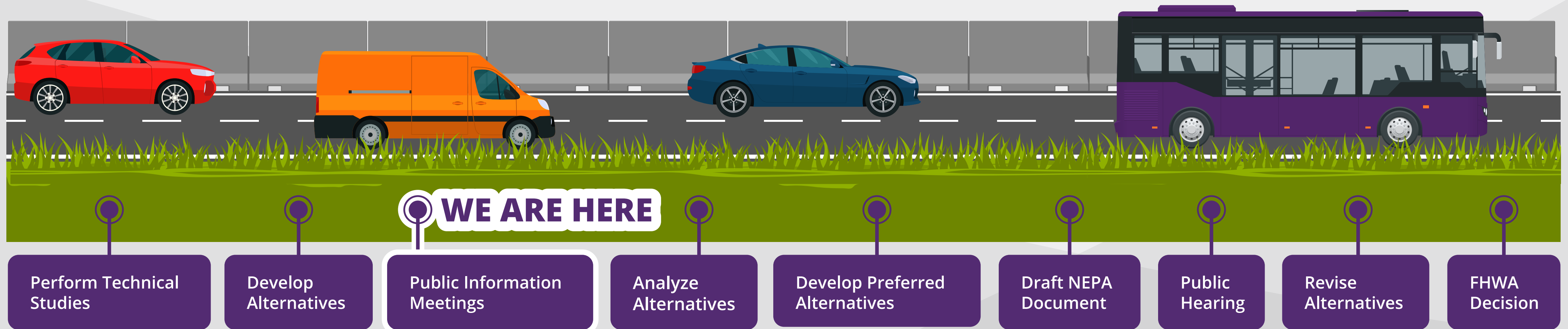


National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a federally mandated process that requires agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed projects prior to making decisions. The environmental and related social and economic effects of the project will be assessed, and this public meeting is a critical part of the NEPA process.

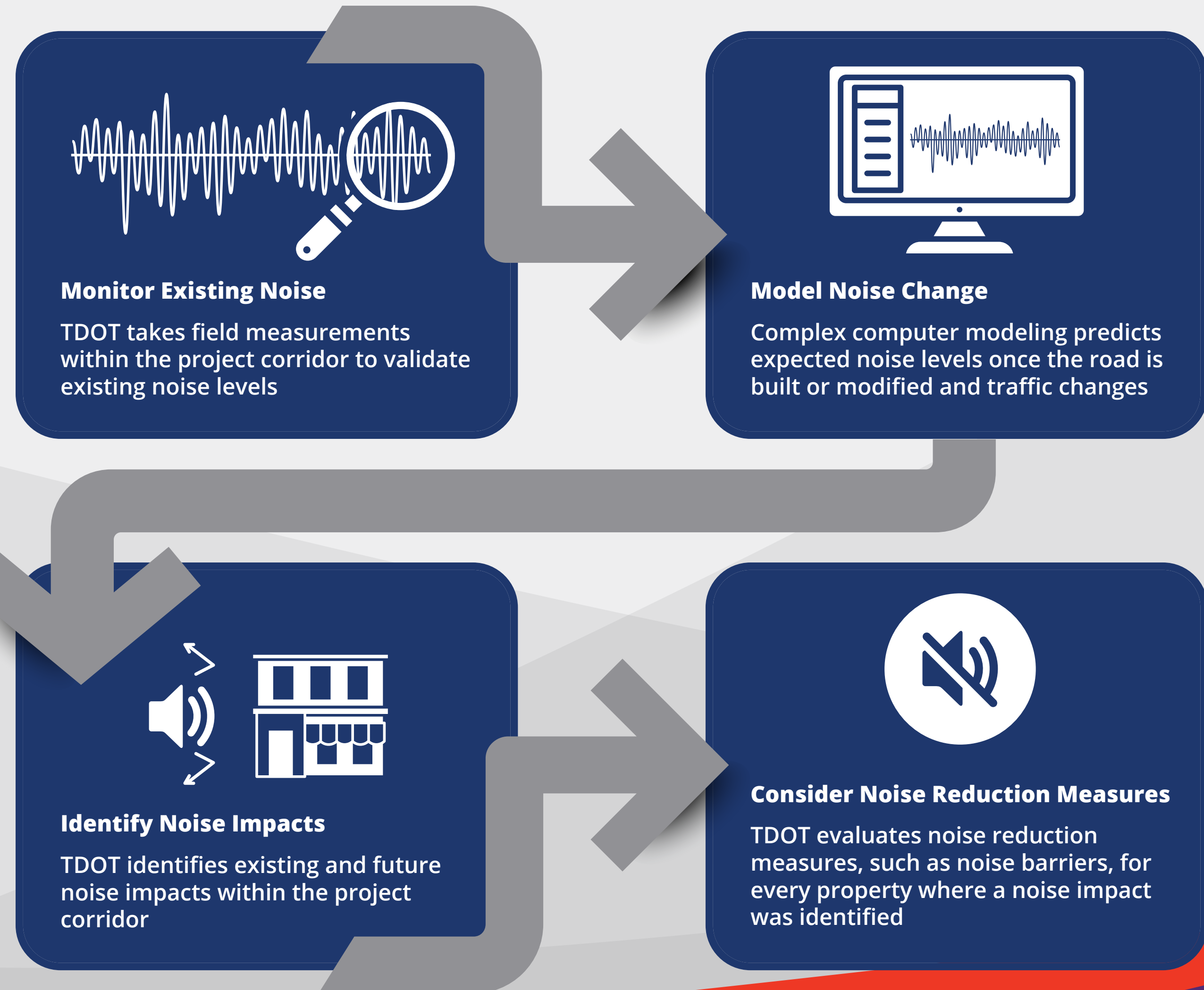


The NEPA process seeks to balance the transportation mobility needs of a community with minimizing potential impacts to the human and natural environment. Public engagement is a critical component to this process to inform the project decision-making process.

Noise Evaluation Process

Highway traffic noise is an important environmental impact consideration in the improvement and development of the I-24 Southeast Choice Lanes project. Noise impacts are taken into consideration in the planning, location, design and construction phases of highway project development.

A noise study will be conducted in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) noise standards to determine the acoustic impact of the proposed project on noise-sensitive receivers, such as single and multi-family residences and public outdoor spaces within the project corridor. The study will determine what noise abatement measures could and should be provided.



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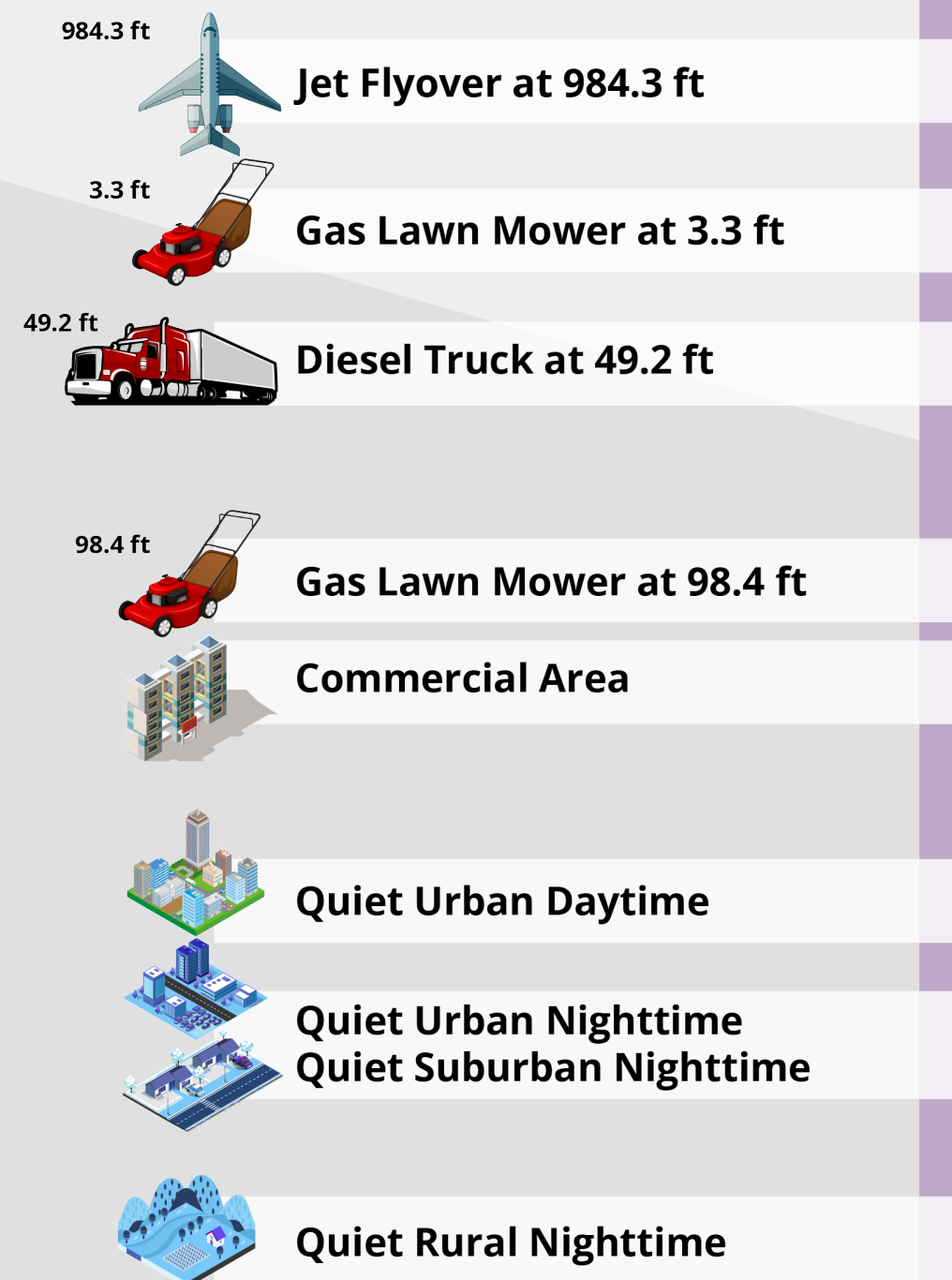
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Noise Barriers

COMMON OUTDOOR NOISES

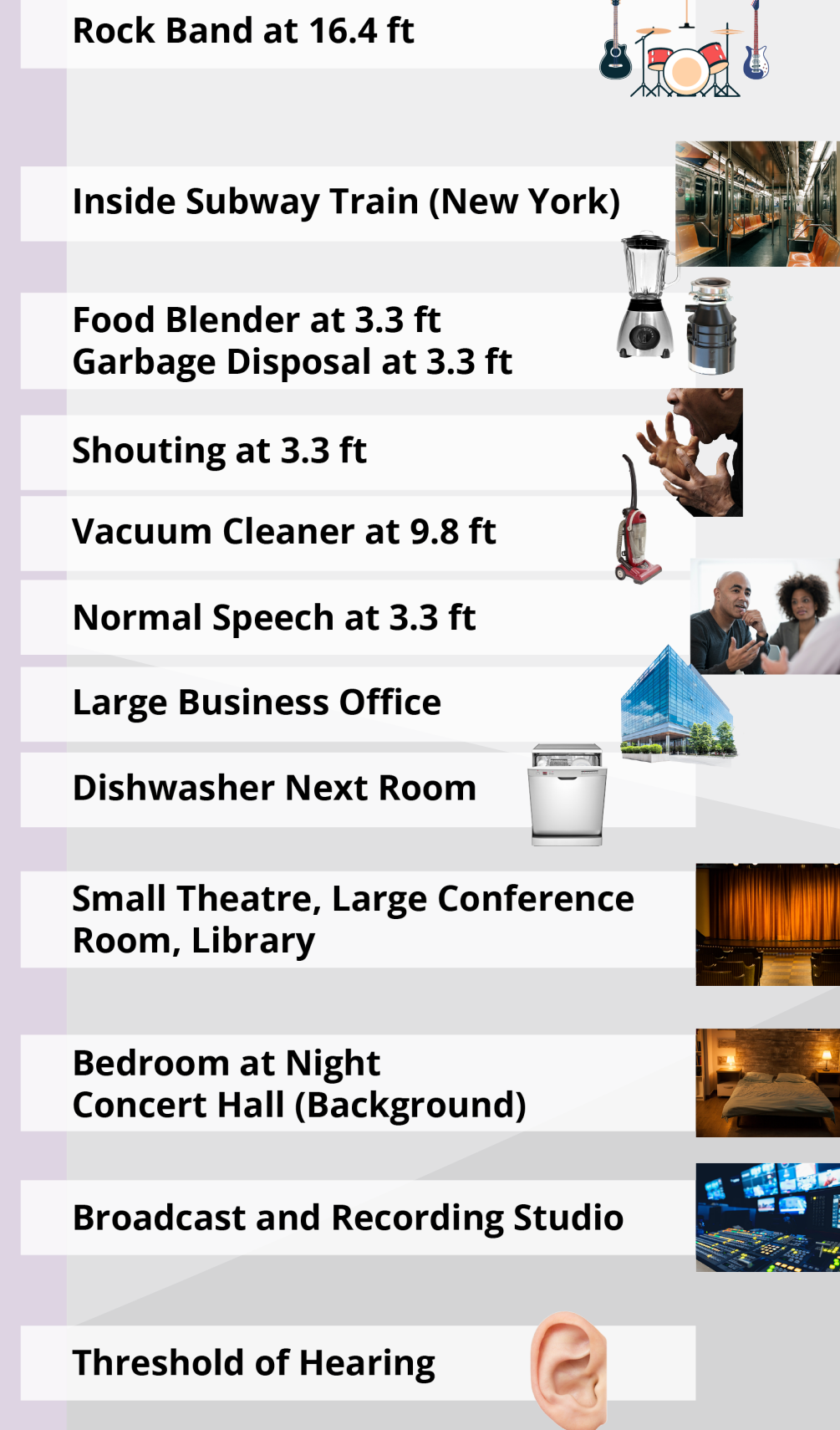


Source: FHWA

Sound Pressure
(μPa)

Sound Pressure
Levels (dB)

COMMON INDOOR NOISES



What is a noise barrier?

Noise barriers absorb traffic and construction noise to help minimize disturbances to those that live and work near high-traffic areas.

How are noise levels determined?

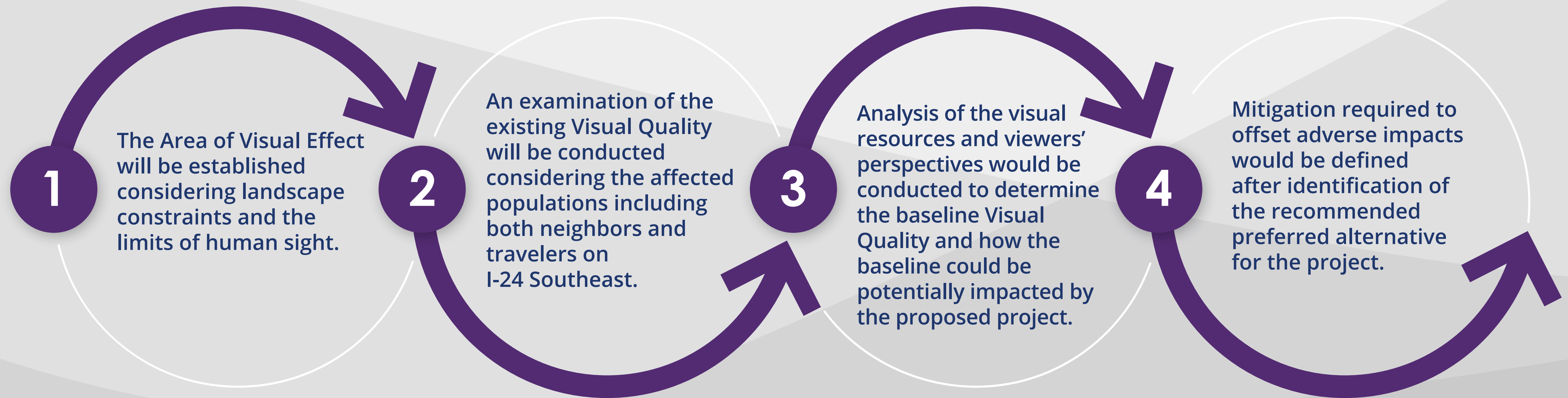
Noise barriers are placed in areas where noise could exceed acceptable sound levels established by state and federal noise policy. A noise study will be conducted in accordance with the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) noise standards.

NOTE: Noise study will determine what noise abatement measures could and should be provided.

Visual Impacts Assessment

A visual impacts assessment will be conducted as part of the environmental documentation for the I-24 Southeast Choice Lanes Project.

There are 4 steps that will be taken to conduct the assessment:



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Views *of the* Road vs. Views *from the* Road

The visual impacts evaluation considers the following components:

Compatibility

- Fits within or contrasts with existing environment and local policy, plans and public input
- Visual condition rating was increased or reduced

Viewer Sensitivity

- Proximity of viewers to proposed roadway
- Visibility metric (scale, view angle and view amount)
- Duration of views

Degree of Visual Impact

- Proposed changes benefit viewers or degrade and/or obstruct visual resources

Who's doing the looking?



Neighbors are residents or businesses located close enough that they could view the interstate even if currently obscured by other buildings or vegetation. Neighbors could include residential, recreational, institutional, civic, retail, commercial, industrial or agricultural entities.



Travelers are drivers or passengers utilizing the corridor for commuting, leisure travel, shipping, local vehicle travel or short trips.



Click here to take the visual impacts survey.

Environmental Justice & Choice Lanes



What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental Justice is the **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people and communities in the project area that decisions may benefit or negatively affect.



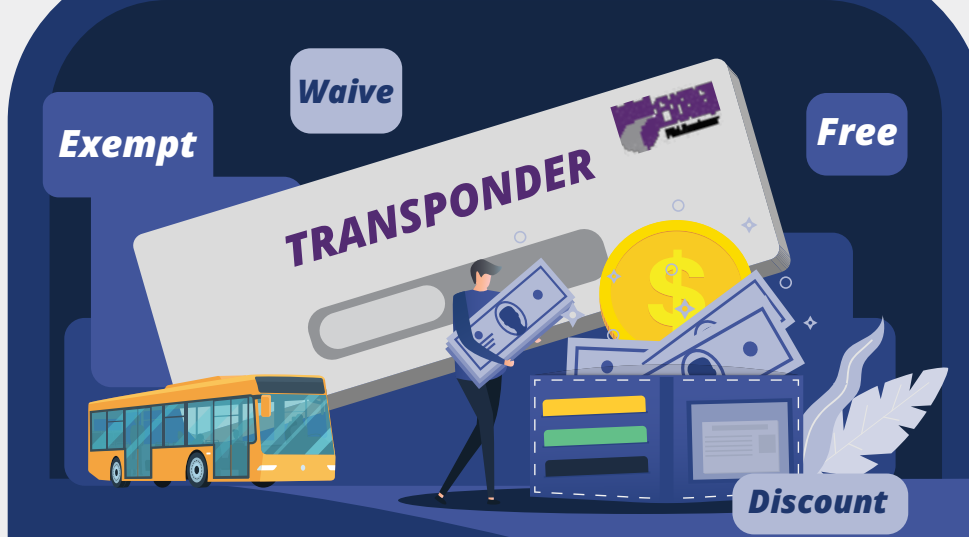
How is it Applied to Choice Lanes?

- Evaluate if any burdens (user fees) are disproportionately experienced by populations
- Develop mitigation strategies to balance the benefits for all communities



Steps for a Successful Approach

1. Identify affected communities
2. Develop an effective outreach plan
3. Determine through meaningful engagement if EJ communities would be disproportionately impacted
4. Develop mitigation measures for unavoidable impacts



Evaluate Mitigation Strategies

- Listen to the needs of the impacted communities to determine strategies that benefit all users
- Strategies may include enhanced benefits for transit and reduced barriers to obtain a transponder

NEPA Alternatives Screening & Analysis

