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Mandel goes to bat for Henday residents

Pushes province to honour commitments on noise levels

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Mayor Stephen Mandel is putting pressure on the province to erect sound barriers along portions of Anthony Henday Drive, where residents have said the traffic noise is "unbearable."

In a copy of a letter to Premier Ed Stelmach, the mayor asks the province to live up to a commitment to put up noise walls in areas where traffic volume exceeds 60 decibels.

It comes after several nearby residents last week told a committee of council that's what they were promised years ago, only to have the threshold raised to 65 decibels.

"In support of these citizens, I am requesting that you honour the province's commitment to provide noise attenuation for those residential areas where traffic noise exceeds the 60 decibel threshold ... currently, or based on future noise projections," Mandel wrote.

The committee of council last week recommended Mayor Stephen Mandel write the letter. It was approved yesterday by city council.

One resident described the noise as being "at times unbearable."

Kathleen Edwards, with the Blackburn Creek Homeowners Association, said traffic is the "No. 1 concern" of area residents.

"Some of our community members feel their homes shake," she told councillors last week.

The freeway is the province's responsibility, not the city's.

The province has said tests done in 2007 and 2008 found the noise level falls "significantly" below the 65-decibel level, and that there are no plans for any kind of noise reduction in the foreseeable future.

Residents argue it exceeds 60 decibels in areas.

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