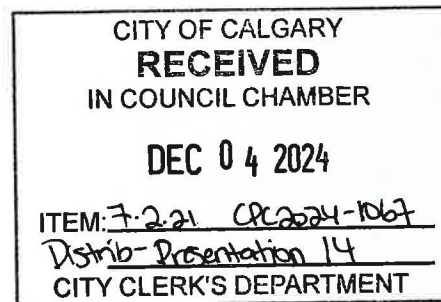


The Not-So-Silent Threat: Understanding Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is a pervasive environmental issue that affects the well-being of people and animals. This presentation will explore the impacts of noise pollution, its impacts, and alternatives to this development site.

 by mmewow



What is Noise Pollution?

Unwanted Noise

Any sound that interferes with our ability to hear, communicate, relax, or sleep. It is often excessive, disruptive, and harmful.

Environmental Issue

A pervasive issue that affects people and animals in cities, towns, and even remote areas. Its effects can be subtle or severe, depending on the source and intensity of the noise.

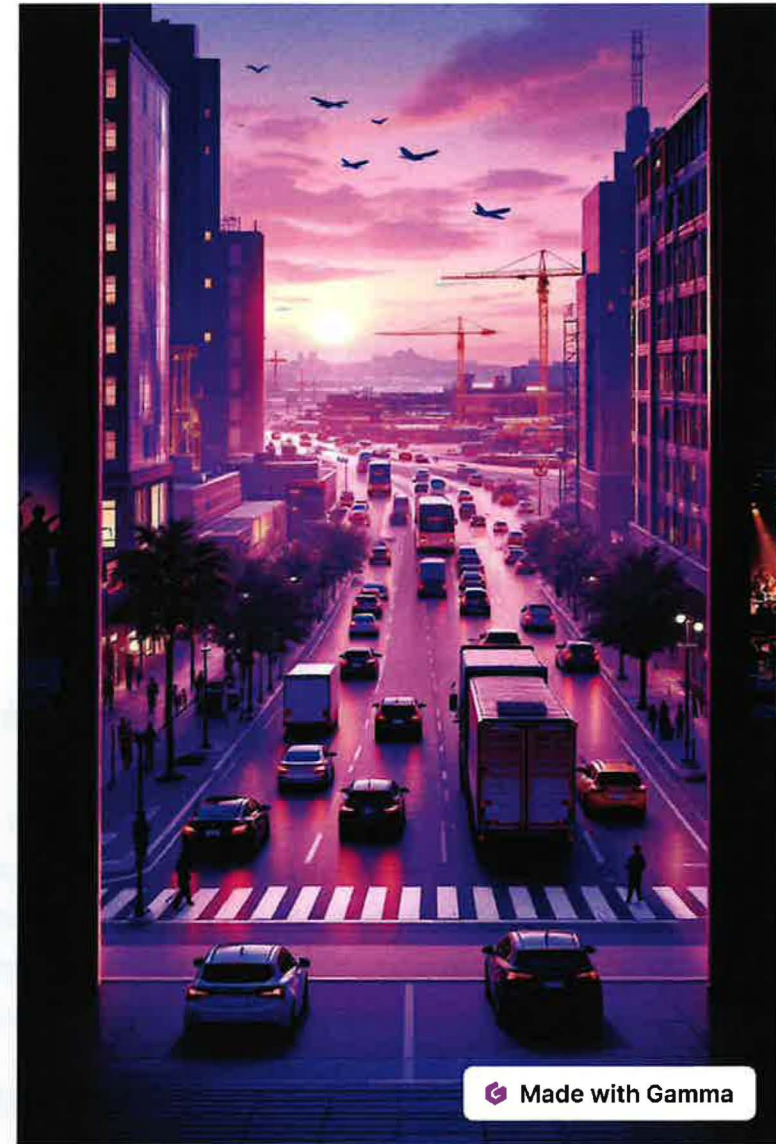
Sources of Noise Pollution

Construction Noise

Heavy machinery used in construction projects, such as bulldozers, jackhammers, and cranes, can generate significant noise.

Traffic Noise

Cars, buses, trucks, and motorcycles are major sources of noise pollution in urban areas, especially during rush hour.





Construction Noise

Construction activities have specific noise restrictions to minimize impact on residents. Generally, construction noise is allowed between **7 am and 10 pm on weekdays and Saturdays, and between 9 am and 9 pm on Sundays and holidays**, with exceptions.

Noise Level (dB)	Construction Tools/Activities
70-80 dB	Electric drill, power saw
80-90 dB	Handheld circular saw, hammering nails
90-100 dB	Jackhammer, concrete mixer
100-110 dB	Chainsaw, pneumatic drill
110-120 dB	Heavy machinery (bulldozer, backhoe)



Will there be pile driving?

Pile driving is one of the noisiest construction activities, reaching almost 120 dB from 10 feet away.

Impact pile driving produces a loud, impulse sound that can propagate through the water and substrate. The underwater sound pressure levels caused by pile driving can be harmful to marine animals.

Impact on Animal Behavior and Habitats



Bird Communication

Noise pollution can interfere with bird communication, making it difficult for them to find mates, navigate, and avoid predators.



Habitat Disruption

Noise pollution can force animals to abandon their habitats, reducing biodiversity and disrupting ecological balance.



Stress and Mortality

Noise pollution can stress marine animals, leading to behavioral changes, reduced reproductive success, and even mortality.



Adverse Health Effects on Local Residents:

Construction Noise

- **Hearing Impairment:** Prolonged exposure to noise levels above 70 dBA can cause hearing loss.
- **Speech Interference:** Noise levels above 35 dBA can interfere with speech communication.
- **Sleep Disturbance:** Noise levels above 30 dBA can disturb sleep.
- **Cardiovascular Effects:** Long-term exposure to noise levels above 65-70 dBA can increase the risk of hypertension and heart disease.
- **Mental Health:** Noise can exacerbate mental health issues and increase the use of medications like tranquilizers.
- **Performance:** Noise can impair cognitive performance, especially in **children**.

Traffic Noise

Research by Ryerson health geographer Tor Oiamo has found that ongoing noise exposure, particularly to chronic traffic noise, can be more than an irritation.

It can add audible stress to your life, causing negative impacts such as **sleep disruption and even contributing to developing health issues such as high blood pressure or diabetes.**

Note the proximity of seniors' residences to the project.



Potential Solutions

Let's consider repurposing more industrial areas—like the **Fisher Park** redevelopment—for new construction.

Industrial Land MacLeod Trail Zone



Take a look along MacLeod Trail. Most buildings are only 1-story! The proximity to the LRT lines and stations could make these TOD projects.

- Redevelop these industrial areas as mixed-use
- Repurpose parking lots for small scale apartment buildings
- More LRT station residential developments similar to Franklin Park Station TOD (see below)?
- Add landscaping to attract residents and add to our green spaces and tree-canopy, instead of taking away current green spaces





Call to Action

Noise pollution is a significant environmental issue that demands our attention. By understanding its impact, its sources, and the available alternatives, we can create a quieter and healthier world for our residents. **It's our collective responsibility to reduce noise pollution and protect our well-being.**