

Comprehensive Revision of Dane County Zoning Ordinance

September 19, 2016
Town of Cross Plains

Noise Levels of Common Activities

TABLE NE-1 Common Indoor and Outdoor Noise Levels

Noises	Sound Level dBA
Threshold of pain	140
Leaf blower/Car horn	110
Gas lawn mower at 3 feet	100
Diesel truck at 50 feet /Food blender at 3 feet	90
MD 80 Passenger Plane at 1,500 feet	85
Diesel truck at 50 feet at 40 mph	84
Garbage disposal at 3 feet/Motorcycle at 25 feet	80
Car at 25 feet at 65 mph	77
Vacuum cleaner at 10 feet	70
Heavy traffic at 300 feet/Air-conditioner at 100 feet	60
Dishwasher next room	50
Quiet residential area	40
Library	35
Threshold of hearing	0

Table source: City of San Diego

**Based on data from “*Guide on Evaluation and Attenuation of Traffic Noise*,”
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials**

Noise Limits

Current ordinance

- None

Discussion

- Rural areas different from urban areas.
- Transient or infrequent vs. steady noise.
- Difficulty in measurement, establishing uniform standards in diverse landscape, lot size, etc.
- May be more appropriate to tailor to specific uses/locations through CUP or conditional zoning to commercial districts.

Noise Limits

Current Ordinance

- None

Proposed Ordinance

- Town / committee may, as necessary, set decibel limits appropriate to the use and location as a condition on a CUP.
- County board may, as necessary, set decibel limits appropriate to the use and location as a condition on rezones to General Commercial, Heavy Commercial, Limited Commercial or Traditional Neighborhood Mixed-Use districts.
- Measurement: all decibel readings shall be:
 - Based on the db(a) scale
 - Taken from the property line of the property nearest to the source of the sound
 - Averaged over readings taken once a minute over a fifteen-minute interval.