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### I-595 neighbors get options for noise walls

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TRANSPORTATION COLUMNIST

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**Q: When a 22-foot noise barrier was constructed between Interstate 595 and the Hawks Landing subdivision in Plantation, it gave me hope that a similar barrier would be built farther west of Hiatus Road for the Plantation Acres subdivision. But after looking noise wall plans on <http://www.i-595.com>, it doesn't look like that's the case. Who decides where these barriers are placed?**

Bill Beazley, Plantation

A: Residents in each community along I-595 slated to get noise barriers were surveyed in the spring of 2008 and asked where they wanted the barriers built. Letters were sent by certified mail.

Plantation Acres residents were given three options. The first was a combination of a 22-foot ground-mounted wall on the north side of the North New River Canal and the greenway with an 8-foot shoulder-mounted wall on the I-595 overpasses. The second was a combination of a 14-foot shoulder-mounted wall on the north side of westbound State Road 84 with 8-foot shoulder-mounted walls on the I-595 overpasses. The third was no barriers at all.

A majority of residents chose the second option, which is what will be built.

The Hawks Landing barrier was built first because it was tied to construction of the recreational trail. Officials said it wouldn't have made sense to build the trail first, then come back later with heavy equipment and risk destroying the concrete pavement when the barrier panels were hoisted in place.

The shoulder-mounted walls will be constructed as segments of the highway are built, because the they are physically part of the road design.

**Q: In one of your previous columns, you said motorcycles are exempt from paying tolls in the Interstate 95 express lanes in Miami-Dade County? Are there any other motorcycle exemptions, or is it specific just to the express lanes?**

Chuck Heath, Fort Lauderdale



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