

Noise Action Plan Update

April 1, 2025

Board of Health

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The City has taken action to address excessive noise

2016	MLS convened a City-wide Noise Working Group to develop amendments to the Noise Bylaw. TPH initiated the Noise Monitoring Study to help MLS and the Noise Working Group develop and propose data driven amendments to the Noise Bylaw.
2017	TPH released How Loud is too Loud - Noise Monitoring Study. The Board of Health requested that a Noise Action Plan for the City be developed.
2019	City Council adopted changes to the Noise Bylaw, which came into force on October 1, 2019. City Council requested that MLS prepare a review of the implementation of Noise Bylaw changes. City Council adopted recommended actions from TPH's Noise Action Plan.
2022	MLS began public education efforts for noise (e.g., proper use of lawn equipment) and continued reviewing the implementation of the Noise Bylaw.
2024	MLS completed the implementation review of the Noise Bylaw. TPH conducted a literature review to update our knowledge on the health impacts of noise and collected status updates on Noise Action Plan recommendations from other City divisions.
2025	TPH consulted with stakeholders and prepared the Noise Action Plan Update.

In 2017, evidence showed that noise can influence health outcomes

- The Noise Monitoring Study (2017) showed that noise levels in Toronto are higher than World Health Organization recommended levels and that most noise in Toronto was from traffic.
- A literature review for the study showed evidence to support noise impacts on health beyond hearing.

TPH's 2025 literature review continues to show noise impacts health outcomes

Consistent evidence supports links between noise and:



Cardiovascular
health



Cognitive health



Sleep health



Mental health



Hearing loss

Noise is one of many factors influencing health outcomes

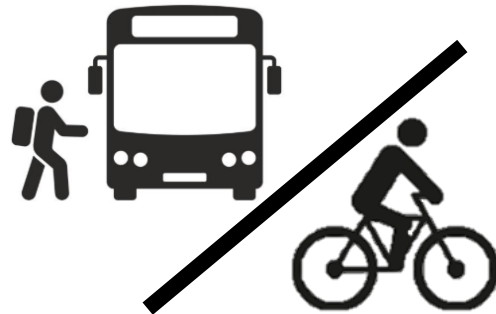
- Adverse health impacts linked to noise are influenced by multiple factors with noise being just one contributor.
- It is difficult to isolate and quantify these factors. For example:
 - Poor air quality is associated with many of the same adverse health outcomes as noise
 - The relative amounts that noise and air quality impact health have not been described consistently and are difficult to separate
 - Individuals from lower socioeconomic communities are often exposed to more noise
- TPH uses information about the relative impacts that various factors have on health outcomes to prioritize programming and our work within our mandate.

Collaborative City programs promote healthy built environments and lifestyles

TPH is strengthening partnerships and collective work at the City to address noise while also creating an overall healthy environment that promotes physical activity and healthy aging:



Enhancing
walkable
neighbourhoods



Promoting active
transportation and
transit use



Improving air
quality



Consulting on large
construction projects that
are exempt from the Noise
Bylaw

The City has made significant progress implementing the Noise Action Plan

Environment, Climate, and Forestry

- Implementing the Net Zero Strategy to switch 30% of registered vehicles in Toronto to electric by 2030

Transportation Services and Planning

- Evaluating noise and vibration as part of their project assessment process
- Piloting new noise suppression technology at construction hubs
- Reducing red tape for traffic calming requests

Fleet Services

- Working to transition half of City-owned vehicles to zero-emissions by 2030

Toronto Public Health

- Forwarded the Noise Action Plan to the TTC, Metrolinx, and the provincial Ministry of Transportation

Municipal Licensing and Standards

- Made substantial changes to the Noise Bylaw, including:
 - Monitoring and taking complaints about vehicle noise
 - Streamlining noise complaint collection and response
 - Amending noise limits for amplified sound

Economic Development and Culture

- Support music, content, and cultural producers with quieter power generation technologies
- Engage more proactively with community members near large event sites

TPH will continue to support improvement of health outcomes through noise mitigation and other work

Next steps include:

- Collaborating across City divisions, including MLS, on activities to ensure health evidence is considered and incorporated
- Addressing the health outcomes that noise impacts through activities within TPH's mandate