

# Quieting Highway Noise

Thanks to the work of local residents, Highway 96 will be quieter soon

You're headed down 96, between Rice Street and McMenemy Road, enjoying peaceful Sucker Lake Park on one side and the beautiful North Oaks Golf Course on the other. Suddenly your peaceful trek is disrupted by a screeching high pitched noise. You've just crossed the bridge over Sucker Creek.

This section of the road was covered with a special surface when the roadway was re-done several years ago. This special surface creates a deafening noise when vehicles cross over and can be heard loudly in a large surrounding area.

The surface, although federally required at the time, was not recommended by the county engineer. The surface was added in order to obtain federal funding. Shortly afterwards, the federal requirement was lifted.

Surprisingly, this section of the roadway is the only known remaining roadway in Minnesota with this issue, said the Ramsey County engineer that spoke to a neighborhood group last month. In fact, he called the noise "deafening" and said that the noise will not diminish until the road is resurfaced some 10-20 years from now.

The noise level can get to 75 dB at times, which is the same as a loud laundry machine or air conditioner, an average alarm clock, and a bit less than a ringing telephone.

How does this affect you? Home values are decreased, and peace and quiet of our golf course & beautiful tranquil nature preserve is greatly affected. Walking on the south side of pleasant lake you can hear it, sitting on the patio at the club you can hear it, and playing on the golf course over more than half the course you can hear it. And don't forget the drive over highway 96.

The City of North Oaks approved in its April meeting to contract with Ramsey County to remove this surface from the roadway, however the County will not pay for the project, expected to cost about \$37,700, because the road is in good condition and does not require maintenance at this time. The opportunity to have Ramsey County do this work will only be available this summer, when they have the required equipment available. It's our one chance to get this done. Already, some 20 residents have signed agreements to contribute varying amounts to make the project happen. Everyone in North Oaks benefits, and every golf member benefits.

Although the NOHOA and the City of North Oaks strongly support the project's completion, they will not contribute towards the cost of the project. The City has given a significant amount of their time to make this happen and we are greatly appreciative of Melinda Coleman's efforts to ensure our success.