



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Memorandum

To: Division Administrators

From: Gary Jensen, Director of the Office of Natural Environment (HEPN)

Date: December 2021

Re: INFORMATION: Highway Traffic Noise – Release of the FHWA Traffic Noise Model Version 3.1

To the Attention of Division Noise and Environmental Staff:

The purpose of this email is to announce the release of FHWA's Traffic Noise Model (TNM) version 3.1. The model and associated documentation are available for download on the TNM 3.1 homepage at: [TNM V3.1 - Traffic Noise Model - Noise - Environment - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficnoise/tnm3.1/).

TNM 3.1 is an important update to the current version - TNM 3.0. The FHWA received much insightful user feedback regarding the installation, hardware and software requirements, runtimes, and workflows in TNM 3.0. Although the underlying acoustics remain the same in TNM 3.1, the FHWA has implemented several improvements to the Graphical User Interface (GUI) and workflows based on this feedback.

Improvements made to TNM 3.1 include the creation of an installer and removal of the database saving structure by shifting to an XML-based saving, importing, and exporting scheme. As a result of these changes, projects can now be imported with map projections and adjustments. The Barrier Design Table was also enhanced to allow filtering and sorting of results. Finally, multiple bugs and issues were identified and resolved in this version to ensure the model calculates the full spectrum of results and that the different parts of the GUI are interacting with each other as intended.

The FHWA has also updated the TNM **Fact Sheet**, **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**, **User's Guide/Help Menu**, and portions of the **Technical Manual**. In addition, two new documents are available for TNM 3.1 - a **Change Log** documenting the differences in the software from TNM 3.0 to TNM 3.1, and a **File Format Reference Manual** containing detailed information on the new XML file format.

The FHWA is also updating the training for TNM to include the various features and functions now available. New TNM 3.1 videos will be posted to the existing TNM Playlist at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5_sm9g9d4T3naH9knm5E6SZUpml_QD3y.

The FHWA will hold a public webinar with more information on the changes made to TNM in February. This webinar will be recorded and posted to: [Training - Noise - Environment - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficnoise/tnm3.1/).

If you have any questions please contact Aileen Varela-Margolles at a.varela-margolles@dot.gov or TNMHelp@dot.gov for technical assistance with the model.