

# INFORMATION: Highway Traffic Noise – Release of the FHWA Traffic Noise Model Version 3.2

## 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 3.2. The model and associated documentation are available for download on the TNM 3.2 homepage at: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/traffic\\_noise\\_model/tnm\\_v32/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/traffic_noise_model/tnm_v32/).

We strongly encourage State departments of transportation (DOTs) and project sponsors to use TNM 3.2 to conduct noise impact analyses, including evaluations of construction noise levels. FHWA has determined that TNM 3.2 is consistent with the methodology of TNM 2.5 as discussed in 23 CFR 772.9(a). State DOTs and project sponsors should transition to the latest version of TNM as soon as possible to take advantage of the many improvements and expanded capabilities included in TNM 3.2.

## Summary of Updates:

TNM 3.2 greatly increases the functionality compared to the current TNM 3.1 and to the older TNM 2.5. For this release, FHWA integrated the TNM 3.1 software structure with the Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM 2.0) acoustics from the NCHRP Project 25-49. Although the underlying roadway traffic acoustics remain the same as in TNM 3.0 and TNM 3.1, this updated version of TNM now includes point source acoustics and directivity for a variety of construction equipment types.

Other improvements made to TNM 3.2 include an increased zoom resolution and the ability to filter and sort all data tables and export barrier design tables. TNM 3.2 also has better input checks and error messages with more precise information. As a result of these changes, users can more easily edit objects; review and share results; and fix any error-causing inputs. This version of TNM also fixed a bug that caused crash reports when attempting to divide object segments.

We have also updated the TNM *Fact Sheet*, *Getting Started Guide*, *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*, *Change Log*, *User's Guide/Help Menu*, *File Format Reference Manual*, and portions of the *Technical Manual*. These can be found on the TNM 3.2 homepage:

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/traffic\\_noise\\_model/tnm\\_v32/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/traffic_noise_model/tnm_v32/).

## Training and Webinars:

The recordings for the webinars will be posted to the Training page of the Noise website at: [Training - Noise - Environment - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#) as they become available.

### Live Webinar:

- TNM 3.2 Release Webinar  
February 7, 2024  
11:00 AM EST  
[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

For call-in numbers and more information please see [below](#).

### Prerecorded Webinars and Videos:

- TNM 3.2 Sample Project Use Case Webinar
- YouTube Videos focused on the Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM) integration, including vehicles and inputs

### Instructor-led Training:

We are working on updates to the Instructor-led TNM course. This course is offered in-person and virtually by the Resource Center. It focuses on TNM 3.2 and how to use the software. A Virtual TNM 3.2 Training Pilot will be held February 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, more details will be provided via the FHWA Noise Program updates email distribution list. For questions on scheduling a course in your area please contact the [Resource Center's Air Quality](#) team.

For policy background information please see the NHI's Highway Traffic Noise Course modules, which are available online free of charge at the NHI website or via our Training webpage.

For any questions please contact [a.varela-margolles@dot.gov](mailto:a.varela-margolles@dot.gov).

### TNM Release Webinar Zoom Meeting Information:

**Topic:** TNM 3.2 Release Webinar

**Time:** Feb 7, 2024 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://usdot.zoomgov.com/j/1604110925?pwd=SnlLOEdMM3VBT2VkanB3Z25qMm9PUT09>

Meeting ID: 160 411 0925

Passcode: 894216

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## **Contact:**

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

Thank you,

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Federal Highway Administration  
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[Gary.Jensen@dot.gov](mailto:Gary.Jensen@dot.gov)