

**Pavement Type and Noise**

Northbound lanes:  
Concrete

Southbound lanes:  
Asphalt

Photo Source: Wilson & Company

09-0009-11

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## Pavement Type and Noise

The Colorado Department of Transportation does not recognize different types of roadway pavements as noise mitigation. This issue is a topic of ongoing research nationally and in Colorado. While it is accepted that different tires, pavements, and pavement surfacing textures result in varying noise levels, it is difficult to forecast the overall pavement surface condition 20 years into the future.

Due to this fact, and the requirement that noise mitigation must provide a “readily perceptible” reduction in noise levels over a long period of time, the use of different pavement types or surface textures cannot be considered as a noise abatement measure. Pavement selection decisions are made by CDOT on a project-by-project basis, considering a variety of factors including life-cycle cost effectiveness.

Guidance: CDOT Noise Analysis and Abatement Guidelines



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