

To

Land Transport Authority (LTA)
HDB
HDB Engineering & Architecture
Singapore Grievance
Punggol Town Council
Punggol MP
Social relations
Environment Authority – Sound Pollution
Traffic Police
The straight times
Today News Paper
Ministry of National Development
Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

Sub: Grievance of people staying in HDB flats on the bank of TPE express way, whose day to day life was suffering due to annoying/Horrible Traffic noise from vehicles on TPE

Respected Sir,

My name is PVS R Naidu , staying in Block 117 , Edgefield Plains , SG-820117 . I have moved into this HDB flat 10 months back, like other residents in Punggol area , with a dream of owning a shelter to stay in a place which promises a comfortable stay with 21st century design area (as the place was called as Punggol 21) to live happily with my family (3 months infant & 4 years son), I was very excited when I heard HDBs plan to develop Punggol as with “aim and vision, to remake our heartland, and create endearing homes for all “. I have spent all my hard earnings and like any others in Singapore, presently working hard to repay the bank mortgage loans.

Nightmare came into my life, when I have moved into the flat and started feeling the un-tolerable traffic noise from vehicles passing on TPE, even after closing all doors and windows (which leaves no option to breathe fresh air). While initially I was cursing my fate and trying to live with it by using air-con for fresh air. our life worsened when I realized that my wife got Sensitive Nose problem and cannot sleep with air-con ON, my 3 months baby cries lot as he couldn't sleep properly with air-con ON, and my 4 years son have started developing isnofelia symptoms and very often sneezing every day (he was very healthy when we stayed in a rental flat in yishun before moving here). Every day we feel headache as long we stay inside house .with all these everyday & night suffering of my family members, you can imagine what kind of sleep I will get in night. And this has seriously affected my performance in job and I was demoted with in 4 month of moving in to this flat. Not only that, I couldn't even invite my old aged parents to stay with my kids as I know that they cannot sleep in air-condition due to their medical conditions and there is no option for fresh air with all doors & windows closed in attempt to block the traffic noise. Apart from that when any one of us fall ill because of fever or flue , definitely cannot use Air-con , neither can open doors for fresh air , as with the noisy vehicles sound no way to get rest/sleep . The worst thing is, whenever it rains outside, the outside weather will be of very pleasant, cool, fresh. But , with the increased vehicle tiers noise on wet road , we cannot afford to open the windows , thus I feel pity myself on what kind of living conditions I am providing to my kids , they cannot even enjoy this kind of little gods gifted environments . At times I cry myself thinking that, do I need to invest/commit \$ 400 K for a living condition of experience, same as sleeping on road side.

Before writing this letter, for many months, I was afraid to write this, as I was not sure whether I can speak out / feed back to Government Authorities on this issue, due to my immigration status here (non- citizen), but I realized that this is a suffering of few hundred families living along the bank of the TPE, effects all of them irrelevant of immigration status, so thought it may be worth to let the authorities know. I also not sure whether any of the residents raised similar concerns before me, I decided to write to all of the authorities requesting to help us. I

hope it's not an offence to express my grief to authorities, requesting help and I definitely not demanding a luxuries wish, I am pleading for a basic human comfort of having a eye full sleep in night. Even if this letter goes un-heard due to any reason, I will be at least happy that i have done my duty as a civilian of the country. But if I receive any reply to this letter , I will be very happy that authorities have heard me as human , irrelevant of my immigration status (which is only possible in 1st world countries)

While I understand that it will be foolishness to expect a complete quite / calm living environment in this era where human kind has invented lot of technology which results certain disturbance in life along with comfort, but this kind of human created transportation / traffic noise which is 24 hrs pains in ears is something I feel it's not fair for the people suffering. As we all work hard in day time to earn some \$\$\$ to come back home and live with family, but in my case cannot sleep healthy even in night time. You may not believe that, to get rid of the Noise headache, after I came from office in the evening , all of my family members spend time in the playground / in friends place till late night like 10:30 PM (it's a off-peak and little less noise). Because of it we go back sleep late and my son always wakes up in the morning and gets late to school. His class teachers daily complain on him, but I cannot fault my son, because I failed to give him minimum comfort to sleep. I also get late to wake up.

So please understand our sufferings. I also hope that this letter may make difference in life of families residing / suffering in similar conditions in other parts of the island (if any) .

Before I purchase this flat, It so happened that when I visited the flat it was a Sunday and there was very minimum traffic on the TPE and the seller and the agent tricked me in such a way that TPE noise will not be a issue. Also in my mind I have a trust that HDB (with highly skillful Architects / engineers) will never construct flats where people cannot stay with minimum comfort ability in it.

While the last option I have in my hands is to sell the flat (may be I loose good amount of my money , as no body want to buy a flat like this) and get rid of the problem, but I think it's not fair for the buyer family , who may also suffer like what I experiencing. So I decided to inform this problem to respective Government Authorities and wait for their reply before I do so.

I request the respective authorities to also look in the below aspects of the problem and help to address it on humanitarian grounds. Below are the other impacts I noticed.

Social aspect:

As I am staying in Singapore for past 8 years before moving to this flat , it was a very exiting every day when we walk out of home or in lift lobby , neighbors have a smiley face to greet and we often exchange by “ Good Morning “ “ have a good day” Etc. After I moved to this flat I don't feel the environment , and slowly I realized that I have also lost my smiley day start , how to get a smiley day start , after every painful struggle to catch a good sleep .

Due to the unbearable traffic noise entering into house, all of us will close the main doors, windows and hence we have no opportunity to know/mingle with neighbors. You may be surprised to know that we first saw our neighbors after 4 months we moved into the hose. As all the time we all close the doors to get rid of the traffic noise.

We also have big problem to manage kids by closing all the doors and windows whole day. I am worried they may feel like home prison. But what to do we are helpless; we cannot bear the headache from the traffic noise.

Medical welfare of Families :

Many of us stay in home more that we spent outside, By daily relying on Air-con for fresh air and no exposure to out side ambient temperature, my wife and kids gets ill very often. I believe this could be the experience for others too.

Environment Pollutions

As the world is now on high focus to secure the Ozone layer of globe, with few hundreds of air cons running un-necessarily, it may cause considerable amount of damage to environment.

Energy conservation

Along with monthly PUB bills & news paper advertisements, government authorities trying very hard to educate the residents of the country to conserve power. This is very good and is a must for all countries on this planet. As mentioned before, since we cannot breathe fresh air, with doors & windows closed, my self & many other residents in this area (un-willingly) may keep power on Air-cons extensively, which quantifies into a considerable amount of power which can be a huge savings in the long run.

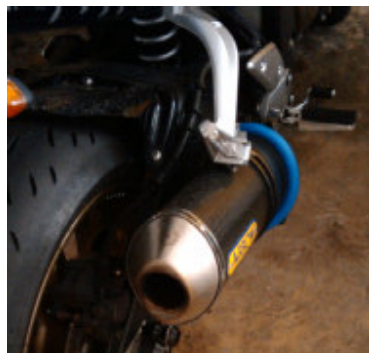
Below are some of my observations to find the reasons/culprits for this excessive difficulty.

1) Bikes / cars with UN – Authorized modification to silencers:

Every minute I can hear the horrible noise produced by the bike riders whose silencers were altered resulting ear bursting high engine crank sound. While the bikers may do the alternation for fun, may be unaware how much serious damage they are causing to other peoples life. I have spent few days to notice that there are many bikes in the country running with silencers designed for sports track. Attached are few pictures for your reference. Some of them use a steel pipe in place of silencer and the engine sound can be ear bursting up to half a kilometer. Not only that , it results in releasing carbon monoxide with out a filter and may cause serious damage to human kind.

Often we can see groups of biker's race in TPE producing hell lot of noise.





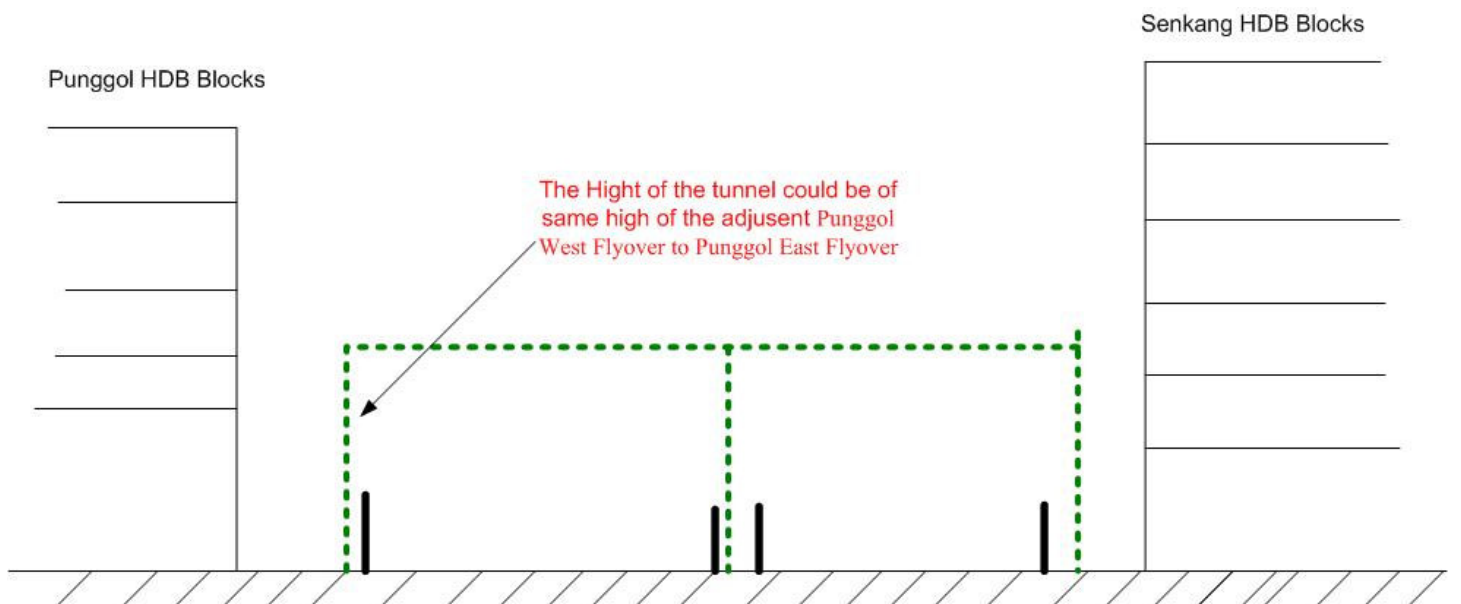
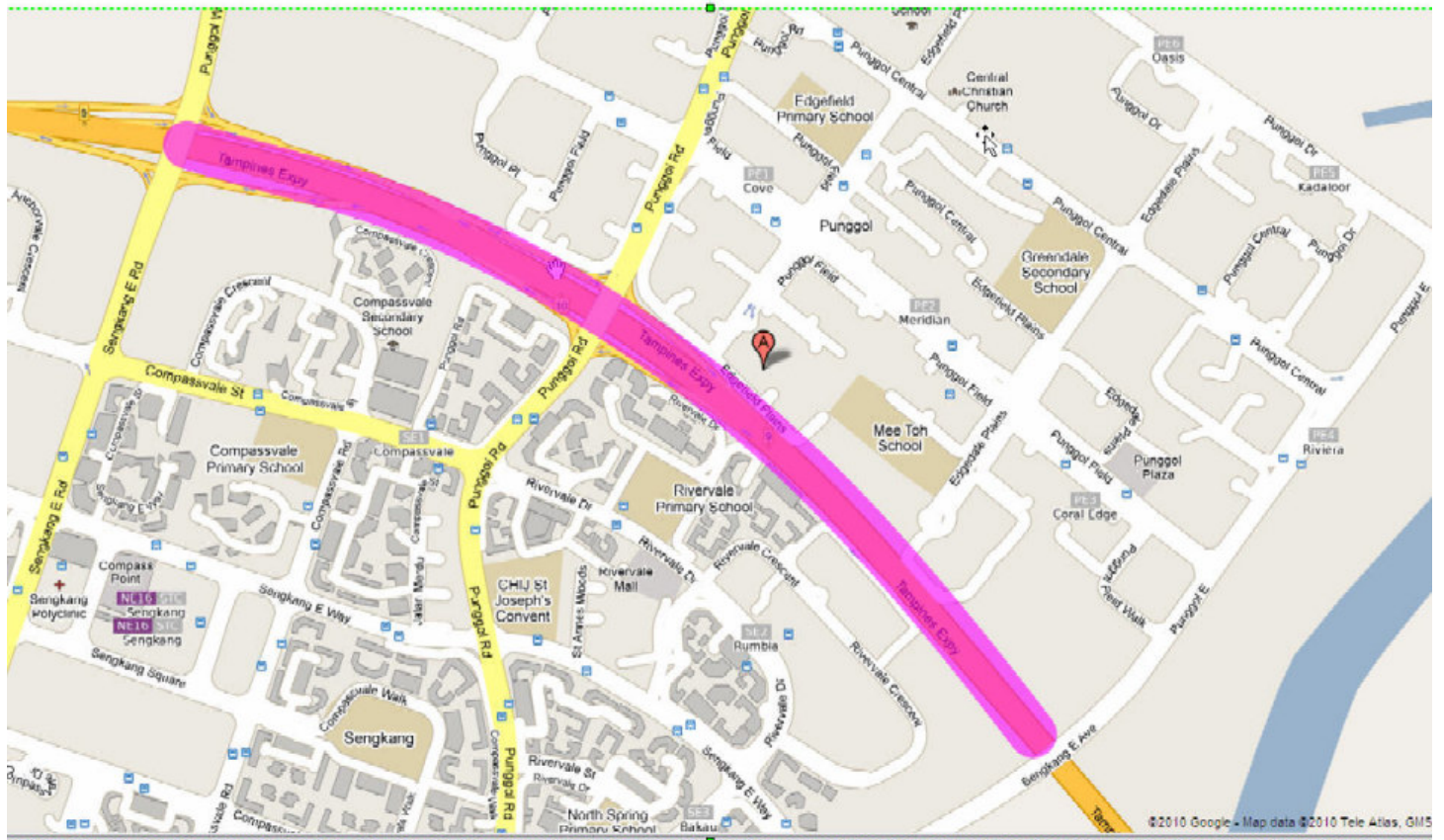
2) Heavy trucks traveling excess speed than the designated limited speed

As there is lot of construction works going on around punggol, there is a quite big number of trucks shuttle carrying debris or soil in and out of punggol. I notice that even though we can see the speed limit as 60 km/hrs on the trucks, but the drivers of these truck always accelerate and travel at speeds above 80 km/hr in TPE , with full of tones of load in it , which results quite annoying engine sound to generate maximum thrust.

Resolutions:

1) Permanent resolution

One of the Permanent solution could be, is to construct a 2 KM Tunnel to cap the TPE covering residential area from Punggol West Flyover to Punggol East Flyover . Since the purpose of this tunnel is mainly to block noise and the mechanical strength it needs is only to withstand the wind and rain power, I hope the cost of construction will not be high and government may be bale to spend this amount to benefit few hundreds of people to have a good sleep in night. This will return to the country productivity with more healthy people in the Country.



One of my internet friend from Punggol (Mr Limweech) shared some of the proven solutions from other countries, for your consideration please . A solution like this will definitely bring a eye full sleep in night to the effected residents.

<http://www.bluescopesteel.com.au/go/news/absorptive-barriers-for-traffic-noise-reduction/objectID/F20668A5-14FC-11D4-89F600C04FCF6B8F>

2) interim actions can be done

As a interim solution, it will be good if LTA can declare this zone as residential zone, so that motorists can be cautious, not to accelerate much which results in excess engine noise and Impose strict speed limit of 90 Km/hr with 24hrs speed cameras placed along the residential stretch, it will help avoid noise resulted by accelerating the motor vehicle speed in nights.

Also, respective authorities need to send strict warning message to all owners of vehicles with illegal alternation of silencers and impose heavy fines if no improvement.

Preventive actions:

I am sure implementing of some rules like my below suggestions are not difficult for the authorities of this country which has earned global pride for banning chewing gums for the hygienic reasons for the citizens & country .

- 1) HDB should not build residential houses very next to Express ways as the nature of the traffic is 24 hrs (un-like residential roads where very minimum traffic in night times) , if building a house next to express ways is unavoidable , at least the design should not be putting Bed rooms / living rooms facing the express way , planning a corridor facing the express way will be a better option
- 2) It will be good if authorities can have frequent / stringent checks on the vehicle silencers of all foreign vehicles entering the country.
- 3) Using the service of traffic wardens / URA parking coupon checking staffs to look out for any vehicles fitted with altered silencers / exhaust systems and feedback to appropriate authorities, may have good results.
- 4) Respective authorities to issue strict letters to all those automobile workshops / garages to not to entertain any kind of alternation works to bikes or cars which can produce un-necessary noise to human kind

As this Noise is created by Human kind, and I am sure the authorities (with team of brilliant engineering brains) can sure find resolution and help the effected people to live a normal life. The reason why I have address to so many Govt authorities is explained below.

To Land Transport Authority (LTA):

Reason being, as the owner of the roads can help us look into the remedies to reduce or contain the noise on express ways near to residential areas.

To HDB Engineering & Architecture

I would like to request them not to build any houses very near to Express ways. If un-avoidable, pleas don't design to have all rooms' windows facing express way which leaves no option for the residents to open windows for fresh air., its better to have corridor to face the express way.

To Singapore Grievance

Please help to look into our struggle for normal life and help to escalate to the respective Authorities.

[To Punggol Town Council](#)

Please help if anything can be done to help us reduce the traffic noise.

[To Punggol MP](#)

Sir , I am not sure if any residents of your constituency have feedback this to you before , Being a non-citizen , I am not sure how to reach you to express my problem , I thought I can mail you for your perusal and requesting help if anything possible.

[To Social relations](#)

There cannot be a healthy community without a healthy people in community, please help if anything possible.

[To Environment Authority – Sound Pollution](#)

I request respective officer to help look into ways which can help us get rid of this traffic pollution.

[To Traffic Police](#)

Herewith I request respective officers to look out for bikes & cars with altered silencers and heavy trucks speeding above their allowed speed. And help educate them or correct them so that victims like me can have a happy life.

[The straight times / Today Online](#)

As this is the problem of many residents here and would request News papers to publish my this article (if its appropriate) in news papers so that my suffering can reach those vehicle owners who alter their silencers for fun and hopefully they understand and revert back to original supplied silencers. May also help to bring my struggle to respective authorities to look into it.

[To Ministry of National Development](#)

As I believe many of the facts I mentioned in my above letter helps to have healthy environment for the residents of this area, and thus helps for the prosperity of the Nation, herewith I request your kind consideration to look into this.

Thank you all for spending few minutes of your valuable time to read my request.

Yours truly,

PVSR Naidu

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