

The Brooks Requests a Continuous Noise Abatement Wall Along the East Side of The Brooks

We represent the five communities in the Brooks consisting of 3,654 home, 4236 registered voters, and about 7,000 residents. The Brooks is adjacent to I-75 as shown in the Figure 1. We are requesting the construction of a continuous 22' noise abatement wall along the entire east side of The Brooks in Estero (mile marker 120-122).

The FDOT Draft Noise Study, published in July 2025, calls for short wall segments by The Brooks but also states that a long continuous wall is more effective than short segments. Further, the document states that FDOT is responsive to resident input.

That's why residents of the Brooks Communities have received lots of public support:

- A resolution of support from the Estero Council for a continuous 22' high wall along the east side of The Brooks.
- A resolution of support from the Lee County MPO for the continuous wall.
- A letter of support from our State Senator Jonathan Martin for the continuous wall.
- Verbal Support from Adam Botana, our state Representative, for the continuous wall.
- Engage Estero has taken a strong stance in favor of the continuous wall and additional noise abatement measures.
- 140 Brooks Residents attended an Engage Estero meeting on April 17, 2026 to discuss the I-75 expansion. Unfortunately, the FDOT representative who committed to attend did not show up.

For our residents, the current noise from I-75 significantly impacts our quality of life:

- Diminishes the enjoyment of nearby homes: Residents living closest to I-75 are already subjected to significant and continuous traffic noise. With the planned expansion, that noise is expected to become even more intrusive.
- Can negatively affect health and well-being: Research has shown that prolonged exposure to continuous traffic noise can have adverse effects on residents' health and overall quality of life.
- Can negatively affect property values: A recent *Wall Street Journal* article reported that road noise can contribute to a 6.8% reduction in home sale prices. This is a very real concern as the highway expands and traffic volumes increase.

The 2025 FDOT Draft Noise Study contains some points that seem illogical and appear to need correction. The Draft Noise Study – that has not been updated as of August 19, 2026:

- Calls for wall segments along the Brooks but also says that a “relatively long, continuous wall” is more effective. The wall segments are shown in Figure 1 in dark blue; the requested wall is shown in red.
- Recommends a wall along Oak Hammock but not Sago Pointe (see Figure 2). Both condo complexes are the same size and both are 140 feet from the I-75 right-of-way. Identical units but different treatment by FDOT.
- Recommends a wall along part of Pebble Pointe. But Pebble Pointe is a totally symmetric “martini glass” as shown in Figure 3. Again, inconsistent treatment by FDOT.
- A reason for the inconsistent treatment may be the much lower density of noise sensors in The Brooks when compared with Corkscrew Woodlands just north of The Brooks as shown in Figure 4.
- By the time the above anomalies are corrected, along with the appropriate “tails” on the walls to fully protect the communities, we will almost have a full continuous wall.

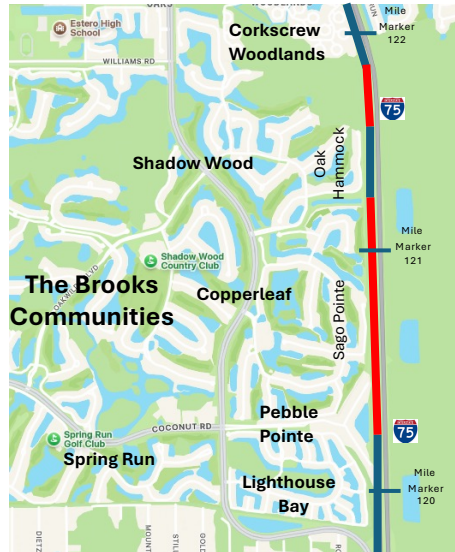
To summarize, the residents of the Brooks Communities are asking for the construction of a long continuous 22' noise abatement wall along the expanded I-75 by The Brooks in Estero (mile marker 120-122).

Jim Ward, Estero Council Member

Len Reid, Copperleaf Board Member

Steve Chappell, President Shadow Wood Community Association

Figure 1
The Brooks Communities Request A Continuous Wall Along I-75
 FDOT July 2025 Draft Noise Study Proposal and The Brooks Proposal



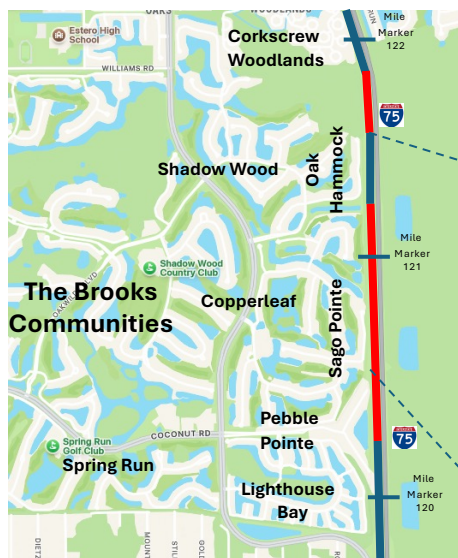
- FDOT Draft Proposed 22' high wall.
- Brooks Proposed 22' addition making a continuous wall along The Brooks

FDOT July, 2025 Draft Noise Study says:

- “To effectively reduce traffic noise, a barrier must be **relatively long, continuous** (with no intermittent openings for driveways, etc) and of sufficient height.”
- “Final recommendations on the construction of abatement measures are determined during the project’s final design and through the **public involvement process.**”

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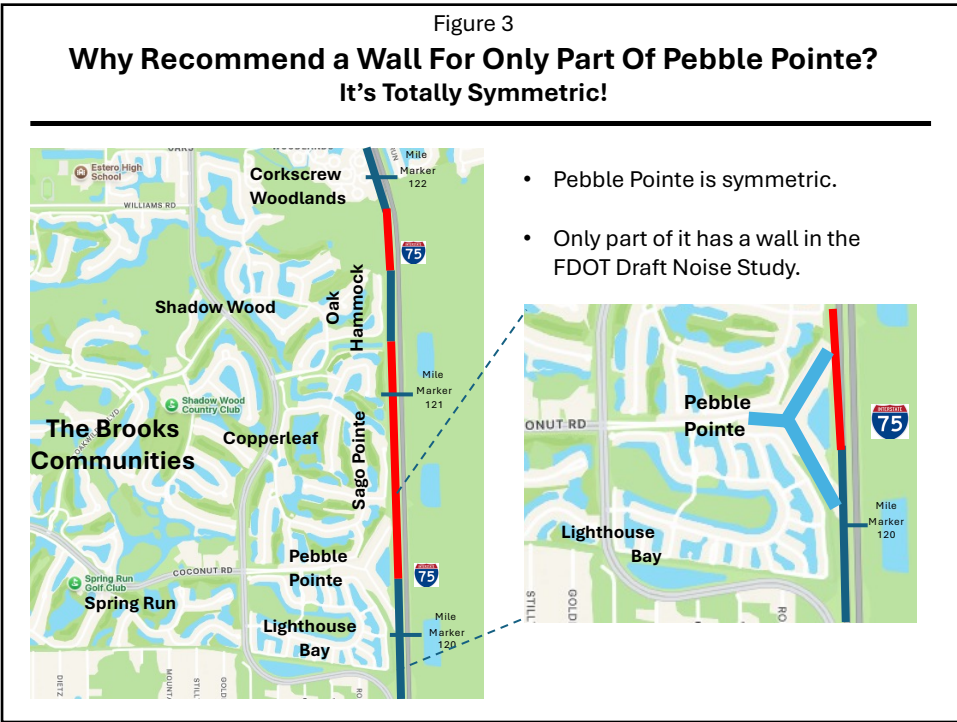
Figure 2
Why The Different Treatment Of Oak Hammock and Sago Pointe?



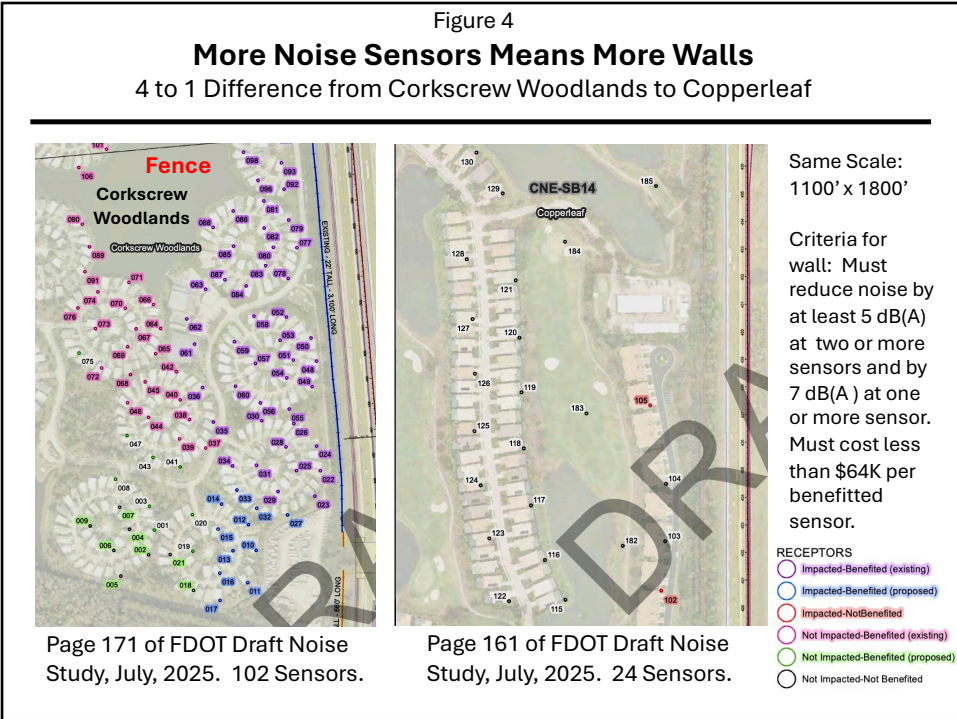
- Oak Hammock and Sago Pointe are almost identical condos, same size and both 140' from I-75 ROW.
- FDOT recommends a wall for Oak Hammock but not Sago Pointe in the FDOT Draft Noise Study.



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3



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