



City of
Golden

Closing Statutory Gaps to Address Harmful Excessive Vehicle Noise

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Presenters

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Problem

- Excessive noise from internal combustion engines is a nuisance affecting municipalities throughout Colorado.
- A growing body of research shows vehicle noise is harmful to human health causing inflammation, hypertension, heart attacks and stroke.*
- Low income communities are more likely to experience excessive noise exposure.

(*Source: New York Times, June 9, 2023)



Root cause: modified vehicle mufflers

- Commercial vehicles



- Passenger cars and motorcycles



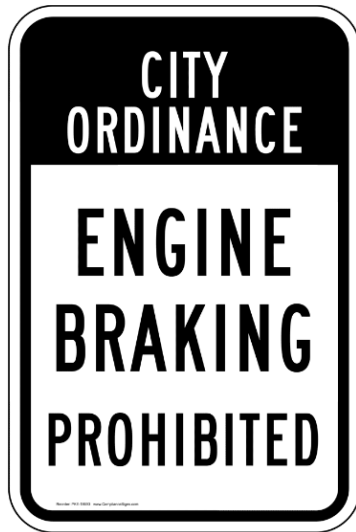
Existing statutory provisions

- **Muffler requirements (C.R.S. 42-4-225)**
 - Requires mufflers on all motor vehicles.
 - Requires mufflers on all commercial vehicles with an engine compression brake device (Jake brake).
 - Sets a fine of \$500 for commercial vehicle violations.
- **Municipal enforcement (C.R.S. 25-2-107)**
 - Counties and municipalities may prohibit operating excessively noisy vehicles.
 - Measurement of noise must meet certain standards in ANSI S1.4-1971.



Enforcement is nearly impossible

- Challenges inspecting commercial vehicle mufflers



- Statutory measurement requirements are complex



Solutions

- Require a working muffler as part of vehicle emissions testing on the front range.
- Since mufflers are not part of the emissions system, this would be an additional aspect of the testing process.



Solutions

- Revise C.R.S. 42-4-225 to increase fines for violations of the commercial vehicle muffler requirement to include
 - Increasing fines for subsequent violations, and
 - Graduated liability for the owner/operator of the commercial vehicle if it's part of a fleet.



Solutions

- Consider different options for utilizing noise cameras.
- Certain U.S. cities have already been deploying noise cameras, including Albuquerque, Knoxville, New York City, and Longmont.



Solutions

- Options could include studying the efficacy and accuracy of such systems.
- Once established as accurate, legislation could create a statute that mirrors the Automated Vehicle Identification Systems statute for photo radar and red light cameras.



Thank you!

■ For questions or comments, please contact:

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