



November 16, 2018

Highway sound barrier walls safely installed over buried utility lines in Texas

The heavily traveled TX-183 corridor is a direct east/west route between Dallas-Fort Worth and their International Airport. The corridor also has vital utilities along the right-of-way, including those serving the airport. The proposed sound wall location would not allow for drilled shaft foundations, which are required for heavy precast concrete sound walls.



Project at a glance:

Name: Southgate Design-Build Sound Walls

Location: Euless, Texas

Owner: Texas Department of Transportation

Engineer/Contractor: Southgate Mobility Partners

Product: Tuf-Barrier (Reflective)

Sector: Transportation

Application: Highway & Bridge Sound Walls

Dimensions: Length 4,030', Height 10'-16'

Installation time: One month



Project Profile

Lightweight PVC AIL Sound Walls needed for tight, shallow site

Southgate Mobility Partners, a joint venture created for the massive \$847-million Midtown Express Project, needed a lightweight sound wall system that would be installed with a continuous shallow foundation. AIL Sound Walls were recommended by joint venture partner, Keiwit, based on their similar project with us on the Houston MetroRail expansion.

With sidewalks and private yards on either side, the foundation area's width was also very limited. We provided foundation options with minimal impact to the utilities and adjacent property owners.

Grade changes, angles, gates, custom color panels and posts

This project really demonstrated the complete versatility of our lightweight PVC sound barrier wall system. The sound wall had several different sections with grade changes—it butted up against sidewalks, it angled around utility boxes and it included multiple gates.

Plus, TxDOT and the local community had selected a unique color aesthetic for the 183 corridor and wanted a system to match. They worked with our design and manufacturing teams to develop an aesthetic scheme with the colors they were looking for and they requested a wood grain texture. These design options were invaluable to TxDOT and the community.

We ensured a streamlined manufacturing process on the custom panel and post colors. Very positive feedback was received from the customer and we've already heard from TxDOT about lightweight sound barrier walls for other projects in high traffic areas with extensive underground utilities.

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