



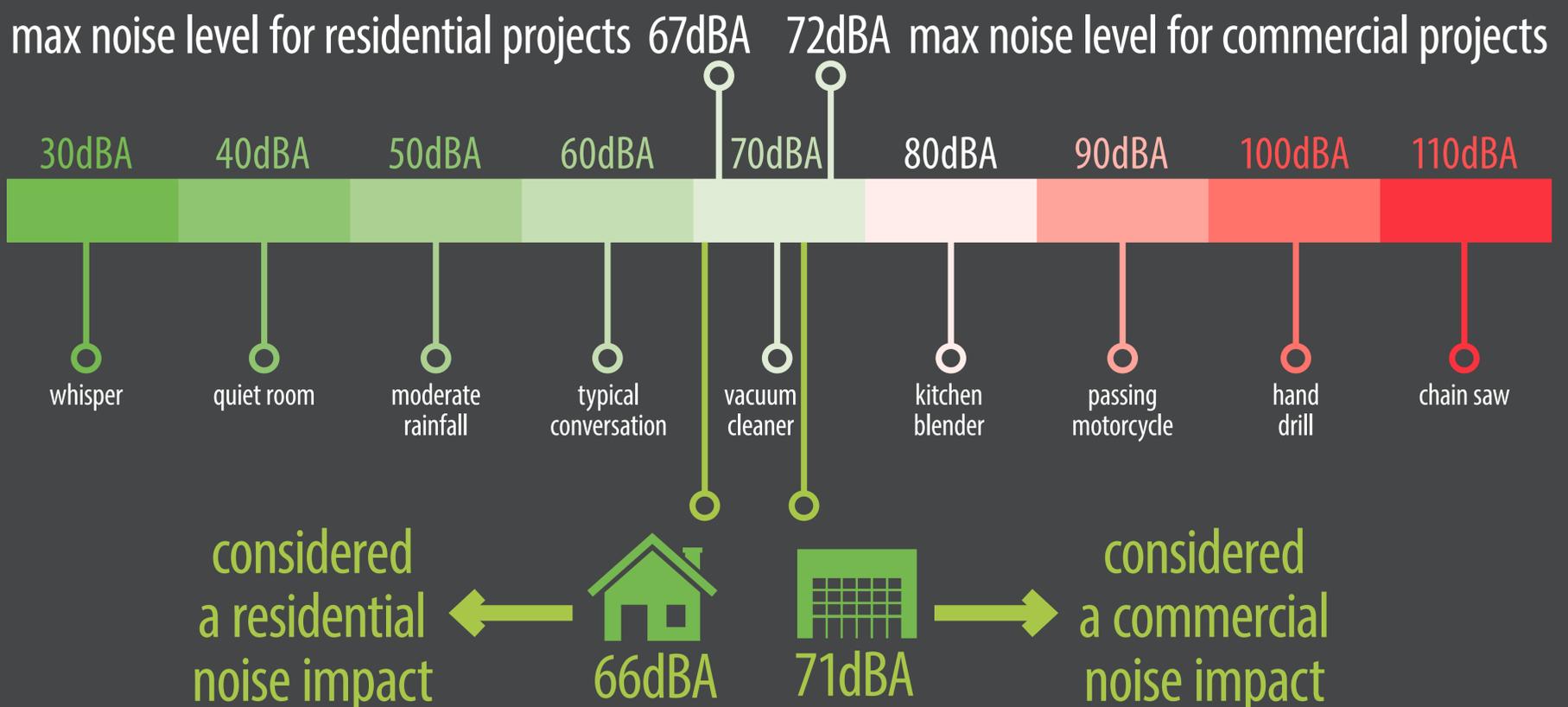
# THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION OFFICE OF LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENT

## WHEN DO WE DO A NOISE STUDY?

Noise from traffic and construction on busy highways can be disruptive to people living and working nearby. The Iowa DOT does noise studies on large highway projects that could cause a noise impact, such as adding lanes.

## HOW IS NOISE MEASURED AND HOW MUCH NOISE IS TOO MUCH?

Noise is measured in decibels by a special meter designed for the task. For highway projects, there is a maximum acceptable noise level set by federal regulations and Iowa DOT policy.



If we determine that noise might be an issue, the first step is to talk to the neighbors and come up with solutions. A few things we'll want to discuss:

Given the land area and other factors, can we build what we need?

If we can build it, what will the project cost?

If we can build something and it fits in the budget, will the project adequately cut the noise level?