

PROCESS & SCHEDULE

TIER 1

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) corridor-level analysis that is completed for large studies that require certain broad questions be answered before a more detailed study (a Tier 2 analysis) can be done.

Stage 1 Initiation

Work Plan:

A detailed guide for implementing the Tiered Environmental Impact Statement process

Agency/Community Agreements:

An agreement that documents the desire of involved parties to engage in a particular course of action

Notice of Intent (NOI):

A Federal announcement, printed in the Federal Register, advising interested parties that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and circulated

Stage 2 Scoping

Scoping:

Identification of key issues and ideas for alternatives

Resource Methodologies and Baseline Data Collection:

A determination of what environmental information is needed and how it will be collected

Purpose & Need:

Definition of why the project is needed and what the alternatives must accomplish

Initial Alternatives Development:

Consideration of broad range of possible alternatives

Community Workshops:

Educational seminars emphasizing interaction and exchange of information among a small group of participants

Range of Corridor Location Alternatives:

All reasonable corridor location alternatives that must be rigorously explored and objectively evaluated

Role of Public Input:

Identify issues to be addressed

Stage 3 Corridor Evaluation & Documentation

Detailed Alternatives Development:

Detailed planning and conceptual engineering for remaining alternatives

Environmental Impacts Analysis:

Detailed assessment of potential impacts associated with each alternative, including social, economic, and natural environmental impacts

Alternatives Screening:

Application of specific criteria to determine alternatives to be studied in greater detail in Environmental Impact Statement

Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):

Preparation and release of document disclosing all anticipated impacts associated with each alternative for public and agency review

Preferred Corridor Alternative:

The alternative for a corridor location and facility type are chosen based on project's purpose and need and requirements of the agencies involved

Final Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS):

Document responds to public comments on DEIS

Record of Decision (ROD):

A concise decision document for an environmental impact statement that states the decision, other alternatives considered, and mitigation adopted for the selected alternative or choice. The Tier 1 EIS will also identify segments of independent utility

Role of Public Input:

- Help refine alternatives to minimize impacts
- Endorse criteria for screening
- Comment on Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements

TIER 2

A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) project-level analysis that focuses on specific sections identified in Tier 1.

Stage 4 Project-Specific Scoping & Evaluation

Project-Specific Purpose & Need:

Why the project is needed and what the alternatives must accomplish

Project-Specific Alternative:

Based on the decisions reached during the Tier 1 process, FHWA and CDOT may proceed with Tier 2 studies for specific projects within those segments
All reasonable alternatives in a specific location must be rigorously explored and objectively evaluated

Preferred Project-Specific Alternative:

The alternative that fulfills the applicant agency's statutory mission and achieves the project's stated Purpose & Need

Role of Public Input:

Input on Environmental Evaluation and Documentation and Preferred Project-Specific Alternative

Stage 5 Project-Specific Documentation

Decision Document:

- Categorical Exclusion
- Finding of No Significant Impact
- Record of Decision

Role of Public Input:

- The degree of Public Input sought will depend upon the type of decision document required
- Environmental Documentation will be developed as appropriate for the level of impacts involved

Future: As funding is identified/secured for specific projects

*Completed
2005*

*Completed
2006*

Started 2006



Partnering for Progress

US 50 Corridor East

