

Overview: Environmental Process

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is federal legislation that applies to projects receiving federal funding or approval.
- NEPA requires consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives and ensures that environmental agencies and the public are informed and involved in the consideration of environmental impacts.
- The MDTA and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are following a tiered NEPA process.



Tier 1 (current study)

- Establish Purpose and Need
- Evaluate a range of alternatives across the Bay using broad-scale engineering and environmental information
- Include public involvement and comment
- Identify the Preferred Corridor Alternative
- Prepare a Tier 1 EIS

Tier 2 (future study)

- Refine Purpose and Need
- Identify alignments within the Preferred Corridor Alternative identified in Tier 1
- Include more detailed engineering of alternatives and specific assessment of potential environmental impacts
- Include public involvement and comment
- Select a Preferred Alignment within the Preferred Corridor
- Prepare a Tier 2 EIS

Tier 1 completion does not presume Tier 2 initiation.

Tier 2 is not funded at this time.