

The National Environmental Policy Act (Also known as NEPA)

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a procedural statute (40 CFR parts 1500 thru 1508) for decision-making during federal projects that assures proper analysis of social, economic and environmental impacts are performed and disclosed.

This project is federally funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and as such is subject to federal regulation. ITD, in consultation with FHWA, has followed the NEPA process to prepare a NEPA Document.

The NEPA process studies a reasonable range of alternatives based on the Purpose and Need, considers appropriate mitigation for impacts, includes interagency coordination and consultation, and provides the public opportunity to participate in the process and comment on the project.

The studies, agency coordination, public participation and comments are summarized in a document called an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA for U.S. 20/26 has been approved by the FHWA, and is available to the public for review and comment. The comment period ends March 31, 2017. If no significant impacts are identified, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is made by the FHWA to complete the NEPA process.

A conceptual flow chart is provided to illustrate the process.