

## What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires an EIS to disclose a federal project's potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative. An EIS evaluates a reasonable range of project alternatives, presenting the findings through a public process.

Detailed analysis and recommendations of the study are published for comment. The report specifically describes:

- The purpose of and need for the proposed transportation project;
- The evaluation and screening process to select an alternative to meet the proposed project's purpose and need;
- The identification and evaluation of potential impacts and benefits of the proposed project; and
- The recommended mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential negative impacts.

*The EIS provides decision makers with key information on the potential impacts to the built, natural, and social environments that may occur within the project study area.*