

25.0 Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

This chapter summarizes the consultation and coordination process to date through which the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and District Department of Transportation (DDOT) involved Federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; members of the public; and other interested stakeholders in the Long Bridge Project (the Project). This chapter also summarizes the public and agency comments received to date. Public and agency coordination are integral aspects of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) process.¹ Decisions about the future of the Long Bridge Corridor affect a range of stakeholders. FRA and DDOT are committed to an open and transparent process for involving the public and agencies with an interest in the Project. Accordingly, FRA and DDOT provided many opportunities for collaborative and meaningful participation in the Project.

FRA and DDOT developed the public and agency participation and coordination process in compliance with the following laws and regulations that guide compliance with the stakeholder involvement requirements of NEPA:

- The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Implementing Regulations for NEPA;²
- Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015;³
- The FRA Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts;⁴
- Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decisionmaking;⁵
- Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations;⁶
- CEQ’s Environmental Justice – Guidance Under NEPA;⁷ and
- United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Order 5610.2(a), Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.⁸

Concurrent with the NEPA process, the Lead Agencies facilitated public and agency participation and coordination in compliance with Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act of 1966 (see **Section 25.8, Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation, Consultation**) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (see **Section 25.6, Section 106 Consultation**).^{9,10}

¹ 42 USC 4321

² 40 CFR 1500-1508

³ Pub. L. 114–94, section 1304(n)(2)) (FAST Act)

⁴ 64 FR 28545

⁵ 23 USC 139

⁶ EO 12898

⁷ CEQ. 1997. Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act. Accessed from <https://ceq.doe.gov/nepa-practice/justice.html>. Accessed April 26, 2018.

⁸ USDOT Order 5610.2(a)

⁹ 49 USC 303

¹⁰ 36 CFR 800

27 The Lead Agencies developed the Agency and Public Coordination Plan (**Appendix A2**), as required by
28 *Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decisionmaking*, which gives a detailed description of the
29 methods used to engage all stakeholders in the NEPA process and throughout the Project’s
30 development.¹¹ Following completion of the EIS, the Project Sponsor will be responsible for continuing
31 agency and public involvement for the Project through the final design and construction stages.¹² The
32 Project Sponsor, once identified, will be responsible for ensuring implementation of all commitments
33 and mitigation measures presented in this DEIS.

34 This chapter is organized as follows:

- 35 • **Section 25.1, Pre-NEPA Outreach**, describes the public outreach conducted prior to the
36 initiation of the NEPA process.
- 37 • **Section 25.2, Scoping**, describes the Scoping process used to determine the range of
38 alternatives, issues, and impacts that this DEIS addresses in detail. This section also documents
39 the public and agency Scoping meetings.
- 40 • **Section 25.3, Public Involvement**, describes the post-Scoping public involvement activities. This
41 section summarizes comments received from the public and provides responses to the
42 comments.
- 43 • **Section 25.4, Agency Coordination**, describes the post-Scoping coordination among FRA, DDOT,
44 Cooperating Agencies, and Participating Agencies, including agency outreach meetings.
- 45 • **Section 25.5, Bike-Pedestrian Crossing**, describes the public and agency coordination in relation
46 to the potential bike-pedestrian crossing opportunities.
- 47 • **Section 25.6, Section 106 Consultation**, describes the concurrent consultation conducted in
48 accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA.¹³
- 49 • **Section 25.7, Public Review of the DEIS**, outlines the public review process for this DEIS.

50 See **Chapter 20.7, Environmental Justice, Coordination with Environmental Justice Communities**, for
51 information on outreach to environmental justice populations.

52 **25.1. Pre-NEPA Outreach**

53 FRA and DDOT conducted public outreach before the formal initiation of the NEPA process as part of
54 previous studies. In 2011, DDOT received a High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail grant from FRA to
55 complete a two-phase feasibility and planning study of the rehabilitation or replacement of Long Bridge.
56 The Phase I study launched in August 2012 and completed in 2015, prior to the initiation of the EIS for
57 the Project. The study considered a wide range of concepts to address the deficiencies of the Long
58 Bridge Corridor and developed eight concepts to meet existing and future capacity needs. FRA and
59 DDOT first introduced the Project to agencies and the public during the Phase I study. Public
60 engagement during Phase I included developing the first version of the Project website and conducting
61 three open-house public meetings on November 13, 2012; June 6, 2013; and December 5, 2013 (**Table**

¹¹ 23 USC 139(g)(1)

¹² As of the date of publication, a Project Sponsor has not yet been identified.

¹³ 36 CFR 800.8

62 **25-1).** The website and open houses introduced the feasibility study and communicated initial results
 63 and concepts to the public. The Phase II study commenced in Fall 2015 and included further work to
 64 prepare for the NEPA phase (Phase III) of the project. During Phase II, FRA and DDOT developed
 65 additional concepts for analysis in the NEPA phase and held one public open house on February 16,
 66 2016, to update the public on the status and results of the studies.

67 **Table 25-1 | Summary of Pre-NEPA Public Outreach**

| Meeting Date | Location | Number of Attendees | Meeting Topics |
|--|---|---------------------|---|
| November 13, 2012 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM | Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I Street SW Washington, DC | 29 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study introduction and overview • Request for input and issues of interest |
| June 6, 2013 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM | Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I Street SW Washington, DC | 23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate initial concepts and receive feedback • Communicate possible footprint for a new bridge |
| December 5, 2013 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM | St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church 600 M Street SW Washington, DC | 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present results of analysis and demand forecasting • Communicate next steps and solicit comments on alternatives |
| February 16, 2016 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM | L’Enfant Plaza Club Room 470 L’Enfant Plaza SW Washington, DC | 42 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update public on Project status |

68

69 **25.2. Scoping**

70 On August 26, 2016, FRA and DDOT initiated the formal NEPA process for the Project by issuing a Notice
 71 of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the Federal Register.¹⁴ The
 72 Scoping process for the Project lasted from August 15, 2016, to October 14, 2016. The purpose of the
 73 Scoping process was to provide the public and agencies an early opportunity to inform the range of
 74 alternatives to be considered in the DEIS.¹⁵ The Lead Agencies gathered input from the public and the
 75 agencies to inform the Purpose and Need of the Project, and to guide the development of the EIS by
 76 determining and clarifying issues relevant to the scope of the study.

77 **25.2.1. Public Scoping**

78 In addition to the publication of the NOI mentioned above, on September 2, 2016, FRA and DDOT
 79 notified the public of Scoping through outreach methods and activities including a notice on the Project
 80 website, social media posts, email and traditional mailing list distributions, newspaper advertisements in
 81 the *Washington Post Express* and *Washington Post*, and a DDOT press release.

¹⁴ 81 FR 59036

¹⁵ 23 USC 139

82 FRA and DDOT held a Public Scoping Meeting for the Project on September 14, 2016, from 3:00 PM to
83 6:00 PM in the Club Room of L’Enfant Plaza on the Promenade Level, 470 L’Enfant Plaza SW,
84 Washington, DC.

85 Fifty-two members of the public signed in at the meeting. FRA and DDOT used an open-house format
86 with display boards to present the concepts developed during the earlier studies, as well as existing
87 conditions, environmental considerations, EIS milestones, and other studies and projects adjacent to the
88 Project Area. FRA and DDOT invited attendees to discuss the concepts and the scope of the Project with
89 the Lead Agencies, or to write down their comments and questions. FRA and DDOT also encouraged the
90 public to submit comments by mail or email, or through the Project website. During the Scoping period,
91 the Project received 80 comment submissions from the public. Most public comments focused on the
92 concepts to include in the DEIS. FRA and DDOT considered the submitted comments during the Scoping
93 process and throughout the alternatives’ development process. **Appendix A1, Scoping Report,**
94 summarizes the comments and responses.

95 **25.2.2. Agency Scoping**

96 On August 15, 2016, FRA sent Scoping initiation letters to potential Cooperating and Participating
97 Agencies. FRA invited the identified potential Cooperating and Participating Agencies to attend the EIS
98 Scoping Interagency Coordination Meeting on September 14, 2016, at DDOT headquarters (55 M Street
99 SE, Washington, DC). At the meeting, FRA and DDOT reviewed the existing conditions and simulation
100 modeling. The Lead Agencies also presented the proposed draft Purpose and Need Statement,
101 alternatives development and screening process, environmental considerations, EIS schedule, and
102 future agency and public coordination.

103 **Table 25-2** indicates the Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies associated with the Project, and
104 notes if staff representatives from the agencies attended the Interagency Scoping Meeting.

105 At the meeting and during the Scoping period, the Project received 21 comment submissions from
106 agencies. Agencies provided comments on the information presented at the Interagency Scoping
107 Meeting; environmental and cultural resources within each agency’s jurisdiction; and any agency plans
108 and initiatives related to the Study Area. FRA and DDOT took comments into consideration during the
109 Scoping process and the alternatives development process. **Appendix A1, Scoping Report,** gives the
110 detailed comments and responses.

111 **Table 25-2** | Long Bridge Project Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies

| Agency | Lead Agency | Cooperating Agency | Participating Agency | Attended Scoping Meeting |
|--|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| FRA | X | | | X |
| DDOT | X | | | X |
| National Park Service (NPS) | | X | | X |
| Federal Transit Administration (FTA) | | X | | X |
| National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) | | X | | X |
| United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Baltimore District and Norfolk District | | X | | X |
| United States Coast Guard (USCG) | | X | | |
| Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) | | X | | X |
| Virginia Railway Express (VRE) | | X | | X |
| Arlington County | | | X | X |
| City of Alexandria | | | X | X |
| District Department of Energy and Environment | | | X | |
| District of Columbia Office of Planning (DCOP) | | | X | |
| District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) | | | X | |
| District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) | | | X | |
| Department of Defense (DOD) | | | X | |
| Federal Aviation Administration | | | X | X |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency | | | X | |
| Federal Highway Administration – Eastern Federal Lands Highways Division and DC Division | | | X | |
| Maryland Department of Transportation | | | X | |
| Maryland Transit Administration | | | X | |
| Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority | | | X | X |
| Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) | | | X | X |
| National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service | | | X | |
| United States Commission of Fine Arts | | | X | |
| United States Environmental Protection Agency | | | X | |
| United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) | | | X | |

| Agency | Lead Agency | Cooperating Agency | Participating Agency | Attended Scoping Meeting |
|--|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| United States General Services Administration | | | X | |
| National Capital Region | | | | |
| Virginia Department of Environmental Quality | | | X | |
| Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries | | | X | |
| Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) | | | X | X |
| Virginia Department of Transportation | | | X | X |
| Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority | | | X | X |

112

113 **25.3. Public Involvement**

114 Following the Scoping, FRA and DDOT continued to engage the public through the NEPA process,
 115 including alternatives development and selection of the Preferred Alternative. FRA and DDOT structured
 116 engagement opportunities to ensure the public had information about the Project’s implications for
 117 their community, and to identify potential issues so that they could be discussed and resolved before
 118 the completion of the EIS process.

119 FRA and DDOT used the following outreach tools and activities to provide information to the public and
 120 encourage feedback:

- 121 • **Website:** The Project website (www.longbridgeproject.com) includes the Project description,
 122 schedule, record of public involvement activities, links to related studies, Project documents,
 123 and contact information. FRA and DDOT kept the website up to date with information on the
 124 alternatives’ development process and environmental review. The website contains a link to
 125 allow people to sign up for the mailing list and submit comments electronically.
- 126 • **Contact Information:** FRA and DDOT encouraged the public to submit comments at any time
 127 throughout the NEPA process. The Project website includes the following contact information:
 - 128 ○ Email: info@longbridgeproject.com
 - 129 ○ Mail: Anna Chamberlin, AICP, Long Bridge Project, 55 M Street SE, Suite 400,
 130 Washington, DC 20003
- 131 • **Electronic Mailing List:** FRA and DDOT developed an electronic mailing list of elected officials,
 132 public agency contacts, property owners adjacent to the Study Area, stakeholders and
 133 community groups, and members of the public with an interest in the Project. FRA and DDOT
 134 regularly updated the mailing list to include new contacts who signed up at meetings and on the
 135 Project website. FRA and DDOT used the mailing list to distribute meeting announcements and
 136 information about the Project.

- 137 • **Public Comment Periods:** NEPA requires formal public comment periods at two critical points
 138 during the environmental review: during Scoping and when the DEIS is published. See **Sections**
 139 **25.2, Scoping, and 25.7, Public Review of the DEIS**, for more information. Additionally, FRA and
 140 DDOT provided public comment periods after public information meetings. See **Sections 25.3.1**
 141 **through 25.3.3** for a summary of the comments received following the public information
 142 meetings.
- 143 • **Public Information Meetings:** FRA and DDOT held four public meetings post-Scoping and prior
 144 to the publication of the DEIS to provide information about the status of the Project and solicit
 145 feedback at key milestones, as noted in **Table 25-3** and summarized below.

146 **25.3.1. Public Meeting, May 16, 2017: Level 1 Concept Screening**

147 FRA and DDOT held a public meeting on May 16, 2017, to review the Level 1 Concept Screening, to
 148 review the results of the screening, and to propose Level 2 Concept Screening criteria for feedback. FRA
 149 and DDOT held the meeting in the Club Room of L’Enfant Plaza on the Promenade Level, 470 L’Enfant
 150 Plaza SW, Washington, DC, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. FRA and DDOT presented information in an open
 151 house format using display boards and provided the same formal presentation at 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM.
 152 This meeting also served as a public meeting for the Section 106 consultation process.

153 **25.3.1.1. Outreach and Communication**

154 The Lead Agencies used several outreach and communication tools to inform the public about the
 155 meeting and to provide background information about the Long Bridge Project. FRA and DDOT informed
 156 the public about the meeting by:

- 157 • Posting information on the Project website, www.longbridgeproject.com, beginning
 158 April 25, 2017, three weeks prior to the meeting.
- 159 • Publishing advertisements in two newspapers—*Washington Post Express* (English) and
 160 *El Tiempo Latino* (Spanish)—on May 3 and 5, 2017, respectively, to inform both the
 161 English-speaking public and the Spanish-speaking public of the meeting.
- 162 • Distributing an e-blast notification to the Project electronic mailing list on April 26, 2017, three
 163 weeks prior to the meeting, and a reminder notification on May 15, 2017, one day prior to the
 164 meeting.
- 165 • Announcing the meeting through a DDOT-issued press release on May 1, 2017.
- 166 • Distributing fliers around L’Enfant Plaza (200 copies) in the District and Crystal City (100 copies)
 167 in Virginia.
- 168 • Publicizing the meeting via social media, including the DDOT Twitter account and the FRA
 169 Facebook account.

170 FRA and DDOT posted all materials advertising the public meeting in Spanish as well as English. In
 171 accordance with DDOT’s Title VI policy, meeting notices provided instructions to alert DDOT in advance
 172 if an attendee needed language assistance services (translation or interpretation).

173 **25.3.1.2. Summary of Comments Received**

174 The public submitted 22 comments through the Project website, through the mail, and via the question
175 and answer sessions following the presentations. Comments included support for evaluating concepts
176 based on their ability to provide needed capacity, minimize impacts, and support multimodal
177 transportation connections. Several comments from the public focused on the need to ensure the
178 Project would provide adequate capacity beyond 2040. In addition, in a letter dated July 7, 2017, CSXT
179 provided additional detail on operational requirements that affect resiliency and redundancy (**Appendix**
180 **C, Project Correspondence**). Several commenters explicitly expressed support for a new bike-pedestrian
181 connection. One commenter questioned whether there was sufficient information at this stage of the
182 process to use cost and environmental considerations as screening criteria.

183 The public comments on the Level 2 Concept Screening proposed criteria informed identification of the
184 final criteria. Specifically, public comments identified the need for two additional metrics to assess the
185 retained concepts' ability to meet Purpose and Need and metrics to assess feasibility. The Project
186 website (www.longbridgeproject.com) provides more detailed information on the meeting, including a
187 copy of the meeting presentation.

188 **25.3.2. Public Meeting, December 14, 2017: Proposed Alternatives**

189 FRA and DDOT hosted a public meeting on December 14, 2017, to present the results of the Level 2
190 Concept Screening and the proposed alternatives for evaluation in the DEIS. FRA and DDOT held the
191 meeting at the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) Building,
192 Room E200, 1100 4th Street SW, Washington, DC, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with the same formal
193 presentations held at 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM. This meeting also served as a public meeting for the
194 Section 106 consultation process.

195 **25.3.2.1. Outreach and Communication**

196 FRA and DDOT used several outreach and communication tools to inform the public about the meeting
197 and to provide background information about the Project. Outreach methods included:

- 198 • Posting information on the Project website, www.longbridgeproject.com, beginning
199 November 21, 2017, three weeks prior to the meeting.
- 200 • Publishing advertisements in two newspapers—*Washington Post Express* (English) and
201 *El Tiempo Latino* (Spanish)—on November 21 and 24, 2017, respectively, to inform both the
202 English-speaking public and the Spanish-speaking public of the meeting.
- 203 • Distributing an e-blast notification to the Project electronic mailing list on November 22, 2017,
204 three weeks prior to the meeting, and a reminder notification on December 11, 2017, three days
205 prior to the meeting.
- 206 • Announcing the meeting through a DDOT-issued press release on November 27, 2017.
- 207 • Publicizing the meeting via social media, including the DDOT Twitter account and the FRA
208 Facebook account.

209 FRA and DDOT posted all materials advertising the public meeting in Spanish as well as English. In
210 addition, FRA and DDOT made sure a Spanish-speaking staff member and American Sign Language (ASL)

211 interpreters were present at public meetings for participants who needed to ask questions or give
212 comments in Spanish or ASL.

213 **25.3.2.2. Summary of Comments Received**

214 Forty-two members of the public attended the meeting. At the meeting, attendees submitted
215 29 questions and comments on comment cards and Title VI questionnaires, and during the question-
216 and-answer sessions. FRA and DDOT accepted public comments until January 16, 2018, during which
217 time members of the public and stakeholders submitted 1,629 emailed comments, 1,605 of which
218 focused on the potential bike-pedestrian connection. Other emailed comments related to navigation,
219 railroad capacity, noise and vibration, and funding.

220 At the public meeting, 10 comments and questions addressed the opportunity for a bike-pedestrian
221 connection across the Potomac River, while the remaining 19 comments and questions addressed
222 railroad capacity, navigation, aesthetics, floodplain management, public health and safety, noise and
223 vibration, funding, and general comments about the meeting.

224 The Lead Agencies responded to the comments for a bike-pedestrian crossing by moving forward with
225 determining the feasibility of a crossing. **Section 25.5, Bike-Pedestrian Crossing** provides more
226 information on the public comments regarding the bike-pedestrian crossing and the Lead Agencies'
227 response.

228 **Appendix A3, December 2017 Public Meeting Summary**, and the Project website
229 (www.longbridgeproject.com) provide more detailed information on the meeting outreach, the
230 presentation, the meeting boards, and the comments received at the public meeting.

231 **25.3.3. Public Meeting, November 29, 2018: Preferred Alternative** 232 **Selection**

233 DDOT and FRA hosted a public meeting to present the selection of the Preferred Alternative in the DEIS
234 on November 29, 2018. DDOT and FRA held the meeting at the District of Columbia DCRA Building,
235 Room E200, 1100 4th Street SW, Washington, DC, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with the same formal
236 presentations held at 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM. This meeting also served as a public meeting for the Section
237 106 and Section 4(f) consultation processes.

238 **25.3.3.1. Outreach and Communication**

239 FRA and DDOT used several outreach and communication tools to inform the public about the meeting
240 and to provide background information about the Long Bridge Project. Outreach methods included:

- 241 • Posting information on the project website, www.longbridgeproject.com, beginning
242 November 6, 2018, three weeks prior to the meeting.
- 243 • Publishing advertisements in two newspapers—*Washington Post Express* (English) and
244 *El Tiempo Latino* (Spanish)—on November 8 and 9, 2018, respectively, to inform both the
245 English-speaking public and the Spanish-speaking public of the meeting.

- 246 • Distributing an e-blast notification to the Project electronic mailing list on November 8, 2018,
247 three weeks prior to the meeting. Sending a reminder e-blast notification on November 27,
248 2018, two days prior to the meeting.
 - 249 • Announcing the meeting through a DDOT-issued press release on November 6, 2018.
 - 250 • Distributing meeting fliers on November 15, 16, and 19, 2018 to public locations in Southwest
251 and L'Enfant Plaza in the District and Crystal City, Virginia.
 - 252 • Publicizing the meeting via social media, including the DDOT Twitter and Facebook accounts.
 - 253 ○ Local organizations and other agencies also publicized the meeting via social media and
254 on their websites, including a Washington Area Bicyclist Association blog article, an
255 article in *Greater Washington*, and social media posts by the National Capital Planning
256 Commission.
 - 257 • VRE distributed a VRE *Train Talk eNews* notice regarding the Public Meeting to their ridership on
258 November 26, 2018.
- 259 FRA and DDOT posted all materials advertising the public meeting in Spanish as well as English. In
260 addition, FRA and DDOT made sure a Spanish-speaking staff member and ASL interpreters were present
261 at public meetings for participants who needed to ask questions or give comments in Spanish or ASL.

262 **25.3.3.2. Summary of Comments Received**

263 One hundred and seven members of the public attended the meeting. At the meeting, attendees
264 submitted 32 questions and comments on comment cards and Title VI questionnaires, and during the
265 question-and-answer sessions. After the meeting, attendees submitted nine additional comments via
266 e-mail. The majority of the comments and questions addressed the opportunity for a bike-pedestrian
267 connection, while the remaining comments and questions addressed parks and recreation, railroad
268 capacity, safety and security, aesthetic and design, construction, cultural resources, navigation, and
269 general comments about the meeting. **Appendix A4, November 2018 Public Meeting Summary**, and the
270 Project website (www.longbridgeproject.com) provide more detailed information on the comments
271 received at the public meeting, as well as on the meeting outreach, the presentation, and the meeting
272 boards.

273 **25.4. Agency Coordination**

274 This section describes coordination with Federal, state, and local agencies following the Scoping period.
275 This section also describes the roles of Cooperating and Participating Agencies and the coordination
276 methods used throughout the NEPA process. See **Sections 25.4.1, Cooperating Agencies, and 25.4.2,**
277 **Participating Agencies. Table 25-3** lists key agency meetings and coordination points throughout the
278 NEPA process held at Project milestones.

279 **Table 25-3** | Long Bridge Project Agency Key Coordination Milestones

| Milestone | Coordination Points | Timeframe |
|--|---|--|
| Cooperating and Participating Agencies Invited | | August 15, 2016 |
| Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS Published, with Draft Purpose and Need Statement | | August 26, 2016 |
| Scoping Comment Period | | August 26, 2016, to October 14, 2016 |
| Interagency Meeting: Scoping | Introduced NEPA phase, provided Preliminary Environmental Data Collection Report and draft Purpose and Need for review, and received feedback on draft Purpose and Need | September 14, 2016 |
| Draft Agency and Public Coordination Plan Provided for Interagency Review | Provided Draft Coordination Plan for agency review | November 2, 2016 |
| Final Coordination Plan | Provided Final Coordination Plan to agencies and public via Project website | November 23, 2016 |
| Final Scoping Report | Provided Scoping Report to agencies and public via Project website | January 2017 |
| Interagency Meeting: Preliminary Concepts Screening | Provided the Final Purpose and Need statement; presented and received comments on Level 1 Concept Screening results; sought comments on proposed Level 2 Concept Screening Criteria that will help evaluate concepts to be advanced as alternatives in the DEIS | May 16, 2017 |
| Interagency Review of Draft Environmental Methodology Technical Memorandum | Shared draft methodologies with agencies for comment on resource areas in which they have subject matter expertise or jurisdiction by law | November 10, 2017, to December 4, 2017 |
| Interagency Meeting: Proposed Alternatives Identified | Requested feedback on the Level 2 Concept Screening results that identify the Proposed Action Alternatives to be evaluated in the DEIS | December 12, 2017 |
| Draft Alternatives Development Report Provided for Interagency Review | Provided Alternatives Development Report for Cooperating and Participating Agency review | May 25, 2018 |
| Final Alternatives Development Report | Provided Alternatives Development Report to the public via Project website | June 20, 2018 |
| Interagency Meeting: Preferred Alternative Identification | Presented selected Preferred Alternative | November 29, 2018 |

| Milestone | Coordination Points | Timeframe |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Administrative DEIS Provided for Cooperating Agency Review¹ | Requested feedback from agencies and incorporated relevant comments | March 11, 2019 |
| DEIS Public Review | Notify public of DEIS availability; comment period no longer than 60 days following notice of availability | September 13, 2019 – October 28, 2019 |
| DEIS Public Hearing | Convene a public hearing to provide the public with opportunity to express their comments on the content of the DEIS for the record | October 22, 2019 |
| Administrative Final EIS/Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD) Provided for Cooperating Agency Review | Request feedback from agencies and incorporate relevant comments | Early 2020 |
| FEIS/ROD Publication | Notify public of the FEIS/ROD availability | Summer 2020 |

¹ *Administrative DEIS* is the version of the DEIS shared with Cooperating Agencies for their official review.

280
 281 In November 2016, after the Scoping period, FRA and DDOT distributed the Agency and Public
 282 Coordination Plan (**Appendix A2**) to the Cooperating and Participating Agencies.¹⁶ The Agency and Public
 283 Coordination Plan identifies Federal, District, state, regional, and local agencies that have a role in the
 284 EIS and describes each agency’s responsibilities. The plan provides information about how FRA and
 285 DDOT accomplish agency coordination for the Project; how and when the Lead Agencies communicate
 286 information to Cooperating and Participating Agencies and to the public; and how the Lead Agencies
 287 solicit input from agencies and the public in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies.
 288 FRA and DDOT amended the Coordination Plan four times throughout the NEPA process to reflect
 289 updates to the Project process and schedule and informed the agencies and the public of all revisions.

290 As established in the Coordination Plan, DDOT and FRA conducted regular outreach with the Project’s
 291 Cooperating and Participating Agencies through Technical Advisory Committee meetings, standing
 292 coordination meetings with individual agencies (including a monthly meeting with NPS), bi-weekly
 293 meetings with the Project Management Team, and Interagency Coordination Meetings at key
 294 coordination points.¹⁷ The meetings facilitated agency engagement on the Project during development
 295 of the DEIS and ensured each agency’s ability to address their specific responsibilities. FRA and DDOT
 296 provided an opportunity for the agencies to submit comments after each Interagency Coordination
 297 Meeting. These meetings provided a mechanism for agencies to:

- 298 • Provide comments, responses, or methodologies on areas relevant to the special expertise or
 299 jurisdiction of the agency;

¹⁶ 23 USC 139(g)(1)

¹⁷ The Project Management Team is comprised of the Lead Agencies, Cooperating Agencies that are providing funding for the Long Bridge Project, and private railroad stakeholders that are bridge owners or major users of the bridge.

- 300 • Identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the Project’s potential
301 environmental or socioeconomic impact;
- 302 • Provide meaningful input at project milestones (Purpose and Need, range of alternatives,
303 environmental analysis, and preferred alternative); and
- 304 • Provide timely review and comment on environmental documentation.
- 305 FRA and DDOT notified Cooperating and Participating Agencies via email of important project events,
306 including public meetings and technical document availability.

307 **25.4.1. Cooperating Agencies**

308 Cooperating Agencies are Federal agencies other than the lead Federal agency that have jurisdiction by
309 law, or special expertise with respect to a specific environmental issue involved in a particular project.
310 Cooperating Agencies may also be state or local agencies of similar qualifications or tribal governments,
311 if agreed upon by the lead agencies.¹⁸ Some Federal agencies are required to take an action for the
312 Project. The Lead Agencies coordinate with these Federal agencies to ensure that they can reference the
313 Long Bridge Project EIS to make their own NEPA determinations for Project actions within their
314 jurisdiction.¹⁹

315 Cooperating Agencies have the responsibility to:

- 316 • Provide input on defining the Project’s Purpose and Need, the range of alternatives to be
317 considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis;
- 318 • Identify issues that could substantially delay or prevent granting of permits or approvals;
- 319 • Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews;
- 320 • Provide timely review and comments on pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents; and
- 321 • Prepare mitigation recommendations.

322 Cooperating Agencies also can comment on the Administrative DEIS and Administrative FEIS/ROD
323 prior to public review, as noted in **Table 25-3**. **Table 25-2** lists the Cooperating Agencies for the Project.
324 The Public and Agency Coordination Plan (**Appendix A2**) also provides the Cooperating Agencies’
325 jurisdiction pertaining to the Project. Of the agencies invited to be Cooperating Agencies, the USACE
326 Baltimore and Norfolk Districts and the Commission of Fine Arts declined the invitation and elected to
327 be Participating Agencies instead.

¹⁸ 40 CFR 1508.5

¹⁹ 23 USC 139(d)(8)

328 25.4.2. Participating Agencies

329 Participating Agencies are Federal, District, state, or local agencies, or Federally recognized tribal
330 governmental organizations, with an interest in the Project.

331 The role of Participating Agencies is to:

- 332 • Provide input on defining the Project’s Purpose and Need, the range of alternatives to be
333 considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis;
- 334 • Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews, as appropriate;
- 335 • As requested by FRA, provide timely review and comments on certain pre-draft or pre-final
336 environmental documents; and
- 337 • Provide timely comments on unresolved issues.

338 **Table 25-2** lists the Participating Agencies for the Project. The Public and Agency Coordination Plan
339 (**Appendix A2**) also provides the Participating Agencies’ jurisdiction pertaining to the Project. Of the
340 agencies invited to be Participating Agencies, the Military District of Washington/National Capital Region
341 – Joint Base Headquarters and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission declined the invitation.

342 25.4.3. Agency Consultation

343 FRA and DDOT conducted agency consultation and review of the project concurrently with the NEPA
344 process under the following regulations:

- 345 • Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act of 1966—protects public parks and recreational lands, wildlife and
346 waterfowl refuges, and historic sites of national, state, or local significance from acquisition and
347 conversion to transportation use;
- 348 • Section 106 of the NHPA—requires Federal agencies to consider effects of their undertakings on
349 historic architectural and archaeological resources;²⁰
- 350 • Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972—requires a Coastal Zone Consistency Determination by
351 the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality;²¹
- 352 • Clean Air Act of 1970—requires consultation with the MWCOG and inclusion of the project in
353 the Transportation Improvement Program for the region;²²
- 354 • Clean Water Act of 1972—requires consultation with USACE for the establishment of a
355 Jurisdictional Determination for Wetlands and Waters of the United States;²³
- 356 • Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973—requires consultation with the USFWS Virginia
357 Field Office regarding impacts to threatened or endangered species;²⁴

²⁰ 36 CFR 800

²¹ 16 USC 1461

²² 42 USC 7401

²³ 33 USC 1251

²⁴ 16 USC 1531

- 358 • Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1899—requires consultation with the USCG regarding
359 potential impacts to navigable waterways and bridges over navigable waterways;²⁵ and
- 360 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979—requires consultation with NPS, DC SHPO, and
361 VDHR regarding archaeological resources.²⁶

362 **25.5. Bike-Pedestrian Crossing**

363 As noted in **Section 25.3.2, Public Meeting, December 14, 2017: Proposed Alternatives**, most of the
364 comments and questions received at the December 2017 Public Meeting discussed the opportunity for a
365 bike-pedestrian connection across the Potomac River. While a bike-pedestrian crossing is not part of the
366 Purpose and Need of the Long Bridge Project, the public and several agencies expressed strong support
367 for a crossing. Therefore, the Lead Agencies explored the potential opportunity to accommodate a river
368 crossing with connections to the pedestrian and bicycle network on each shoreline.

369 At the public meeting on December 14, 2017, DDOT and FRA presented three potential bike-pedestrian
370 crossing options that would each land near the Mount Vernon Trail (MVT) in Virginia and in East
371 Potomac Park in the District. Of the 1,604 email comments submitted in favor of a bike-pedestrian
372 crossing after the public meeting, 98 percent of commenters supported extending bike-pedestrian
373 crossing landings across the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) to destinations in Arlington
374 and across the Washington Channel to destinations in the District.

375 Cooperating and Participating Agencies also addressed the potential bike-pedestrian crossing options in
376 their comments. Arlington County expressed support for constructing a bike-pedestrian crossing as part
377 of the Project and expressed support for providing a direct bike-pedestrian connection to Long Bridge
378 Park. NCPC noted that any bike-pedestrian connection should maximize utility and enhance experience
379 for all users. However, DRPT noted that the primary focus of the Project is increasing rail capacity and
380 expressed significant concerns regarding safety and constructability of any combined-mode structure.
381 VRE also expressed concern over the safety and security implications of any combined-mode structure.
382 NPS expressed support for carrying the potential bike-pedestrian crossing options forward in the EIS as
383 mitigation. However, NPS expressed possible concerns related to impacts to the MVT and the need to
384 evaluate potential impacts, including congestion, visual challenges, and loss of vegetation and trees.

385 Based on the public and agency comments, FRA and DDOT extended the bike-pedestrian crossing study
386 limits from the Long Bridge Park side of the GWMP in Virginia to Ohio Drive SW in the District, with an
387 evaluation of connections to the MVT and Ohio Drive SW. Following safety and engineering analysis and
388 railroad operator coordination, FRA and DDOT carried forward a bike-pedestrian crossing option on an
389 independent bridge. The bike-pedestrian crossing would be located upstream of the new upstream
390 railroad bridge, with connections to Long Bridge Park, the MVT, and Ohio Drive DW. This option is
391 proposed mitigation for impacts to properties protected under Section 4(f) of the United States
392 Department of Transportation Act of 1966.²⁷ Please see **Chapter 22, Bike-Pedestrian Crossing**, for more
393 information.

²⁵ 33 USC 1899

²⁶ 16 USC 470aa-mm

²⁷ 49 USC 303

394 **25.6. Section 106 Consultation**

395 The Lead Agencies conducted additional outreach and consultation as part of the Section 106 process.
 396 On September 22, 2016, FRA initiated consultation with DC SHPO and VDHR in accordance with
 397 the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA. On March 31, 2017, FRA formally invited parties to
 398 participate in the process, known as Section 106 Consulting Parties. As set forth in the regulations,
 399 consulting parties for an undertaking can include the following:

- 400 • Representatives of local governments with jurisdiction over the area where the undertaking may
 401 occur.
- 402 • The applicant for Federal assistance, permits, licenses, and approvals.
- 403 • Additional Consulting Parties: certain individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest
 404 in the undertaking due to their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected
 405 properties or their concern with the undertaking’s effects on historic properties.

406 The Consulting Parties review information relevant to the identification and assessment of effects to
 407 historic properties that could result from the project. **Appendix A2, Agency and Public Coordination**
 408 **Plan**, lists the organizations that agreed to serve as Consulting Parties for the Project. **Table 25-4**
 409 provides an overview of the Consulting Parties’ meetings to date. FRA provided an opportunity for the
 410 Consulting Parties to submit comments after each Section 106 Consulting Parties Meeting, which can be
 411 found in **Appendix E2, Section 106 Correspondence**. The Section 106 consultation process is ongoing.
 412 FRA and DDOT continue to consult with the Consulting Parties and will execute a Programmatic
 413 Agreement that identifies minimization and mitigation measures and describes any consultation that
 414 would continue through the design and construction processes. The Section 106 consultation process is
 415 further described in **Appendix E3, Section 106 Assessment of Effects Report**.

416 **Table 25-4 | Section 106 Consulting Parties Meetings**

| Meeting Date | Location | Topic(s) |
|---|--|--|
| April 25, 2017 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM | DDOT 55 M Street SE Washington, DC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project overview • Preliminary identification of historic properties |
| November 15, 2017 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM | DCOP 1100 4th Street SW Washington, DC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Area of Potential Effects • Identification of historic properties |
| May 30, 2018 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM | DDOT 55 M Street SE Washington, DC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology for assessing effects to historic properties |
| October 24, 2018 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM | DDOT 55 M Street SE Washington, DC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine effects to historic properties |
| August 1, 2019 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM | DDOT 55 M Street SE Washington, DC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolve adverse effects to historic properties |

417 **25.7. Public Review of the DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation**

418 The DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation is available for public review at the Project website
419 (www.longbridgeproject.com). In addition, printed copies of the DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation
420 are available in several repositories listed on the Project website. Comments on the DEIS and Draft
421 Section 4(f) Evaluation are due by **October 28, 2019**, and may be submitted during the comment period
422 in the following ways:

- 423
- Through the online comment form at www.longbridgeproject.com
 - Via email to info@longbridgeproject.com
- 424

425 FRA and DDOT will distribute an electronic copy of the DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation to the
426 Cooperating and Participating Agencies, as well as other relevant Federal, state, and local agencies,
427 elected officials, and organizations. See **Chapter 26, Distribution of DEIS**, for a full distribution list.

428 FRA and DDOT will hold a public hearing on the DEIS and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation on October 22,
429 2019, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the DCRA Building, Room E200, 1100 4th Street SW, Washington, DC.
430 The public hearing is an opportunity for interested parties to provide oral and written comments on the
431 documents. The comments presented at the hearing will be recorded by a stenographer and entered
432 into the public record. The public comment period is open for a minimum of 45 days after the
433 publication of the DEIS, as specified in the Notice of Availability for the Project. FRA and DDOT will
434 prepare responses to the comments and will present the comments and responses in the FEIS/ROD.