

# What is the I-70 East Environmental Process?

- 1 Scoping** – Issues and concerns were solicited from various agencies, the community, and others. Scoping activities included door-to-door questionnaire, block meetings, neighborhood meetings, business meetings, and corridor meetings.
- 2 Purpose and Need** – Using the input from scoping, data gathering, and technical analysis, a purpose and need statement was developed. It served as the basis for the alternative development, screening, and environmental evaluation.
- 3 Evaluation Criteria** – Working with the community, agencies, and other stakeholders, criteria were developed to compare the numerous alternatives that were considered.
- 4 Alternative Development** – A full-range or “master list” of alternatives, including previous and current proposals, and new ideas from the community and stakeholders were developed for consideration.
- 5 Alternative Screening** – Once the “master list” was developed, the alternatives were screened using the previously established criteria to eliminate those that were not reasonable and would not meet the purpose and need.
- 6 Draft EIS Evaluation** – The alternatives that made it through the screening process were fully evaluated in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is an official document issued during the process and includes a detailed analysis of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of the alternatives.
- 7 Formal Public Comment on Draft EIS** – With the release of the Draft EIS, the public and agencies had an opportunity to review and comment on the Draft EIS. Public hearings were held to present the information and encourage formal comments.
- 8 Alternative Refinement/ Identification** – During this step the project team works with the public on design and aesthetics of the alternatives to develop reasonable alternatives that address the public concerns while meeting the project’s purpose and need.
- 9 Supplemental Draft EIS** – After developing reasonable alternatives, the Supplemental Draft EIS will be written to include the changes in the alternatives. The public and agencies will have an opportunity to review and comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS.
- 10 Final EIS** – After addressing the public and agency comments, a Final EIS will be developed and publicized.
- 11 Record of Decision (ROD)** – FHWA will issue a ROD formalizing the official decision on the Preferred Alternative.



**Community Outreach** – A continuous community outreach process has been integrated into every step of the project, to provide residents, businesses, the traveling public, and other interested parties with an opportunity to have meaningful participation in the process.