



I-64 Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Environmental Impact Statement

Welcome to the Scoping/Citizen Information Meeting for the I-64 Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Environmental Impact Statement

Introduction

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated a study of potential transportation improvements within the Interstate 64 Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel (HRBT) corridor. The limits of the study are from the I-64 Interchange with I-664 in the City of Hampton to the I-64 Interchange with I-564 in the City of Norfolk. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study is to identify the transportation needs within the corridor, develop reasonable alternatives, and evaluate the likely environmental impacts of the alternatives. Before improvement concepts can be developed, the Study Team must collect information to fully define the existing and future transportation needs of the corridor. An important study component is receiving input from the public and agencies on the scope of the EIS.



Background

The original tunnel/span was opened in 1957, while the second was opened in 1976. The facility was designed to carry approximately 70,000 vehicles per day. Today, during peak summer period, the facility must accommodate more than 100,000 vehicles per day. VDOT completed a Feasibility Study of the corridor in 2008. The current EIS is a required step before improvements can be made and will be coordinated with other projects and studies currently underway in the corridor.

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of this scoping meeting is to obtain your input on the scope of issues to be addressed in the EIS and to share information that is available at this early stage of the study. We seek your input on the following issues:

- Transportation challenges and project objectives
- Ideas for resolving transportation challenges
- Important natural/human environmental considerations

The study will identify and explore a range of transportation alternatives that address the Purpose and Need. The Study Team will then carry forward alternatives based on specific criteria. Elements of this study's Purpose and Need include capacity improvements, hurricane evacuation, existing facility maintenance, and others. This brochure, the displays you see tonight, and the project website provide information on the overall study. Representatives are available to answer your questions and listen to your thoughts and concerns.

Citizen Information Meetings

Monday, July 18, 2011, 4 – 7 p.m.
Willoughby Elementary School
9500 Fourth View Street, Norfolk, VA 23503

Tuesday, July 19, 2011, 4 - 7 p.m.
Jane Bryan Elementary School
1021 N. Mallory Street, Hampton, VA 23663

Study Process



WE'RE HERE NOW

May 2011 → July 2011 → May 2012 → December 2012 → February 2013 → April 2014 → August 2014



Frequently Asked Questions

What is an EIS and what will it include?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a document required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for all federal projects or actions that are expected to have a significant impact on the environment. The EIS will serve as a tool for VDOT and FHWA to make an informed project decision. The EIS includes a review of reasonable project alternatives, their ability to meet project needs, and their likely environmental impacts. The following environmental resources will be evaluated in the EIS:

- Historic / Archeological Resources
- Social / Community Resources
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Parks and Recreation Areas
- Wetlands / Streams / Tidal Waters
- Economic Considerations
- Air Quality
- Noise Levels
- Land Use

What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

Congress enacted NEPA in December, 1969, and President Nixon signed it into law on January 1, 1970. NEPA was the first major environmental law in the United States and established this country's national environmental policies. To implement these policies, NEPA requires agencies to undertake an assessment of the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. Following this environmental review process leads to better informed decisions and increased citizen involvement.

When will the study be complete, and when would improvements be made?

The study is scheduled for completion in Spring 2014. If a build alternative is selected by the Commonwealth Transportation Board and approved by FHWA, the project can advance. Design documents must be completed, and right-of-way acquired, before construction can begin. This process may take several years to complete provided funding is available.

Is there currently funding to construct improvements?

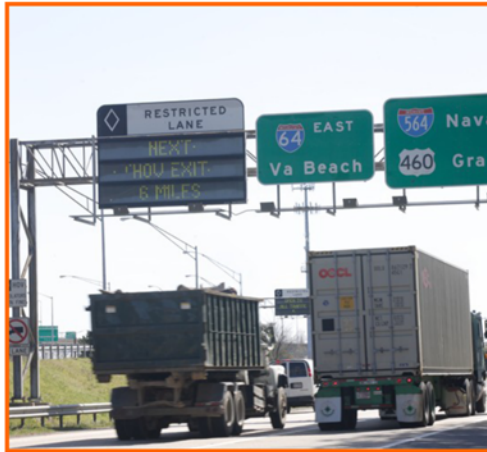
As of today, there is no funding for construction improvements. VDOT will examine possible funding sources if a build alternative is chosen from this study. Allocations of funding for construction are made annually with the update of the Six-Year Plan.

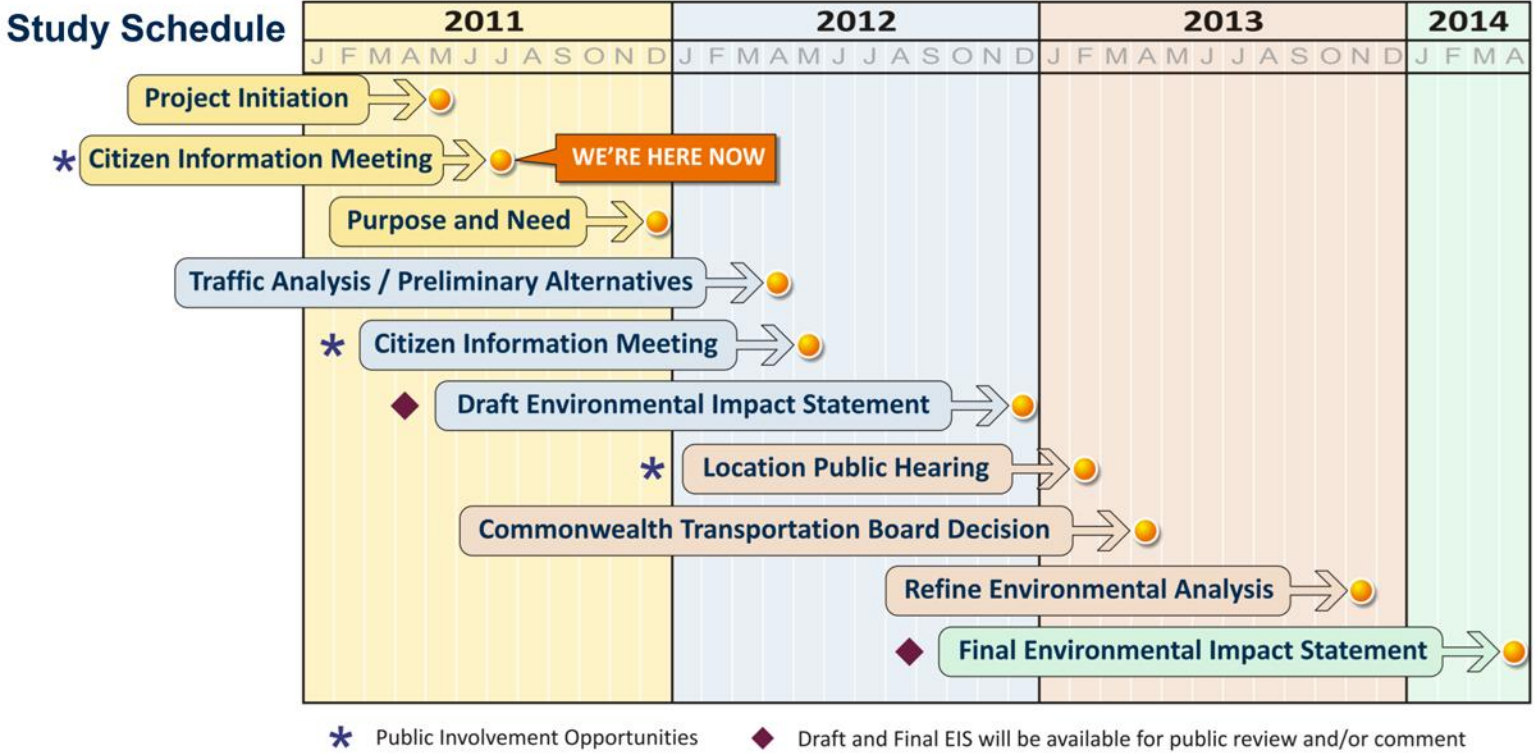
Has VDOT already studied this corridor?

VDOT studied this corridor in the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Feasibility Study in 2008. The goal of that study was to provide information on the feasibility and long-term benefits of potential alternatives.

How will HOV be considered in the EIS study ?

The study will consider a number of different alternatives including new general purpose lanes, high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes, and toll lanes. It will consider how much traffic would use these types of lanes and which alternatives would provide better solutions for the project area needs. The study will also look at how the HOV, HOT or toll lanes could connect to the existing HOV lanes along I-64 east and west of the study area.





Public Input Opportunities

Your input is very important to this process and makes a difference. All comments submitted will become a part of the study record and will be posted to the study website. Please feel free to share your ideas and concerns with us by one of the following methods:

➔ **VDOT Project Website:** www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/hamptonroads/i-64_hrbt_study.asp

➔ **Email :** Thomas Heil, Team Project Manager, at hrbtcomments@vaprojects.com
 Include "HRBT EIS/Scoping Meeting" in the subject line.
 Comments will be accepted until August 1, 2011.

➔ **Mail :** Thomas Heil
 Rummel, Klepper & Kahl
 2901 S. Lynnhaven Road, Suite 300
 Virginia Beach, VA 23452

➔ **Additional Information :** Contact VDOT Project Manager, Ms. Angel Deem at Angel.Deem@VDOT.Virginia.gov



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