

# Environmental review

*The I-81 Challenge* still has a long way to go. In the longer term, you can expect to see increasingly refined and detailed analysis of strategies and an effort to build consensus around the limited number of strategies that will progress to a formal environmental review.

## The National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was the first major U.S. environmental law and establishes national environmental policy and goals for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment.

For transportation projects receiving federal funding, NEPA requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other transportation agencies to consider potential impacts to the social and natural environment and to make this information available to the public for comment before the implementation of the proposals.

In addition to evaluating the potential environmental effects, FHWA must take into account the transportation needs of the public in reaching a decision that is in the best overall public interest.

