

Environmental review

Any project proposed from the I-81 corridor study will have a long way to go. In the future, you will see increasingly refined and detailed analysis of the proposed alternatives and an effort to build consensus around the limited number of alternatives which 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 natural and built environment and to make this information available to the public for comment and consider these comments before the implementation of the proposals.

In addition to evaluating the potential environmental effects, NYSDOT and FHWA must take into account the transportation needs and public input in reaching a decision that is in the best overall public interest. As joint lead agencies, NYSDOT and FHWA will make decisions on the advancement of a project together.

