

Environmental Impact Statement



Notice of Intent (NOI)

Starts EIS process, official notice published in the *Federal Register* to notify and involve cooperating and participating agencies and individuals about the proposed action and to identify the issues that will be analyzed.

NEPA Scoping

An early and open process involving the public and other stakeholders to provide input on a project's purpose and need statement; and identify alternatives and significant issues to be analyzed.



Draft EIS

Official document which includes a detailed description of the proposal, the purpose and need, reasonable alternatives, the affected environment, and presents an analysis of the anticipated beneficial and adverse environmental effects of the alternatives.

Public Comment

The NEPA Scoping Document is available for review and comment by participating agencies and the public for 30 days.

The Draft EIS is available to the public for review and comment. The typical comment period is 45 days from the date of public notice in the *Federal Register*.



Final EIS

The Final EIS includes responses to any issues raised through review of the Draft EIS. The Final EIS must identify the preferred alternative. After responding to comments, the agency will make the Final EIS available to the public. Agencies cannot make a final decision until 30 days after the Final EIS is filed.

Record of Decision (ROD)

The ROD records the final decision in the EIS process. It documents the preferred alternative; presents the basis for the decision; identifies other alternatives considered and why they were not selected; lists and identifies all environmental commitments; and adopts and summarizes a monitoring and enforcement program, if applicable, for any mitigation.

I-81, Downtown Syracuse; photos courtesy of SMTC