

What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires an EIS to disclose a federal project's potential environmental impacts, both positive and negative. An EIS evaluates a reasonable range of project alternatives, presenting the findings through a public process.

Detailed analysis and recommendations of the study are published for comment. The report specifically describes:

- The purpose of and need for the proposed transportation project;
- The evaluation and screening process to select an alternative to meet the proposed project's purpose and need;
- The identification and evaluation of potential impacts and benefits of the proposed project; and
- The recommended mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential negative impacts.

The EIS provides decision makers with key information on the potential impacts to the built, natural, and social environments that may occur within the project study area.