**STREAMLINED ENVIRONMENTAL/REGULATORY PROCESS**

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**PROJECT PLANNING INITIATION (1)**
- Collect purpose and need information (traffic, accidents, study area limits, planning information, intermodal relationships, project background information, etc.)
- Prepare environmental inventories, including natural, socio-economic and cultural resources; Priority Funding Area(s); environmental justice issues; Clean Air Act conformance issues; Section 106 consulting issues; etc.
- Hold internal SHA Scoping Meeting.
- Hold interagency field/office meeting to: 1) review draft purpose and need statement, 2) develop summary statement and 3) discuss various study area problems and/or issues.

**INTERAGENCY REVIEW MEETING FOR PURPOSE AND NEED (2)**
- Present: 1) purpose and need information; 2) project background information; and 3) draft schedule. Although not part of the Purpose and Need, provide environmental inventory information. Focus will be to review the purpose and need summary and discuss revisions made to the purpose and need statement resulting from the field/office meeting.
- Receive comments from agencies on the adequacy of the draft Purpose and Need package. If adequate, agencies may concur now. Initiate conflict resolution if appropriate.
- If MIS is required, make presentation to MPO.

**DEVELOP PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES (4)**
- Develop overlay of preliminary/conceptual alternatives on study area environmental base map. Also consider multi-modal alternatives.
- Hold interagency field/office meeting to discuss preliminary/conceptual alternatives and key environmental features. Specific input needed from the agencies includes: 1) recommended additional alternatives, 2) modifications to SHA’s preliminary/conceptual alternatives, 3) importance of specific resources, 4) scope of study necessary to determine impacts, 5) data collection for special studies, including appropriate level of wetland identification effort, and 6) secondary and cumulative effects issues.
- Prior to the Alternates Public Meeting/Workshop, show the agencies the alternatives being presented to the public.

**IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVES FOR DETAILED STUDY (6)**
- SHA to identify potential alternatives to be retained for detailed study and document the rationale for dropping preliminary alternatives not being carried forward.
- If MIS is required, make presentation to MPO. SHA will request MPO’s agreement that MIS requirements have been satisfied.

**INTERAGENCY REVIEW MEETING FOR ALTERNATIVES RETAINED FOR DETAILED STUDY (7)**
- Present: 1) rationale for retaining or dropping preliminary alternatives, 2) results of MIS presentation to the MPO, 3) location of the alternatives in relation to the PFA(s).
- Receive comments from agencies on the adequacy of the draft Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study package. If adequate, agencies may concur now. Initiate conflict resolution if appropriate.
- Agencies will reevaluate their level of involvement in the project based on the environmental impacts and decide if formal concurrence points are still appropriate.

**CONCURRENCE ON PURPOSE AND NEED (9)**

**DETAILED ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS (9)**
- Conduct detailed engineering analyses of the retained alternatives.
- Conduct detailed natural, socio-economic and cultural environmental analyses (including avoidance, minimization and potential mitigation measures).
- If needed, hold wetland field review to determine jurisdictional wetland boundaries and functional assessments, review potential wetland mitigation sites noted during the delineation, and begin discussions of mitigation goals and types of wetlands to be created.
- If needed, identify additional wetland mitigation sites.
- Complete an environmental assessment of wetland mitigation sites and hold agency field review.
- Document avoidance and minimization efforts for all impacted resources, as well as potential mitigation strategies.

**CONCURRENCE ON ALTERNATIVES RETAINED FOR DETAILED STUDY (8)**

**PREPARE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT AND HOLD PUBLIC HEARING (10)**
- Submit preliminary draft document and Hearing date to FHWA cooperating agencies and other appropriate agencies.
- If wetlands are potentially impacted, SHA and COE (with input from MDE) will coordinate a joint public hearing.
- Receive and address agency comments on adequacy of preliminary draft document.
- After FHWA approval received, SHA will distribute draft document to agencies. Draft document constitutes application for COE authorization.
- Hold Public Hearing (joint Hearing, if appropriate).
- Address agency and public comments.
INTERAGENCY REVIEW MEETING
FOR RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE (11) *
- Discuss agency and public comments received and, if appropriate, provide rationale for why they cannot be addressed.
- Present and receive comments on SHA’s recommended alternative, including associated mitigation for impacted resources.
- If MIS is required, make presentation to MPO.

SHA’S SELECTED ALTERNATIVE (12)
- SHA’s Administrator determines SHA’s selected alternative.
- Begin preparation of final environmental document.

INTERAGENCY REVIEW MEETING
FOR SHA’S SELECTED ALTERNATIVE AND CONCEPTUAL MITIGATION (13)
- Present: 1) SHA’s selected alternative, including rationale for selection, 2) preliminary proposed mitigation for historic sites, noise, parklands, threatened and endangered species, etc., 3) conceptual mitigation for Wetlands and Waters of the US, 4) location of the alternative in relation to the PFA(s), etc.
- Receive comments from agencies on the adequacy of the draft SHA Selected Alternative and Conceptual Mitigation package. If adequate, agencies may concur now. Initiate conflict resolution if appropriate.
- Agencies continue to coordinate any remaining concerns regarding avoidance, minimization and mitigation.

CONCURRENCE ON SHA’S SELECTED ALTERNATIVE AND CONCEPTUAL MITIGATION (14)
- Submit preliminary final document to FHWA, COE, MDE, cooperating agencies and other appropriate agencies.
- MDE will issue preliminary WQC and CZC concurrences, conditioned on receiving all necessary state approvals, within 60 days of receiving the preliminary final document.
- Receive and address agency comments on adequacy of preliminary final document.
- Submit final document to FHWA for signature.
- When agency concerns are addressed to COE’s satisfaction, and FHWA has issued a ROD or FONSI, the COE will decide whether to issue the Section 404 permit. If so, the COE will issue the permit within 15 days of FHWA’s Location Approval. The COE authorization may be conditioned on further avoidance and minimization and the submission of a mitigation plan, as well as conditions of MDE’s WQC and CZC decisions.

FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL MINIMIZATION AND MITIGATION (16)
- During final design, SHA will continue to further minimize impacts to natural, socio-economic and cultural resources. Mitigation for unavoidable impacts will also continue to be refined.
- For wetlands, an Interagency Review Meeting will be held to discuss further minimization efforts, final mitigation plans and the necessity for additional field investigations.
- SHA will submit an application to MDE to initiate its wetlands and waterways permit action(s). SHA will provide a summary of further avoidance and minimization efforts that occurred during final design (the submission to the COE will also address any COE permit conditions).
- FHWA and SHA will consider the need for supplemental NEPA documentation.

CONCURRENCE ON SHA’S SELECTED ALTERNATIVE AND CONCEPTUAL MITIGATION (14)
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RECEIVE NECESSARY PERMITS
ADVERTISE FOR CONSTRUCTION

* Number corresponds to step in Maryland’s Streamlined Environmental and Regulatory Process