

# Welcome

## Thank you for attending!

### Purpose of the Public Hearing

- Present the findings of the Draft EIS.
- Provide an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS.

Today's hearing consists of 3 components:

#### Room #1: Video



- You are encouraged to start in Room #1.
- Watch the video to learn about the study, the Draft EIS, and view a visual simulation of the proposed freeway. This video is played continuously throughout the day.

#### Room #2: Open House



- View banners summarizing important elements of the Draft EIS.
- View roll plots of the proposed freeway location and right-of-way.
- Speak with a study team representative.
- Submit a verbal comment to a court reporter.
- Complete a comment form.
- Submit a comment online.
- View a copy of the Draft EIS.

#### Room #3: Public Statements



- Provide a 3-minute verbal comment to the panel of study team members (speakers must register).
- Listen to public comments.

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# General Ground Rules

**Mutual respect, courtesy, and patience are the hearing's guiding principles.**

To make everyone feel comfortable and welcome, regardless of their position on the study, we ask that you follow the ground rules listed below:

- Displays, signs, or banners are not allowed in the Convention Center.

## Video Room

- Please remain quiet while in the audience (turn off cell phones or set them to vibrate).
- Please leave the room for side discussions.

## Open House Room

- Please refrain from interrupting conversations between study team members and hearing attendees.

## Public Statement Room

- Please remain quiet while in the audience (turn off cell phones or set them to vibrate).
- Please do not interrupt a speaker.
- Please leave the room for side discussions.
- When at the microphone, please refrain from addressing the audience or asking for audience participation.



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# Speaker Guidelines



General guidelines for speaker registration and participation are listed below. The moderator has the authority to deviate from these procedures, if needed.

- 1. Register** - all speakers are required to register by either calling the hotline in advance of the hearing or by signing up at the Speaker Registration table.
- 2. Order of Speakers** - Speakers will be called forward based on the order in which they sign up.  
To accommodate as many speakers as possible, individuals who have spoken already at the hearing will be placed at the end of the list.
- 3. Time limit for comments** - Each speaker will be allotted a maximum of 3 minutes to present his or her comments. A timer will alert speakers at the 2-minute mark, the 2:30 minute mark, and at 3 minutes.
- 4. Verbally summarize written comments** - Speakers are encouraged to summarize written comments rather than read them in full.
- 5. Submit written comments** - An individual or group representative who speaks may submit more detailed written comments for the hearing record or later provide written comment. All comments have equal weight.
- 6. Cannot yield time** - To allow equal opportunity for all, and to accommodate the number of people who may wish to speak, yielding time to another person will not be allowed.
- 7. Format** - Held for the purpose of receiving 3-minute verbal comments. It is not a question-and-answer session.
- 8. No demonstrations** - Demonstrations will not be allowed in any of the rooms.
- 9. General call** - When all who indicated a desire to speak have been called, there will be a general call for anyone who has not yet spoken. This would include, first, those who had signed up and might have missed their earlier call to speak, and second, any other person who had not previously spoken.
- 10. Hearing Schedule** - The hearing is scheduled until to 8:00 p.m. At 8:00 p.m., if there are still people who have not had the opportunity to speak, the moderator may continue the hearing to accommodate additional speakers.

**Comment Methods** - In addition to speaking at the public hearing, detailed written or spoken comment on the Draft EIS may be submitted by other methods described in the public hearing guide and banners. All comments received will have equal weight in the process and will receive the same level of attention.

**Comments on the Draft EIS must be postmarked by July 24th, 2013.**

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# NEPA and EIS Description

## What is NEPA?



The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 establishes a framework that allows federal agencies to consider a multitude of factors, including environmental concerns, when making project-related decisions.

## Why are FHWA and ADOT preparing an EIS?



- NEPA requires federal agencies to examine the environmental, social, or economic impacts of a proposed action and provide opportunities for agency and public participation.
- Based on the potential impacts and the high level of interest in the proposed freeway, FHWA and ADOT have determined that an EIS is appropriate for this proposed action.



### Federal actions

include, but are not limited to, federal projects and federal approvals of non-federal activities such as Interstate access modifications, funding, and permits.

## NEPA Facts

- Applies only to “federal actions.”
- Requires that environmental effects are considered by a federal agency before it takes an action.
- Requires a structured, logical, sequenced process from the beginning.



## Public Involvement Process

- Requires evaluation of all reasonable alternatives, including the No-Build Alternative.
- Requires compliance with all other applicable federal laws and regulations.
- Engineering and environmental aspects of a project are equal; they are not prioritized.

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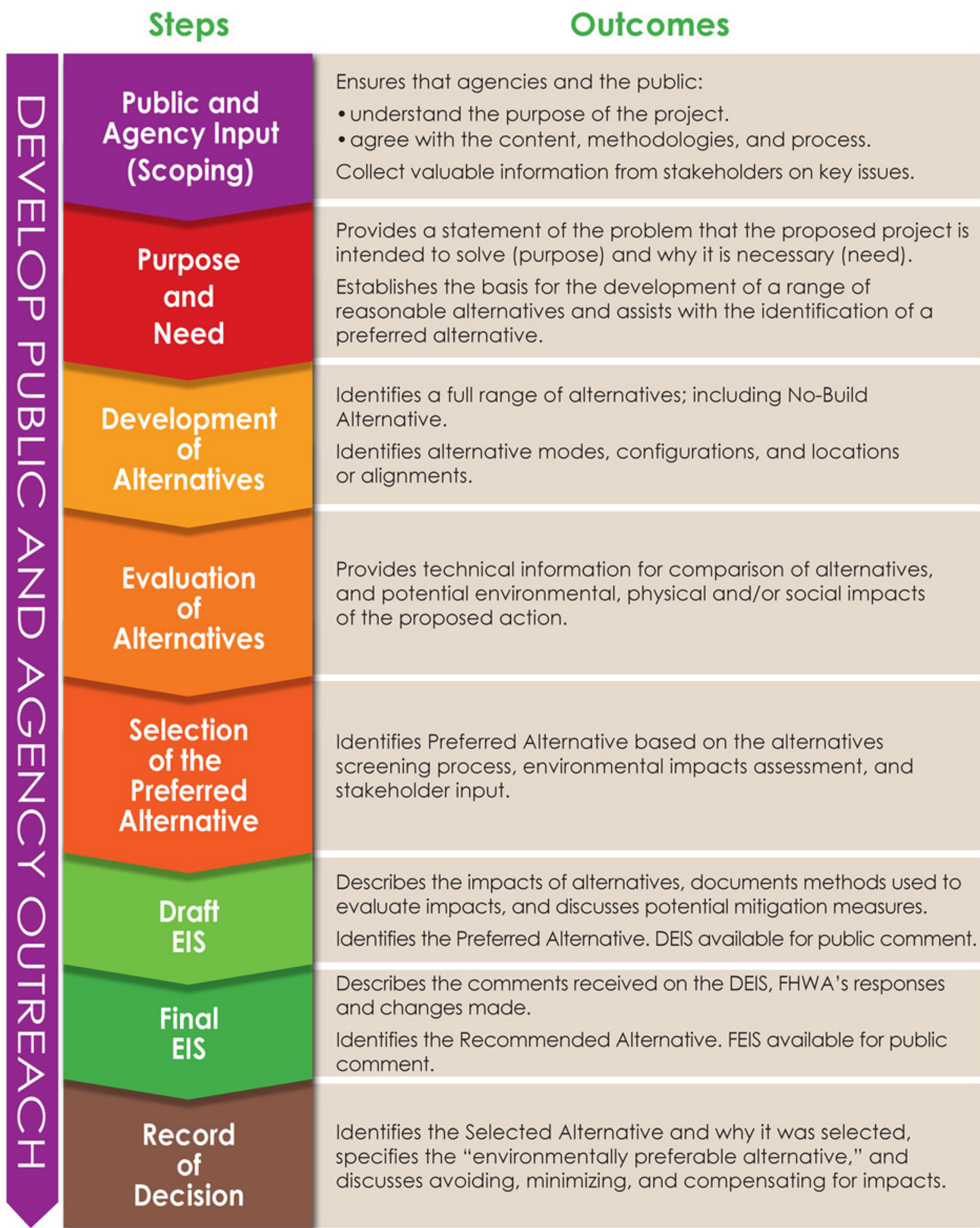
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# Important Elements in the NEPA Process

Completion of the NEPA process generally involves 8 integrated steps:



DEVELOP PUBLIC AND AGENCY OUTREACH

Integrated technical evaluations are conducted by a interdisciplinary team of specialists including:

- environmental scientists
- social scientists
- engineers
- outreach specialists
- documentation professionals
- managers
- legal experts
- real estate professionals

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