

Appendix B

Glossary

B. GLOSSARY

The following is a list of terms, definitions, and acronyms that may be useful to the readers of the U.S. 50 Crossing Study FEIS.

ADT:

Average Daily Traffic. The number of vehicles that pass a specified location over a 24-hour period.

Air Pollution:

The presence of unwanted material in the air in sufficient amount and under such circumstances as to interfere significantly with human comfort, health, or welfare, or with full use and enjoyment of property.

Alignment:

The horizontal and vertical location of a roadway, railroad, transit route or other linear transportation facility.

Alternatives:

Two or more reasonable options for addressing Corridor transportation problems.

Ambient Air Quality:

A physical and chemical measure of the concentration of various chemicals in the outside air, usually determined over a specific time period, for example, 5 minutes, 1 hour, or 1 day.

APE:

Area of potential effect. The geographic area within which a transportation project may cause changes in the character of or use of historic properties.

Aquifer:

A water-bearing unit or stratum of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding considerable quantities of water to wells and springs.

ARDS:

Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study. A set of transportation strategies that are evaluated in the SHA Stage II Project Planning process. In Stage II, as part of the NEPA process, the alternatives retained from previous studies (in this case, the No-Build and Alternatives 2, 4 Modified, 5 and 5A) were evaluated; detailed engineering and environmental analyses were performed; and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was produced that reviews the detailed alternatives and environmental impacts.

Best Management Practice (BMP):

Measures to control the quantity and quality of stormwater leaving a drainage basin. Local and state jurisdictions have adopted BMPs to counteract physical development and construction activity that may concentrate stormwater or produce soil erosion.

CAA:

Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAA) directed the EPA to implement strong environmental policies and regulations that will ensure cleaner air quality.

CAC:

Critical Area Commission. A commission established by the State of Maryland Critical Area Law to oversee the development and implementation of local land use programs directed towards the Critical Area that met the goals to minimize adverse impacts on water quality; conserve fish, wildlife, and plant habitat in the Critical Area; and establish land use policies for development in the Critical Area.

Calibration:

1) Reconciliation of an instrument with an established standard. 2) In modeling, the procedure used to estimate the parameters of a model or to adjust a model to replicate actually measured conditions.

CERCLA:

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund. Enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980, this law created a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad Federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.

CERCLIS:

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System is a compilation of sites the USEPA has investigated or is currently investigating for a release of hazardous substances pursuant to CERCLA.

Champion Tree:

The largest tree of its species within the US, the state, county, or municipality as determined by each jurisdiction.

COMAR:

Code of Maryland Regulations. A permanent compilation of all Maryland agency regulations. Started in 1977, COMAR is divided into 31 titles, with each title usually corresponding to a department or agency within State government.

Comprehensive Plan:

An overall plan stating public policy intentions for the future development of a community or jurisdiction, including the general location and character of development. Also, called a general or master plan, it provides official guidelines for growth and change in a community.

Conceptual Engineering:

The level of design at which the basic characteristics of each alternative is defined, including location on the ground, height, location of possible stations, frequency of service and operating policies, and general capital, operating and maintenance costs.

Conformity:

The Clean Air Act stipulates that any approved transportation project, plan, or program must conform to the State Implementation Plan (SIP), a document that prescribes procedures for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of primary and secondary air pollutants.

Corridor:

A strip of land between two termini within which topography, environmental and other characteristics are evaluated for transportation purposes.

Critical Area:

All lands and waters under the Atlantic Coastal Bays or Chesapeake Bay to the head of the tide and all land and water areas within 1,000 feet beyond the landward boundaries of State or private wetlands and the heads of tides designated under Natural Resources Article, Title 9.

CTP:

Consolidated Transportation Program. A report developed each year in draft form and presented to every county in Maryland and Baltimore City. Following distribution of the draft document, the Maryland Department of Transportation representatives visit each county both to present the information and receive comments on the plan and program.

Cumulative Effects:

The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal, or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.

dB(A):

Decibel (A-weighted scale which adjusts to simulate human hearing).

DEIS/EIS:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement. A comprehensive study of likely environmental impacts that will result from major federally assisted projects. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires an EIS.

DNR:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources. State agency responsible for the protection, restoration and enhancement of natural resources such as fisheries, wildlife resources, forests, aquatic habitat, threatened and endangered species, etc. under its jurisdiction.

Effect:

For purposes of this DEIS, refers to a measurable change attributable to the proposed transportation improvement.

EJ:

Environmental Justice. A term referring to unjust dispersion of adverse effects to human health and the environment on minority or low-income populations resulting from public infrastructure projects, such as construction of highways.

Endangered:

An organism of very limited numbers that may be subject to extinction and is protected by law under the Endangered Species Act or State laws.

FEIS:

Final Environmental Impact Statement. The final version of one or more drafts and supplemental draft environmental impact statements for a given federally assisted project.

FEMA:

Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA works with the states to help plan for disasters, develop mitigation programs, and meet needs when major disasters occur.

FHWA:

Federal Highway Administration. A component of the US Department of Transportation, established to oversee the development of a national road and highway system. The FHWA assists states in constructing highways and roads and provides financial aid at the local level.

FIRM:

Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Maps produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine the locations of flood risks and hazards.

Floodplain:

Land that is periodically inundated by floodwaters.

FPPA:

Farmland Protection Policy Act. The FPPA is a subtitle of the 1981 Farm Bill that stipulates that federal programs be compatible with state, local and private efforts to protect farmland.

Future Design Year:

The year for which traffic projections have been made and transportation needs analyzed; 2030 is the Future Design Year for the US 50 Crossing Study DEIS.

GIS:

Geographic Information System.

Hydric Soils:

“A soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation,” according to current wetlands delineation methodology (USCOE, 1987).

ICE:

Indirect and Cumulative Effects. Indirect impacts are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR § 1508.8(b)). Cumulative effects are the impact on the environment that results from the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal, or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR § 1580.7, 1997).

ISA:

Initial Site Assessment. Consists of a database search for prior hazardous materials violations and a site reconnaissance to identify environmental conditions, such as dumping or stained soils, that warrant additional investigation.

Leq:

A descriptor commonly used to represent fluctuating sound levels over an extended period of time as a constant value.

LOS:

Level of Service. A qualitative rating of the effectiveness of a highway or highway facility in serving traffic in terms of operating conditions. The Highway Capacity Manual identifies operating conditions ranging from A, for best operations (low volume, high speed), to F, for worst conditions.

MDE:

Maryland Department of the Environment. State agency responsible for the protection, restoration and quality of Maryland's air, water and land resources including wetland habitats, ground and surface waters, mineral resources, etc. under its jurisdiction.

MDOT:

Maryland Department of Transportation. A cabinet-level state agency of the State of Maryland with responsibility for the development and management of transportation facilities and services within the State.

MDP:

Maryland Department of Planning. State agency responsible for consideration of transportation alternatives under the State's growth policies including the Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Initiatives, including the Priority Funding Areas Act (PFA).

MD SHA:

Maryland State Highway Administration. An agency of the Maryland Department of Transportation with responsibility for the planning, development, operation and maintenance of the state's highway and road network.

Median:

The center portion of a divided highway separating opposing lanes of traffic.

Mitigation Measures:

Steps taken to avoid, minimize or compensate for the adverse effects of constructing or operating a major transit improvement.

Mixed Traffic:

The use of a single guideway or street by various types of transportation vehicles, such as cars, buses, and trucks.

Model:

1) A mathematical or conceptual presentation of relationships and actions within a system. It is used for analysis of the system or its evaluation under various conditions; examples include land use, economic, socioeconomic, transportation. 2) A mathematical description of a real life situation that used data on past and present conditions to make a projection about the future.

MPO:

Metropolitan Planning Organization. Regional planning organization that integrates urban transportation planning at the local level.

NAAQS:

National Ambient Air Quality Standards. A level of air pollution concentration, as defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency, that cannot be exceeded as mandated by the Federal Clean Air Act. A concentration is an amount of pollution in the air over a given time period.

NEPA:

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. A comprehensive Federal law requiring an analysis of the environmental effects of Federally-assisted actions and projects, including the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for every major Federal project that significantly affects the quality of the human environment.

NHPA:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1969, as amended. Federal legislation to safeguard the Nation's prehistoric resources and historic buildings sites, and environments.

NPDES:

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. All industrial and municipal wastewater treatment facilities which discharge effluents into Maryland's waters must have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit is issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and sets discharge limitations and contains various restrictions and monitoring requirements to insure that the discharge will not degrade water quality or harm aquatic life. The permits require the dischargers to monitor their effluents and submit their own data to show that they are complying with these restrictions.

NRCS:

Natural Resources Conservation Service. Agency under the US Department of Agriculture to help people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources on private lands and in the environment.

NRHP:

National Register of Historic Places. A United States catalog that gives formal recognition to sites, structures, and districts of historic significance.

NWI:

National Wetland Inventory. The US Fish and Wildlife Service produces the NWI with information on the characteristics, extent, and status of the Nation's wetlands and deepwater habitats.

Off-Peak Period:

The time of day (or year) during which vehicle requirements and schedules are not influenced by peak-period passenger volume demands (e.g., between morning and afternoon peak periods). At this time, transit riding is fairly constant and usually low to moderate in volume when compared with peak-period travel.

Peak Period:

1) The period during the day or year in which the maximum amount of travel typically occurs. It may be specified as the morning (a.m.) or afternoon or evening (p.m.) peak. 2) The period when demand for transportation service is heaviest.

PFA:

Priority Funding Areas. PFAs consist of existing communities and other locally designated areas for future growth as determined by local jurisdictions in accordance with Maryland's Smart Growth guidelines.

Preferred Alternative:

A single alternative from a list of several alternatives that is believed to best address transportation problems.

Project Area:

The immediate geographical boundaries of a given transportation improvement project.

Public Hearing:

A formal meeting called to receive public comment on a proposed action.

Public Meeting:

An informal meeting called to present information about and to discuss a proposed action.

RCRA:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. Federal legislation that provides for the environmentally safe disposal of hazardous materials.

ROD:

Record of Decision. A document prepared by the Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration that presents the basis for selecting a specific transportation proposal that has been evaluated through the various environmental and engineering studies of the Transportation Project Development Process. Typically, the ROD identifies that alternative selected in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the alternatives considered, measures to minimize harm, monitoring or enforcement programs, and itemized commitments and mitigation measures.

ROW:

Right-of-Way. Land owned by state and/or local jurisdictions that is necessary to accommodate construction, drainage, and proper maintenance of transportation or other public facilities.

RTE:

Rare, threatened and endangered species. Species of fish, wildlife and plants facing extinction and subject to special protection.

Scoping:

A process occurring near the beginning of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that defines the alternatives to be studied, identifies issues to be addressed, and defines a public involvement program. A key feature is intensive public, interest group, and government agency involvement.

Section 106:

Refers to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of proposed federal action on any known or potential historic, architectural or archaeological resources.

MD SHPO:

Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer. The MD SHPO coordinates State participation in identifying historic properties, assessing effects to them, and considering alternatives to avoid or reduce those effects in compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

SIP:

State Implementation Plan. SIPs are the adopted planning documents, which determine how the state will meet federal air quality standards. A SIP exists for each of six criteria pollutants identified and considered by USEPA to be the primary air pollutants of concern to human health. The criteria pollutants are: Ozone (O₃); Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}); Carbon Monoxide (CO); Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂); Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂); and Lead (Pb).

Traffic Volume:

The measurement of traffic flow on a particular roadway as expressed in vehicles per day.

TSS:

Total suspended solids. TSS are solids in water that can be trapped by a filter. TSS can include a wide variety of material, such as silt, decaying plant and animal matter, industrial wastes, and sewage. High concentrations of suspended solids can cause many problems for stream health and aquatic life.

USACE:

United States Army Corps of Engineers. An agency of the federal government that regulates the discharge of fill or dredged material into waters of the US, including jurisdictional wetlands, as well as construction activities that could obstruct or impede navigation.

USDA:

United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA serves all Americans, the two percent who farm as well as everyone who eats, wears clothes, lives in a house, or visits a rural area or a national forest. USDA remains committed to assisting America's farmers and ranchers.

USEPA:

United States Environmental Protection Agency. An agency of the federal government responsible for the development and implementation of regulatory policies designed to protect natural and human environmental resources. Responsibilities include implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the development and implementation of the national air quality emissions standards as provided for in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

USFWS:

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal agency responsible for conservation, maintenance and management of the nation's fish and wildlife resources.

USGS:

United States Geological Survey. The USGS, the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior, has natural science expertise and vast earth and biological data holdings to help resolve complex natural resource problems across the Nation.

Wetlands:

An area that is saturated with water and that contains plant and animal life characteristic of water areas. Wetlands are broadly classified according to where they are located. The major classifications are *marine* (oceanic), *estuarine* (tidal), *riverine* (river), *lacustrine* (lake), and *palustrine* (marsh).