



Environmental Impact Statement

Customer Service and Planning Committee

December 9, 2015

What is an EIS?

- ▶ **An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is:**
 - ▶ Full disclosure document
 - ▶ Considers a range of alternatives
 - ▶ Analyzes benefits, impacts and costs of alternatives
 - ▶ Includes mitigation strategies for unavoidable impacts
 - ▶ Documents stakeholder engagement
 - ▶ Demonstrates compliance with other environmental laws and executive orders

Components of an EIS

- ▶ **Purpose and need (transportation needs to be addressed)**
- ▶ **Alternatives analysis**
 - ▶ Transportation modes (i.e., transit, highway)
 - ▶ Highway facility types (i.e., arterial, expressway)
 - ▶ Expressway alignment alternatives
 - ▶ Selection of preferred alternative
- ▶ **Analysis of environmental resources, impacts and mitigation**
- ▶ **Stakeholder engagement (i.e., general public, agencies, communities)**
- ▶ **Project financial plan – *this is separate from the NEPA document but required by FHWA***

Why is an EIS needed?

- ▶ **A project with potential federal “actions” requires an EIS**
 - ▶ Federal funding
 - ▶ Federal permits and approvals
 - ▶ Federal Highway Administration
 - ▶ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - ▶ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - ▶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ **Consideration of a combination of transportation needs, potential environmental effects and stakeholder interest**



Past Project History

Project	NEPA Document	Year Complete	Partnering Agencies
I-355	Environmental Impact Statement	1986	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tollway
I-355 South Extension	Environmental Impact Statement	2002	IDOT, FHWA
I-294/I-57 Interchange	Environmental Assessment	2009	IDOT, Tollway, FHWA
EOWA	EIS Tier 1	2010	IDOT, FHWA
	EIS Tier 2	2012	IDOT, Tollway, FHWA, FAA

Illinois 53/120 EIS

- ▶ **Joint project between IDOT and the Tollway**
 - ▶ Memorandum of Understanding with IDOT on management structure and staff
 - ▶ Multi-year process

- ▶ **Stakeholder involvement process**
 - ▶ Local Advisory Committee
 - ▶ Public meetings/hearings, agency/community meetings, website, newsletters, speakers bureau

- ▶ **Tiered EIS process to evaluate transportation solutions**
 - ▶ Tier one – conceptual analysis
 - ▶ Tier two – detailed analysis



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



THANK YOU
