



CHESAPEAKE BAY CROSSING STUDY — TIER 1 NEPA —



FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT and RECORD OF DECISION

MARCH 2022



Maryland
Transportation
Authority



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

CHESAPEAKE BAY CROSSING STUDY: TIER 1 NEPA

Maryland

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND RECORD OF DECISION

Submitted Pursuant to:
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By:
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
and
MARYLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

In Cooperation with:
US Army Corps of Engineers, US Environmental Protection Agency,
US Coast Guard, National Marine Fisheries Service,
Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources,
and the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration

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The Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study: Tier 1 NEPA analysis considered corridors for providing additional capacity and access across the Chesapeake Bay in order to improve mobility, travel reliability and safety at the existing Bay Bridge. The Study evaluated potential new corridor alternatives, including an assessment of existing and potentially expanded transportation infrastructure needed to support additional capacity, improve travel times, and accommodate maintenance activities, while considering financial viability and environmental responsibility. This combined Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision includes responses to public and agency comments received during the comment period on the Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (February 23 through May 17, 2021). This combined document also provides additional information concerning the analysis of corridor alternatives and anticipated environmental effects based on public and agency input. On the basis of all this information and the entire Study administrative record, FHWA and MDTA select Corridor 7 as the Preferred Corridor that best meets the Tier 1 Study Purpose and Need.

CHESAPEAKE **BAY CROSSING STUDY** — TIER 1 NEPA —

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

MARCH 2022



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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACS	American Community Survey
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
AET	All Electronic Tolling

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

APE	Area of Potential Effects
BMC	Baltimore Metropolitan Council
BCS	Bay Crossing Study
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
CAA	Clean Air Act
CARA	Corridor Alternatives Retained for Analysis
CAV	Connected and Automated Vehicle
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH ₄	Methane
CHART	Coordinated Highways Action Response Teams
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EJ	Environmental Justice
EO	Executive Order
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
EV	Electric Vehicle
FAST (Act)	Fixing America's Surface Transportation
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Administration
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIDS	Forest Interior Dwelling Species
FIRM	Federal Insurance Rate Map
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICM	Interagency Coordination Meeting
iPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
JPA	Joint Permit Application
LOS	Level of Service
MCCC	Maryland Commission on Climate Change
MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment
MDNR	Maryland Department of Natural Resources

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

MDOT	Maryland Department of Transportation
MDP	Maryland Department of Planning
MDTA	Maryland Transportation Authority
MDTA-RPCA	Maryland Transportation Authority-Recommended Preferred Corridor
MHHW	Mean Higher High Water
MHT	Maryland Historical Trust
MOA	Modal and Operational Alternative
MSAT	Mobile Source Air Toxics
MSTM	Maryland Statewide Transportation Model
MTA	Maryland Transit Administration
NATA	National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSA	Noise-Sensitive Area
PCA	Preferred Corridor Alternative
PM	Particulate Matter
PM _{2.5}	Fine Particulate Matter
ROD	Record of Decision
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
SCA	Selected Corridor Alternative
SHA	State Highway Administration
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SSPRA	Sensitive Species Project Review Areas
TSM/TDM	Transportation System Management / Travel Demand Management
TSMO	Transportation Systems Management and Operations
TSO	Transportation Secretary's Office
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCG	United States Coast Guard
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VPD	Vehicles per Day
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
ZEEVIC	Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council
ZEV	Zero Emission Vehicle