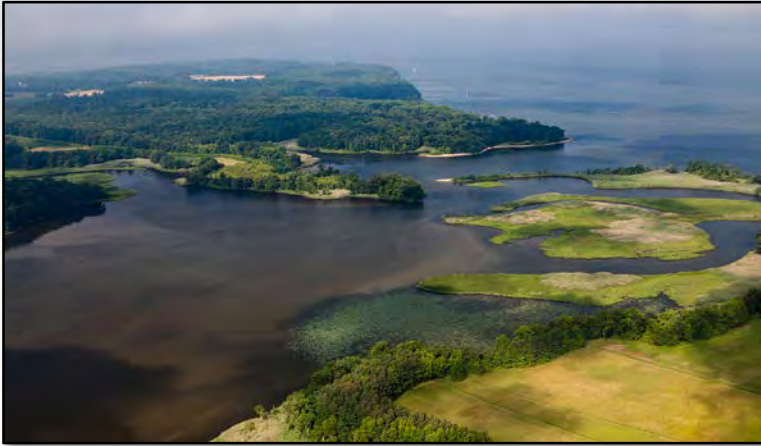


Environmental Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is Federal legislation that applies to projects receiving federal funding or approval. NEPA requires consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives and ensures that environmental agencies and the public are informed and involved in the consideration of environmental impacts. The MDTA and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are following a tiered NEPA process.



Tier 1 (current study)	Tier 2 (future study)
Establish Purpose and Need	Refine Purpose and Need
Evaluate two-mile wide corridors across the Bay (using broad-scale engineering and environmental information)	Identify alignments within the Preferred Corridor Alternative identified in Tier 1 Include more detailed engineering of alternatives and specific assessment of potential environmental impacts
Include public involvement and comment	Include public involvement and comment
Identify Preferred Corridor Alternative	Select a Preferred Alignment within corridor
Prepare Tier 1 EIS	Prepare Tier 2 EIS

Tier 1 includes a broad-scale review of engineering and environmental issues to narrow the scope of this complex project prior to more detailed analyses in Tier 2.