



DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - STATUS



301 US 301 Project Development

What is NEPA?

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 requires the preparation of an environmental analysis for federal actions or undertakings using federal funds.

NEPA Requirements:

NEPA requires the federal government to use all practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony. NEPA requires federal agencies to incorporate environmental considerations in their planning and decision-making through a systematic interdisciplinary approach. Specifically, all federal agencies are to prepare detailed statements (Environmental Impact Statements) assessing the environmental impact of and alternatives to major federal actions significantly affecting the environment. NEPA-related hearings or public meetings are required. The lead agencies must also consider all comments from the public and other parties received during the formal comment period. NEPA requires federal agencies to lend appropriate support to initiatives and programs designed to anticipate and prevent a decline in the quality of the environment.

What is an EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement is an assessment of the environmental impacts of various alternatives to a project. An EIS is required by the federal government under NEPA for certain federal actions that could have a significant impact on the natural, socioeconomic, or cultural environment.

An EIS is a full disclosure document that details the process through which a transportation project was developed and includes the following important sections:

- Purpose and Need**
Defining purpose and need is the first step in the NEPA process. It provides an explanation for why a project is being pursued.
- Alternatives (Including No-Build)**
The design and details for each build alternative and the no-build are described.
- Affected Environment**
The affected environment includes description of potential areas that would be impacted as a result of the project; this includes the socioeconomic, natural, and cultural environment.
- Environmental Consequences**
How each alternative would impact the socioeconomic, natural and cultural environment is described.
- Comments and Coordination**
All formal comments made during the public comment period (held after the DEIS is submitted) are included along with agency comments made in response to each public comment. A description of all agency coordination occurring throughout is also included.

The EIS Process

The EIS process is completed in the following steps:



- The NOI is published in the Federal Register by the lead Federal agency and signals the initiation of the process. The NOI for the US 301 EIS was issued on February 3, 2005 in the Federal Register.
- Scoping is an open process involving the public and other Federal, state and local agencies, commences immediately to identify the major and important issues for consideration during the study.
- Public involvement and agency coordination continues throughout the entire process.
- The draft EIS (DEIS) provides a detailed description of the proposal, purpose and need, reasonable alternatives, affected environment and environmental effects.
- Following a formal comment period the final EIS (FEIS) is issued. The FEIS addresses the comments on the DEIS and identifies the selected alternative.
- Once the FEIS is published, a minimum 30-day waiting period is required before a Record of Decision (ROD) can be issued. A ROD notifies the public of the alternative that the agency has selected to proceed with and the reasons for that decision.

US 301 Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The US 301 EIS

The DEIS was completed and made available to resource agencies and the public on November 17, 2006. Following the Federal requirements as described under NEPA, the DEIS includes as an evaluation of all the engineering and environmental analysis performed to date on the project.

- Chapter I - describes the project purpose and need.
- Chapter II - details each proposed alternative including no-build.
- Chapter III - describes the environmental resources and consequences (including socio-economic environment, cultural resources, and natural environment).
- Chapter IV - includes formal comments and agency coordination.
- Chapter V - outlines the recommended preferred alternative.

Key Findings:

Impacts for the US 301 project are evaluated in Chapter III of the DEIS. Impacts include analysis of:

- Socioeconomic Resources**
The Yellow Alternative would impact the most properties (377 total- including full and partial acquisitions and total relocations for residences, businesses and other properties). The Brown North Option and Brown South Option would impact the least properties (100 each). Both Brown Options would impact the Summit Airport and their FAA approved expansion plans. (FAA designated reliever airport, 85 employees, 100 based aircraft, State Police helicopter operations) - FAA likely to oppose Brown Alternatives
- Cultural Resources**
The Yellow Alternative is the only alternative that would impact historic properties. The impacts on architectural resources (buildings, structures), objects, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, and districts, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places are presented in detail on Display Board No. 10.
- Air Quality**
A comparison of the No-Build Alternative to the build alternatives shows that CO concentrations generally remain the same. There are slight increases or decreases in CO concentrations that can be attributed to shifts in the roadway alignments and altered traffic patterns on existing and proposed roadways. Air Quality analysis and potential impacts are presented in detail on Display Board No. 8.
- Noise**
Noise impact analysis in residential areas shows that the Purple Alternative would have the most noise impacts (108). Green South Option would have the least noise impacts (63). Residential noise impacts are presented in detail on Display Board No. 9.
- Natural Resources**
Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species
- All of the Alternatives would have impacts to potentially occupied bog turtle habitat. Refer to Display Board #11.
Wetlands
- The Brown South Option would impact the least amount of ACOE wetlands (18.5 acres). The Yellow Alternative would impact the highest amount of ACOE wetlands (50.5 acres). Potential impacts on Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species are presented in detail on Display Board No. 11.
Waters of the US
- The Yellow Alternative would impact the highest amount of Waters of the US (20,708 linear feet). The Brown South Option would impact the least amount of Waters of the US (14,276 linear feet).
Forestland
- The Brown South Option would impact the most forestland (51.0 acres). The Green North Option would impact the least amount of forestland (34.1 acres).
Hydric Soils
- The Yellow Alternative impacts the most hydric soils (158 acres). The Brown South Option would impact the least hydric soils (115 acres).

	YELLOW	PURPLE with SPUR	BROWN	GREEN with SPUR	ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ALTERNATIVES IMPACT MATRIX NOVEMBER 2006
Number of Properties Impacted	377	100	100	100	
Number of Properties Relocated	12	11	11	11	
Number of Properties Acquired	12	11	11	11	
Number of Properties Impacted	12	11	11	11	
Number of Properties Relocated	12	11	11	11	
Number of Properties Acquired	12	11	11	11	
Number of Properties Impacted	12	11	11	11	
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