

---

**Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT)  
Planning and Environment Linkages Study (PEL Study)  
Charles County and Prince George's County, Maryland  
*Draft Agency Coordination Plan***

*DRAFT, PRE-DECISIONAL, DELIBERATIVE*

**October 15, 2024**

*Revised January 28, 2025; February 4, 2025; **May 21, 2025***

## Introduction

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration (MTA), in coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), is conducting the Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) Planning and Environment Linkages Study (PEL Study) to evaluate transit alternatives along MD 5/US 301, from the Branch Avenue Metro Station in Prince George's County into the Waldorf-White Plains area of Charles County (see **Figure 1**). The PEL Study will build off previous planning efforts beginning in 1996, and most recently 2017, which considered alternatives at different levels of detail. Primary outcomes will be the preparation of a draft purpose and need, and a list of reasonable alternatives that may move forward for evaluation in a future environmental review as required in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*, as amended (NEPA). MTA anticipates utilizing FTA funding for the future NEPA study and anticipates FTA's role to remain the lead agency.

Consistent with the provisions of both Title 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 139(f)(4)(E) and 23 U.S.C. Section 168, MTA intends to use information and decisions developed in the SMRT PEL Study (such as the draft purpose and need, resource impacts, and the elimination of unreasonable alternatives) to be carried forward into future environmental review under NEPA. While final conclusions for alternatives would not be made until the NEPA process, by following the PEL approach, the SMRT PEL Study will narrow the range of alternatives by identifying those that are not feasible (i.e., those that have fatal flaws) or do not meet the draft purpose and need. The planning analysis conducted during this PEL Study will be thorough and objective. The rationale for decision-making - *including the elimination of unreasonable alternatives* - will be well documented, which can be subsequently used by agencies in future federal permit applications as appropriate.

## Purpose of the Agency Coordination Plan

**The environmental provisions in 23 U.S.C §139 require that lead agencies establish a plan for coordinating public and agency participation and comment on the environmental review process for a project.** In advance of future environmental reviews, this Agency Coordination Plan (ACP) has been developed to define the roles and guide coordination activities through the duration of the SMRT PEL Study with environmental/regulatory agencies that may be cooperating or participating agencies under NEPA in future environmental review.

Integrating transportation planning and environmental screening early leads to value-added projects that have undergone stakeholder and public review with a collaborative interagency approach. This method lends itself to early problem identification and solving, requiring less duplication of effort in the NEPA process and potentially accelerating project delivery and minimizing overall costs. This ACP establishes a framework for coordinating among federal, state, and local agencies to comply with NEPA and meet other regulatory requirements in the development of the SMRT PEL Study. The ACP will ensure early agency involvement consistent with 23 CFR §771.111, serving as a living document that will be updated as the PEL Study progresses. The goal of the ACP is to ensure that agencies and key stakeholders are involved in and/or informed of Study progress and key decision points.

## Executive Order (E.O.) 14154 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Interim Final Rule

Executive Order (E.O.) 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (issued January 20, 2025), rescinded E.O. 11911, *Relating to Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality*, which amended E.O. 11514, *Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality*, and directed the

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to promulgate regulations for implementing NEPA and required Federal agencies to comply with those regulations. CEQ subsequently concluded that it may lack authority to issue binding rules on agencies in the absence of the now-rescinded E.O. 11191, which CEQ cited as authority in 1978 when it first issued its NEPA regulations. As a result, CEQ published an Interim Final Rule in the Federal Register (effective April 11, 2025) (90 FR 11221 and 10610), removing NEPA implementing regulations from the CFR (40 CFR parts 1500-1508).

E.O. 14154 also directed CEQ to provide guidance to agencies on implementing NEPA to expedite permitting approvals and meet deadlines established in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA), and Federal agencies must revise (or establish) their NEPA implementing procedures. To address this, CEQ released their February 19, 2025 *Memorandum on the Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act* stating that while revisions to NEPA implementing procedures are ongoing, agencies should follow their existing practices and procedures for implementing NEPA consistent with the text of NEPA as amended by the FRA, E.O. 14154, current CEQ guidance, and CEQ's final 2020 rule "*Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act*"

Therefore, based on the above understanding of regulatory changes, CEQ guidance on the implementation of NEPA, and Cooperating Agency feedback, this Agency Coordination Plan (May 20, 2025) has been revised to remove references to 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 and instead cites statutory authorities and U.S. Department of Transportation regulations for implementing NEPA.

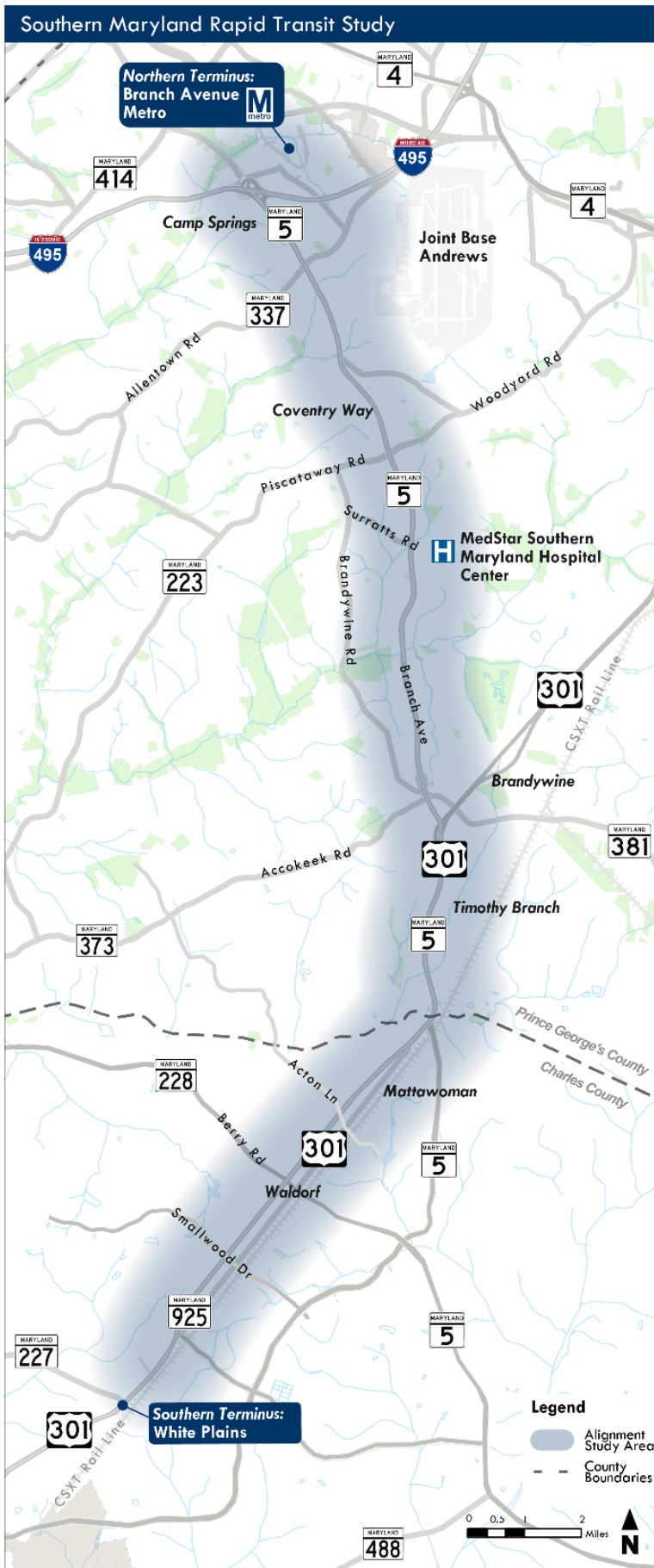


Figure 1. SMRT Study Corridor along MD 5 / US 301 from Branch Avenue Metro Station in Prince George's County, Maryland to the Waldorf-White Plains area in Charles County, Maryland.

### Lead Agencies

FTA will serve as the Federal Lead Agency with MTA serving as the Local Project Sponsor and Joint Lead Agency. As codified in 23 U.S.C. 139, roles of “lead agency” and “local project sponsor” are as follows:

- **Lead Agency:** A Federal Lead Agency is defined to include the Department of Transportation (or designated modal administration serving as Federal lead agency) and joint lead agencies may be designated in accordance with NEPA.
- **Local Project Sponsor:** A State or local governmental entity receiving funds under Title 23 or Chapter 53 of Title 49 for the project shall serve as a joint lead agency with the Department for purposes of preparing any environmental document under NEPA.

### Lead Agency Responsibilities:

- Per 23 U.S.C. 139(c) and 23 CFR §771.109, Lead agency responsibilities include: overseeing development, compliance and adoption of NEPA documents; facilitating the project review process; and considering and responding to comments from participating agencies.
- Lead agency responsibilities also include: requesting participation of cooperating agencies at the earliest practicable time; meeting with and considering inputs of cooperating agencies to the extent practicable; determining purpose and need and alternatives in consultation with cooperating agencies; and establishing and updating schedules for proposed actions in consultation with joint lead, cooperating, and participating agencies.

### Agency Participation, Roles and Responsibilities

The Lead Agencies (FTA/MTA) will engage three levels of agency involvement throughout the PEL Study including “Cooperating”, “Participating”, and “Notified” agencies. The levels of agency involvement are defined below, and the identified agencies/level of involvement are provided in **Table 1**. Cooperating and participating agencies involved in the PEL Study are anticipated to continue their involvement during a potential future NEPA study and will be requested to provide feedback on planning products (draft purpose and need, preliminary alternatives). During a potential future NEPA study, the project may adhere to the Maryland Transportation Environmental Review Process (TERP), which is an established process that includes concurrent regulatory coordination for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

- **Cooperating Agencies:** Per 23 CFR 771.111(d), The Lead agencies may invite other agencies that have an interest in the action to participate, and any such agencies with special expertise concerning the action may also be invited to become Cooperating agencies. Agencies with jurisdiction by law concerning the action must be invited to become Cooperating agencies. These agencies include those Federal and State agencies that would ultimately be responsible for identifying and permitting the preferred alternative, pursuant to NEPA, Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, and/or the MD Nontidal Wetlands Protection Act *and/or* MD Tidal Wetlands Act. In addition, other key federal and state agencies with regulatory or management jurisdiction over sensitive resources will be invited to act as Cooperating Agencies in accordance with 23 U.S.C. §139(d)(5), Sections 107(a)(2) and (a)(3) of NEPA (as amended by the FRA) and 42 USC 4336a(a)(2) & (3).

Responsibilities of Cooperating Agencies include: participating in NEPA at the earliest possible time; participating in the scoping process; developing information and providing analysis on environmental matters within their areas of special expertise; providing staff support when requested; normally covering costs of involvement with their own funds (except for major activities as may be budgeted by lead agencies); consulting and collaborating to meet schedule requirements and respond to issues; and jointly issuing environmental documents with the lead agency to the extent practicable. Cooperating agencies that are authorized to develop and enforce environmental standards are requested to promote informed decision making by providing specific comments regarding the data, sources, methodologies, and alternatives in an environmental impact statement.

- **Participating Agencies:** Per 23 U.S.C. §139, these federal, state, tribal, regional, and local agencies that have jurisdiction over a potentially affected resource, could be involved with issuing a permit or approval, have expertise or information relevant to the Study, or otherwise may intend to submit comments on the Study. These agencies will be invited to participate in the environmental review of the project. Non-governmental organizations and private entities cannot serve as participating agencies.

Participating agency responsibilities are outlined in 23 U.S.C. 139 (d) to include: providing comments, methodologies and studies within the agency's jurisdiction or expertise; and (under 23 U.S.C. 139 (h)(3), identifying, as early as practicable, any environmental concerns or socioeconomic impacts that could delay or otherwise affect permitting or approvals needed for the project.

- **Notified Agencies:** All other federal, state, tribal, or local agencies who could have an interest in the project, or that have a role that is yet to be determined will receive notifications of proposed NEPA-related actions, hearings, and other public engagement and regarding the availability of environmental documents for review by those agencies or individuals who may be affected by their proposed actions. These agencies will receive notification of Project milestones concurrently with the public. Methods of outreach and specific milestone notification points will be identified as part of the public involvement plan. Notification will also be provided to additional entities and persons upon request.

An **Interagency Working Group (IAWG)** has been established specifically for the SMRT PEL Study, which includes the lead agencies (FTA/MTA), and various participating and cooperating agencies (**Table 1**). IAWG meetings will be conducted monthly (or on an as-needed basis) depending upon the level of study activity. These meetings serve as a platform for agencies to share comments with the Study Team specific to regulated resources under their jurisdiction in the SMRT corridor, and provide input on study milestones, schedule, and progress. Additionally, the IAWG will have the opportunity to discuss potential impacts, avoidance and minimization geared at ultimately reaching agreement to facilitate potential future approvals and permits, and provide timely review of project documentation. At the discretion of the lead agencies (FTA/MTA), members of the Intergovernmental Project Committee (IPC) and/or the Technical Advisory Working Group (TAWG) may be invited to IAWG meetings. The IPC and TAWG are described below.

In addition to the IAWG, the following committees and groups have been formed to help guide the Study: an Intergovernmental Project Committee (IPC) and a Technical Advisory Working Group (TAWG) (see **Table 2** for a matrix of members).

- The **Intergovernmental Project Committee (IPC)** is comprised of nine (9) members and was formed to provide oversight, strategic direction on alternatives, and guide implementation of an executed *Framework Agreement*, including Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) (3), MTA (1), Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) (1), Prince George’s County (2), and Charles County (2).
- The **Technical Advisory Working Group (TAWG)** provides technical review and recommendations to assist in development and evaluation of proposed improvements, and will participate in bi-weekly meetings (or on an as-needed basis). Members include: the Intergovernmental Project Committee (IPC) (9); Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG); Maryland Department of Planning (MDP); and major stakeholders such as Joint Base Andrews (JBA), Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD) and MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital. Additional TAWG members may be identified as the Study progresses.

It is envisioned that information and materials will be discussed and vetted through meetings with the IPC and TAWG prior to bringing information to the IAWG. All members of the above-described committees and working groups will have ample opportunity to review and provide input into planning products prior to information being disseminated to the public. Public comment will be obtained via multiple methods including surveys, the project website, pop-up meetings, and open houses (see **Table 3**). Consistent with 23 §139 (g)(1)(F), this draft ACP with a schedule as shown in Table 3 (and any future modifications to the schedule) is available to the public via the Study’s website at: [SMRTMaryland.gov](http://SMRTMaryland.gov).

**Table 1. Federal, State, Regional, and Local Agencies and Roles<sup>1</sup>**

Role	Federal Agencies	Maryland / State / Local Agencies
<b>Lead Agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Transit Administration (FTA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)</li> </ul>
<b>Cooperating Agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - Baltimore District</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</li> <li>• Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA)</li> <li>• Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)</li> </ul>
<b>Participating Agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</li> <li>• Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)</li> <li>• Department of Defense – Joint Base Andrews (JBA)</li> <li>• Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) / Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)</li> <li>• Charles County</li> <li>• Prince George’s County</li> <li>• Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)</li> <li>• Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)</li> </ul>
<b>Notified Agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)</li> <li>• Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)</li> <li>• Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</li> <li>• National Park Service (NPS)</li> <li>• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (MDHCD)</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Commerce (MDC)</li> <li>• Maryland Board of Public Works – Wetlands Division (BPW)</li> <li>• Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA)</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM)</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)</li> <li>• MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)</li> <li>• Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs</li> <li>• Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA)</li> <li>• Maryland Department of Labor</li> <li>• Maryland Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)</li> <li>• Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland (TCCSMD)</li> <li>• Prince George’s County Municipalities<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Charles County Municipalities<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• CSX</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Agencies and stakeholders may be added or change designation as the PEL Study progresses, resources are identified, and jurisdiction is defined.

<sup>2</sup> Municipalities of Prince George’s County include Berwyn Heights, Bladensburg, Bowie, Brentwood, Capital Heights, Cheverly, College Park, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, District Heights, Eagle Harbor, Edmonston, Fairmont Heights, Forest Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hyattsville, Landover Hills, Laurel, Morningside, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, North Brentwood, Riverdale Park, Seat Pleasant, University Park, and Upper Marlboro.

<sup>3</sup> Municipalities of Charles County include Indian Head, La Plata, and Port Tobacco.

**Table 2. SMRT Committee and Working Group Matrix**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Intergovernmental Project Committee (IPC)</b>	<b>Technical Advisory Working Group (TAWG)</b>	<b>Interagency Working Group (IAWG)</b>
<b>Federal Transit Administration (FTA)</b>			X (Federal Lead)
<b>Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT TSO)</b>	X (1)	X	X (Attendee)
<b>Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)</b>	X (3)	X	X (State Lead)
<b>State Highway Administration (SHA)</b>	X (1)	X	X (Cooperating)
<b>Prince George’s County</b>	X (2)	X	X (Participating)
<b>Charles County</b>	X (2)	X	X (Participating)
<b>Maryland-National Capital Park &amp; Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)</b>		X	X (Participating)
<b>Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)</b>		X	X (Participating)
<b>Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)</b>		X	X (Participating)
<b>Joint Base Andrews (JBA)</b>		X	X (Participating)
<b>Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)</b>		X	
<b>Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland (TCCSMD)</b>		X	
<b>MedStar Southern Maryland Hospital</b>		X	
<b>US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)</b>			X (Cooperating)
<b>Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)</b>			X (Cooperating)
<b>Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)</b>			X (Cooperating)
<b>Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)</b>			X (Cooperating)
<b>Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)</b>			X (Participating)
<b>US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)</b>			X (Participating)
<b>Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)</b>			X (Participating)
<b>Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)</b>			X (Participating)
<b>Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)</b>			X (Participating)

**PEL Study Schedule, Key Milestones, and Decision Points**

FTA and MTA will regularly engage with the IAWG throughout the PEL Study at monthly IAWG meetings (or as needed) as the main point of agency coordination. MTA will present information at the IAWG meetings, which will be attended by Lead, Cooperating, and Participating Agencies. Presentations at IAWG meetings will focus on the PEL approach, as well as the results of major findings at key milestones and seek agency input throughout the process. FTA and MTA are not anticipating formal concurrence points during the PEL Study. In lieu of formal concurrence, FTA and MTA will seek agreement/comments on major decisions from the Cooperating and Participating agencies at PEL Study milestones including:

1. Agency Coordination Plan (ACP) and Schedule
2. Draft Purpose and Need
3. Preliminary Range of Alternatives
4. Alternatives Screening Approach
5. Alternatives Screening Results (i.e., elimination of unreasonable alternatives and identification of reasonable alternatives for subsequent NEPA analysis)

MTA will aim to provide agencies with materials for comment two weeks prior to presenting that information at an IAWG meeting to allow each agency adequate time to review and prepare comments for discussion at the meeting. Information FTA and MTA is seeking comments on will be provided to the agencies a minimum of 30 calendar days prior to MTA’s request. Agencies that identify a major issue of concern are asked to contact MTA no later than 10 business days prior to the planned agreement/comment request to discuss the issue and identify what is needed to resolve the concern. MTA will provide an errata sheet of agency comments and how they were addressed along with each revised document. MTA will follow up with agencies to ensure all comments and any outstanding agreements from Cooperating Agencies are received. **Table 3** includes an anticipated schedule for coordinating with Cooperating, Participating, and Notified Agencies, and the public<sup>4</sup>.

**Table 3: Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) PEL Study Anticipated Coordination Schedule and Major Coordination Points**

**Study Announcement & Initiation**

	<b>Agencies Involved</b>	<b>Coordination Method</b>	<b>Coordination Required</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)</b>
Bus Tour	MTA, SHA, WMATA, MWCOG, Charles County, Prince George’s County, (TCCSMD)	Tour Bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss existing and future conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 24, 2024 (Actual)</li> </ul>
Major Stakeholder Kickoff Meetings	WMATA, MedStar Southern MD Hospital, MWCOG, JBA, Brandywine Crossing Shopping Center (and others as they are identified)	Teams Meetings and In-Person Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss existing and future conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 2024 throughout Study</li> </ul>
Notification to Public	IPC and TAWG Members, IAWG, Notified Agencies	Email Blast, Press Release, Social Media, Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request feedback (see Public Meeting #1, below)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 2025 (Actual)</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Note: In addition to coordination items listed above, MTA will provide agencies with draft materials electronically for review throughout the study as appropriate. IAWG meetings will not be open to the public. All dates are subject to change; affected parties will be notified and the Agency Coordination Plan with schedule updated.

**Agency Coordination Plan (ACP) (with schedule) – living document**

	<b>Agencies Involved</b>	<b>Coordination Method</b>	<b>Coordination Required</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)</b>
Combined Kickoff Meeting with IPC/TAWG/IAWG	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce agencies to PEL Study, provide background, introduce various committees and working groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 20, 2024 (Actual)</li> </ul>
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce agencies to draft ACP, schedule, anticipated roles /responsibilities (+ agency invitations Leadership Ladder; 2017 Environmental Highlights; BRT &amp; LRT; Draft Purpose &amp; Need Elements)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting #1: November 1, 2024 (Actual)</li> <li></li> </ul>
ACP Input and Agreement	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Email Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Obtain comments and agreement on draft ACP w/Schedule</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 14, 2025 (Actual)</li> </ul>

**Draft Purpose & Need**

	<b>Agencies Involved</b>	<b>Coordination Method</b>	<b>Coordination Required</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)</b>
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meetings	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present and Discuss Draft Purpose &amp; Need / Deficiencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting #2 (November 1, 2024), Meeting #3 (January 31, 2025), Meeting #4 (April 11, 2025), and Meeting #5 (May 30, 2025) (Actual)</li> </ul>
Purpose & Need Input and Agreement	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Email Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Obtain comments from all agencies, and agreement from Cooperating Agencies, on Draft Purpose &amp; Need / Deficiencies</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 8, 2025</li> <li>(Actual)</li> </ul>

**Preliminary Range of Alternatives**

	<b>Agencies Involved</b>	<b>Coordination Method</b>	<b>Coordination Required</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)</b>
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, &	Teams Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present and Discuss Preliminary Alternatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting #3 (January 31, 2025), Meeting</li> </ul>

Meetings	Participating Agencies			#4 (April 11, 2025), and Meeting #5 (May 30, 2025) (Actual)
Preliminary Range of Alternatives Input and Agreement	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Email Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Obtain comments from all agencies, and agreement from Cooperating Agencies, on Preliminary Alternatives</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 30, 2025</li> </ul>

### Resource Methodologies

	Agencies Involved	Coordination Method	Coordination Required	Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)
Combined IPC/IAWG/IAWG Meetings	Various agencies based upon jurisdiction and expertise (all within IPC, TAWG, IAWG)	Teams Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe resource methodologies prepared to support future technical analyses</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting #3 (January 31, 2025), Meeting #4 (April 11, 2025), and Meeting #5 (May 30, 2025) March - May 2025 (Actual)</li> </ul>
Resource Methodology Input		Email Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Obtain methodology comments from agencies with jurisdiction over resources or expertise with regards to resources.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 2025 (Actual)</li> </ul>

### Public Meeting #1

	Agencies Involved	Coordination Method	Coordination Required	Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)
Combined IPC/IAWG/IAWG Meeting	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preview of Public Meeting #1 Materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting #5 (May 30, 2025) (Actual)</li> </ul>
Public Meeting #1 (In-Person / Virtual)	Stakeholders, agencies, public	Email Blast, Press Release, Social Media, Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present Schedule, Draft Purpose &amp; Need, Existing Conditions collected to date; Preliminary Range of Alternatives; Range of Impacts Matrix</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2025 (Actual)</li> </ul>
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss comments received from Public Meeting #1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting #6 (June 27, 2025)</li> </ul>

### Alternatives Screening Approach

	<b>Agencies Involved</b>	<b>Coordination Method</b>	<b>Coordination Required</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)</b>
TAWG Meeting(s)	TAWG Only	Teams Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present and discuss alternatives screening approach</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June-July 2025</li> </ul>
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting(s)	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present and discuss alternatives screening approach</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting #6 (June 27, 2025) and Meeting #7 (July 25, 2025)</li> </ul>
Alternatives Screening Approach Input and Agreement		Email Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Obtain comments from all agencies on alternatives screening approach</b></li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2025</li> </ul>

### Alternatives Screening Results (i.e., Alternatives moving to NEPA)

	<b>Agencies Involved</b>	<b>Coordination Method</b>	<b>Coordination Required</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)</b>
TAWG Meeting(s)	TAWG	Teams Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present and discuss alternatives screening results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August – September 2025</li> </ul>
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting(s)	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present and discuss alternatives screening results</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting #8 (August 29, 2025), Meeting #9 (September 26, 2025), and Meeting #10 (October 31, 2025)</li> </ul>
Alternatives Screening Results Input and Agreement	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Email Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Obtain comments from all agencies, and agreement from Cooperating agencies, on alternatives screening approach</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September-October 2025</li> </ul>

### Natural Resources Permitting Approach

	<b>Agencies Involved</b>	<b>Coordination Method</b>	<b>Coordination Required</b>	<b>Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)</b>
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting(s)	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss general permitting approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting #11 (November 28, 2025) and Meeting #12 (December 26, 2025)</li> </ul>

Agency-Specific Meetings	Permitting Agencies	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedule separate agency meetings with permitting agencies as appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 2025 through future NEPA</li> </ul>
--------------------------	---------------------	---------------	---	---

### Public Meeting #2

	Agencies Involved	Coordination Method	Coordination Required	Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)
Combined IPC/IAWG/IAWG Meeting	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preview of Public Meeting #2 Materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting #11 (November 28, 2025) (Actual)</li> </ul>
Public Meeting #2 (In-Person / Virtual)	Stakeholders, agencies, public	Email Blast, Press Release, Social Media, Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Present Schedule, Draft Purpose &amp; Need, Existing Conditions collected to date; Alternatives Screening Results, Cost Estimates, Funding Strategy, Alternatives Moving to NEPA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 2025</li> </ul>
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meeting	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss comments received from Public Meeting #2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting #13 (January 30, 2026)</li> </ul>

### PEL Report\*

	Agencies Involved	Coordination Method	Coordination Required	Anticipated Timeframes (and Actual Dates)
Combined IPC/TAWG/IAWG Meetings	IPC and TAWG Members, Lead, Cooperating, & Participating Agencies	Teams Meetings and Email Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide input on contents for inclusion in PEL Report</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting #13 (January 30, 2026), Meeting #14 (February 27, 2026), and Meeting #15 (March 27, 2026)</li> </ul>

\*After Public Meeting #2, the PEL Report will be published in coordination with the initiation of a NEPA Study, which is anticipated for early 2026 (March timeframe). The level of NEPA documentation will determine whether a Notice of Intent (NOI) is required.

### Specific Coordination between Lead Agencies

FTA and MTA will hold regular monthly coordination meetings to discuss PEL Study progress and future permitting requirements, and to ensure compliance with NEPA during PEL Study activities. Once screening results and anticipated impacts are known from the solutions moving forward to NEPA, a NEPA document classification will be discussed (e.g., Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement).

## Issue Resolution

The established issue resolution process follows an approach to ensure that agency concerns are addressed efficiently at varying levels of complexity:

- **Level 1:** Agency issues or concerns should first be raised in an IAWG meeting by a designated **IAWG agency member** or through direct staff level interagency coordination.
- **Level 2:** If issue resolution is not achieved in Level 1, the topic will be elevated for discussion in a separate meeting that includes the designated IAWG agency member, a **supervisory level representative(s)** from the agency, and a supervisory level representative(s) from the Lead agencies (FTA/MTA).
- **Level 3:** If issue resolution is still not achieved in Level 2, the agencies' **executive level representative(s)** will be engaged to reach resolution.

A 'Leadership Ladder' has been developed to identify representatives for the resolution of issues at each level. At the discretion of the Lead agencies or at the request of a Cooperating or Participating agency, topic specific meetings may occur outside of an IAWG meeting.