

# US 29 CAC Workshop #12 North, Central, and South CACs Week of July 10, 2017

### What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

- Procedural law that ensures federal agencies evaluate potential environmental effects prior to decision-making;
- Triggered by federal action, such as the Federal Transit
   Administration (FTA) TIGER Grant for the US 29 BRT Project;
- Three levels of documentation, chosen based on significance of environmental impacts.

#### How does NEPA apply to the US 29 BRT Project?

- Because project impacts are anticipated to be insignificant, the project qualifies for a "D-List" Categorical Exclusion (CE);
- A CE Worksheet is used to demonstrate that conditions for the CE are satisfied and significant impacts would not result;
- The CE Worksheet includes the project's description, Purpose and Need, and analysis of potential impacts to a range of environmental resources.

## What US 29 BRT Project Coordination has occurred?

- MCDOT has coordinated regularly with FTA and other agency and public stakeholders throughout the simultaneous NEPA documentation / project design processes:
  - o Public Open Houses
  - CAC Workshops
  - o Agency Stakeholder Meetings
  - o FTA Field Tour of US 29 Study Corridor

Categorical Exclusion

Environmental Assessment

Environmental Impact Statement

#### **CE Worksheet**

- ☑ Air Quality
- ☑ Cultural/Historical
- ☑ Hazardous Materials
- ☑ Land Use
- ☑ Natural Resources
- ✓ Noise
- ☑ Socioeconomic
- ✓ Safety and Security
- ✓ Traffic

FTA approval of the US 29 BRT Project CE is expected in late July 2017.

2017 to mid 2018

mid 2018 to late 2019

late 2019 to early 2020

PROJECT DESIGN
NEPA COMPLETION

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

**BEGIN OPERATIONS** 



