

# ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires consideration of potential environmental consequences of transportation improvements, documentation of the analyses, and making the information available to the public for comment before implementation.

Tiering is a staged approach to NEPA that involves the evaluation of broad level programs and issues in an initial (Tier 1) analysis followed by more detailed evaluation of specific improvements in subsequent (Tier 2) analyses.

- The Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the I-66 corridor from US 15 to I-495 was completed in November 2013 through a joint effort by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), VDOT, and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT).
- VDOT, in cooperation with FHWA, used the planning efforts, findings, and decisions from the Tier 1 EIS to frame the elements of this Tier 2 project, which represents a combination of concepts over the 25-mile-long corridor.

Tonight's meeting offers the public an opportunity to provide input on the preliminary design alternatives that have been developed to meet the identified travel needs and to recognize the area's environmental context. There will be a future opportunity/meeting for public review and comment on the Environmental Assessment on potential impacts of the Tier 2 project.

