



Environmental Methodology

Tier 1 vs Tier 2

Activities	Tier 1 Environmental Review Process	Tier 2 Project-level Environmental Reviews
NEPA Class of Action	Tier 1 EIS	EIS, EA, or CE
Purpose and Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine purpose and need from prior feasibility study Consider federal, state, regional, and local needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine purpose and need from Tier 1 Address needs specific to proposed project
Alternatives Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, evaluate, and screen corridors Identify types of proposed transportation facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider specific route alignment and configuration Identify potential design options
Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very conceptual design Typical sections for proposed facility Phased Implementation Plan for smaller proposed projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More refined engineering (typically 15% to 30%) Detailed drawings, vertical profiles, and typical sections Access details and interchange design
Impact Analysis and Mitigation Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad, high-level analysis Relies heavily on readily-available information Primarily GIS-based Includes potential mitigation measures to address likely impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site-specific resource information, impacts, and mitigation requirements Analysis may tier off of Tier 1 documentation, as relevant Supports resource agency determinations
Agency and Public Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies key issues early Build consensus among regional stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of consensus-building through established relationships No surprises anticipated
Proposed Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selects a Preferred Corridor (500 feet wide), type of transportation facility, and Phased Implementation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select well-defined route alignment location, configuration, and right-of-way requirements

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Other Regulatory Compliance	Information Obtained from Existing Sources / Agencies Involved	Detailed Studies and Impact Assessments / Agency Actions

During Tier 1, no final determinations would be made

Section 7 - Endangered Species Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies threatened and endangered species and critical habitat, using information from United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Nevada Department of Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence/absence surveys, species protocol surveys, or additional field studies Biological Assessments as needed USFWS action to provide concurrence
Section 106 - National Historic Preservation Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies potential high sensitivity cultural resources (i.e., historic and archaeological) Development of Section 106 Programmatic Agreement among Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Tribes, and other Consulting Parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Programmatic Agreement from Tier 1 Historic and archaeological surveys Determinations of National Register of Historic Places eligibility Resolution of adverse effects among SHPO, Tribes, and other Consulting Parties
Section 4(f) – USDOT Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies properties protected by Section 4(f) (i.e., publicly owned parks, recreation areas, refuges, and historic sites) Determines risk of “use” of Section 4(f) properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed Section 4(f) Evaluation to determine potential <i>de minimis</i> or use determinations Extensive consultation with FHWA and officials with jurisdiction to identify type of impact

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Section 6(f) – Land and Water Conservation Fund Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies recreational resources protected by Section 6(f) (i.e., established with Land and Water Conservation Funds) Determines risk of conversion of Section 6(f) properties to transportation use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed evaluation of impacts to Section 6(f) resources Development of a replacement plan for properties to be acquired and converted to transportation use in consultation with NPS
Section 404 - Clean Water Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies Waters of the U.S. (WOUS), other surface waters, and 100-year floodplains Includes a qualitative Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) analysis and determination among corridors Early coordination with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delineation of jurisdictional WOUS Analysis of stormwater runoff and drainage requirements Includes formal quantitative LEDPA analysis to support preferred alternative, if an Individual Section 404 permit is required Continued consultation with USACE and NDEP for potential actions
Clean Air Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies non-attainment areas and ambient air quality data Early coordination with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and NDEP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project-level hot-spot analysis Regional air quality conformity analysis Potential actions Continued consultation with USEPA and NDEP for potential actions
Permit Requirements		
All Permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies anticipated Clean Water Act and other permits based on assessment of likely impacts Includes early coordination with permitting agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes draft permit applications for all required permits to meet the 90-day requirement for permit acquisitions from date of Record of Decision