

Baltimore and Potomac (B&P) Tunnel Project

Final Environmental Impact Statement & Section 4(f) Evaluation

Prepared by:

Federal Railroad Administration

Cooperating Agency

Federal Transit Administration

Pursuant to:

National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C §4332 et seq.), and implementing regulations (40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508), Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (49 USC §303); National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC §306101 et seq.) and implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800); Clean Air Act as amended (42 USC §7401 et seq.) and implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93); the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC §1531-1544) and implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 402); the Clean Water Act (33 USC §1251-1387) and implementing regulations (33 CFR Parts 320 to 324 and 40 CFR Part 230); and the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (42 USC §4601).

Date of Approval

/s/
Paul Nissenbaum, Associate Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

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This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Section 4(f) Evaluation describes existing environmental conditions within the Study Area and provides an analysis of impacts on environmental resources from the Baltimore and Potomac (B&P) Tunnel Project. The purpose of the Project is to address the structural and operational deficiencies of the existing B&P Tunnel and to accommodate future high-performance intercity passenger rail service goals for the Northeast Corridor.

Alternatives 3A, 3B and 3C, were carried forward for further analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation. Alternative 3B was identified as the Preferred Alternative. Identification of the Preferred Alternative was based on a comprehensive alternatives development and evaluation process that incorporated public and agency input on the Draft EIS (completed December, 2015).

The Baltimore and Potomac (B&P) Tunnel Project FEIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation are being made available for public review at the B&P Tunnel Project website (www.bptunnel.com).

Printed copies have been placed in the following locations:

Baltimore City Department of Transportation, Transit Bureau
Bentalou Recreation Center
Bon Secours Community Works
Enoch Pratt Library-Central Branch
Enoch Pratt Library-Edmondson Avenue Branch
Enoch Pratt Library-Pennsylvania Avenue Branch
Enoch Pratt Library-Walbrook Branch
John Eager Howard Recreation Center
Maryland Department of Transportation
Maryland Transit Administration

Following the public release of this FEIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation, FRA will impose a waiting period for at least 30 days, until December 27, 2016, before releasing its final decision.