



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

December 27, 2016

Ms. Michelle Fishburne, PE  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Office of Railroad Policy and Development  
USDOT Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject:** Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) & Section 4(f) Evaluation Baltimore & Potomac Tunnel Project CEQ #20160276

Dear Ms. Fishbourne:

In accordance with Section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2) (c), Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7609, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the Section 4(f) evaluation for the Baltimore & Potomac Tunnel Project prepared by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

As you are aware, the FEIS provides assessment of the potential environmental impacts (social, cultural and natural) of the alternatives to rehabilitate or replace the existing Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel. The FEIS provides the detailed environment assessment of the Preferred Alternative and a description of the potential mitigation of the impacts. On February 26, 2016, EPA provided comments of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and rated the alternatives as EC-2 (Environmental Concern/Insufficient Information). EPA's concerns included:

- Soil/debris and hazardous material handling
- Intermediate ventilation plant site selection
- Air quality concerns
- Climate Change resiliency/Green House Gas emissions estimates
- Environmental Justice
- Cultural Resources

In Appendix I of the FEIS, the FRA provided responses to EPA's concerns. EPA appreciates the clarification and the commitments identified in FRA's responses. The FRA should continue to work with the Maryland Historical Trust in developing a Programmatic Agreement addressing the potential



adverse effects to historic properties. When the agreement is finalized, please reference or include it in the project's Record of Decision (ROD). Further, the FRA should include in the Architectural Historic Properties Effect Assessment Report with the NEPA environmental documentation.

As the Baltimore and Potomac project moves forward, EPA suggests the following measures to protect, minimize and mitigate for any potential environmental impacts:

1. The assignment of an environmental monitor to oversee all of the potential environment issues including but not limited to, erosion and sediment, stormwater management, construction debris and hazardous waste handling and disposal, air emissions, noise and vibrations, community relations and cultural resources.
2. Insure and highlight provisions in the Request for Proposal (bidding process) that waste materials handling (soil, construction debris, hazardous waste) be properly disposed of in accordance all applicable regulation.
3. Use of low volatile organic compound (VOC) and/or sustainable architectural materials and supply equipment.
4. Incorporation of energy-efficient supplies whenever feasible.
5. Consideration of a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) approach to tunnel design.
6. Continue to engage the community on project planning, construction sequencing, and traffic pattern changes.
7. Continue to investigate additional measures to reduce noise and vibration levels during construction and operations of the tunnel.
8. Consideration of the use of Green Infrastructure in tunnel surface design as well as streetscaping, park and recreational areas in the affected communities.
9. Commitment in the ROD to Environmental Justice mitigation measures including funding for community development within the affected area, maintaining and improvement to publically owned parks and recreational areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have questions regarding these comments, the staff contact for this project is Kevin Magerr; he can be reached at 215-814-5724 or [Magerr.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:Magerr.kevin@epa.gov)

Sincerely,



Barbara Rudnick  
NEPA Team Leader  
Office of Environmental Programs

