

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS A PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL (PD&E) STUDY?

A Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) Study is the process that ensures early consideration is given to engineering design, project costs, and environmental and social impacts, along with input from the public in the development of a proposed transportation improvement project. When a transportation improvement is considered, the improvement options (called alternatives) are developed with input from the public, local government, and environmental and planning agencies. These alternatives are then analyzed to determine their involvement with the social, natural, and physical environment. The goal of the PD&E process is to select the best alternative that meets both the purpose and needs of the project as well as having the least impact on the environment.

### WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP AFTER THE PD&E STUDY?



Once the PD&E Study is completed, the project moves forward into [Design](#), followed by [Right-of-Way Acquisition](#), and finally [Construction](#). Before the project can move from one stage to the next, funding must be secured for that next phase. Refer to the image above.

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### WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)?

An Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, is a full disclosure environmental report that describes the impacts on the environment as a result of a proposed action, in this case the construction of a new roadway. It also includes consideration of viable alternatives for the project and plans to mitigate any identified negative environmental impacts. The document is required by the [National Environmental Policy Act of 1969](#) on projects in which the federal government is involved. In this project it is being prepared during the PD&E study.