Presented at the October 2025 Open House

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

It covers more than the natural environment! It also looks at effects public health and safety, local economies, housing, schools, transportation systems, cultural and historic resources, wildlife, and community character.

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WHAT

Federal law passed in 1970

Requires agencies to consider effects of actions on human environment

Applies to federal agencies and state and local agencies using federal funds

NEPA helps ensure that:

- Environmental impacts are understood and disclosed.
- The public has a voice in decisions that affect their communities.
- Agencies make informed choices that balance development and environmental protection.

WHY

We will follow the NEPA process to ensure that:

- **You understand** the effects this project will have on the community.
- **You are involved** in the project's development.
- **We understand** how this project may affect you and your community as we make decisions.

DOCUMENTS, CONSULTATIONS, & PERMITS

Depending on the extent of the impacts, one of the following documents may be prepared:

Categorical Exclusion (CE):
For actions known to have no significant impacts.

Environmental Assessment (EA):
A brief analysis to determine if impacts are significant.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):
A detailed study required if significant impacts are likely.

We are currently undergoing a review, called a *'Class of Action determination'*, to determine the appropriate level of documentation.

AGENCY & TRIBAL COLLABORATION

NEPA encourages **coordination between federal, state, tribal, and local agencies.**

We are already coordinating with:

- City of Ketchikan
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- Organized Village of Saxman
- Ketchikan Indian Community

We will also be working with other agencies like FHWA, SHPO, NMFS, USACE and ADF&G as we continue developing this project.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IS KEY

YOUR INPUT MATTERS

NEPA requires that we engage with the Ketchikan community about this project at several key points:

Scoping: Early input from agencies and interested parties helps define what issues should be studied.

Public Meetings: Opportunities to ask questions and share concerns.

Draft Review: For EAs and EISs, you will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft environmental document before it is finalized.

Ways you can stay involved:

- Attend public open houses
- Submit comments to the project team
- Sign up for the project email list at **ketchikanviaducts.com**

WHAT'S NEXT

We are determining what type of environmental document will be required for this project.

We will soon begin agency scoping, which involves reaching out to relevant agencies to ask for their comments on the project.

We will conduct any necessary studies to determine the extent of impacts on things like wildlife, property, and historic properties.

We will apply for all applicable permits from federal, state, and local agencies.

We will continue public outreach through this process.

PRESENTED AT THE OCTOBER 2025 OPEN HOUSE

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by DOT&PF pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated April 13, 2023 and executed by FHWA and DOT&PF.

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