



**Mark Center  
I-395 HOV Ramp at Seminary Road  
City of Alexandria  
Environmental Assessment (EA)**

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## Brief Overview of NEPA Process

- **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)**
- **Preparation of NEPA Documents by VDOT is based on authority granted in FHWA regulations**
- **FHWA's Implementing Regulations for NEPA at 23 CFR 771**
  - EA is prepared for action that is not a CE & does not clearly require EIS
  - EA is subject to FHWA approval before it is made available to the public
  - EA shall be available at the public hearing and for a minimum of 15 days prior to the hearing
  - VDOT policy specifies 30-day public comment period
  - Copies of public comments and VDOT responses provided to FHWA with revised EA and request for FONSI (if applicable)
  - Project shall be scoped with interested parties and the results of public involvement and agency coordination will be summarized in the EA
- **Formal Process for obtaining FHWA concurrence on level of NEPA documentation for proposed action (“NEPA Concurrence”)**

## Environmental Assessment

- Agency identified a purpose and need for proposed action and developed a proposal
- Obtained FHWA concurrence to proceed with an Environmental Assessment (EA)
- EA will evaluate three alternatives in detail for the I-395 HOV Ramp to Seminary Road: (1) No Build (2) Left- and right-turn option onto Seminary Road from the ramp and (3) left-turn only option onto Seminary Road
- Scoping Process underway
- Purpose of tonight's meeting is for interested parties to provide scoping information to the City of Alexandria

## Scoping Process

- For VDOT projects, scoping for an Environmental Assessment is initiated by submitting a scoping letter to interested parties (typically local, state and federal agencies)
- Objective is to identify the important issues related to a proposed action
- Information about social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed project
- Feedback is requested from interested parties on potential project issues within their jurisdiction or area of expertise
- Process for determining the range of issues to be addressed



# Sample Scoping Questions

Route Number: 395  
Project Number: 0095-100-722, P101  
UPC: 96261  
Town/City/County: City of Alexandria  
iPM Project Description: I-395 HOV Ramp @ Seminary Road

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Do you anticipate or are you aware of any organized opposition to the proposed project?
2. Are you aware of any disproportionately high and adverse effects to minorities or low income populations that could result from this project?
3. Will the project disrupt a community or its planned development?
4. Is the project consistent with community goals, such as proposed land use?
5. What is the existing and proposed zoning for this area?
6. Has the project area been included in any county historical research?
7. Is the proposed project consistent with community goals, such as proposed land use?
8. Will the proposed project be beneficial to the City of Alexandria?

## Next Steps / Schedule Highlights

- Environmental Assessment (EA) Submittal to FHWA
- EA Public Availability Approval Anticipated (~ November 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Public Hearing (currently scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Revised EA Submittal to FHWA for decision (~ early 2012)