

What is an EIS?

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently being prepared to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Glassboro-Camden Line (GCL) passenger rail project. An EIS is a federally mandated full-disclosure document which describes the potential positive and negative effects associated with a proposed action, in this case the introduction of a passenger rail system along an 18-mile corridor from Camden to Glassboro. It allows transit officials to make project decisions that balance engineering and

The Delaware River Port Authority

(DRPA) in cooperation with the

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

and New Jersey Transit (NJ TRANSIT)

the funding agency, initiated

preparation of the Glassboro-

Camden Line EIS. The FTA is the lead

federal agency for the project, with

DRPA/PATCO providing EIS project

oversight, and NJ TRANSIT serving

as the funding partner.

transit needs with social, economic, and natural environmental factors.

#### The EIS document will consist of:

- A description of the project and the Purpose and Need
- A description of the existing human and natural environments
- A summary of the potential effects on the human and natural environments
- A summary of proposed mitigation measures

What Are We **Studying** 

The Project Team has been evaluating the proposed GCL in terms of its potential effects on:

- Traffic & Transit
  - Land Use
  - Neighborhood Character
  - Aesthetics
  - Cultural & Historic Resources
  - Parks, Wetlands & Natural Resources
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Air Quality
  - Noise & Vibration

"The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions."

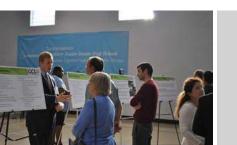
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

What Outreach **Have We** Done?

Active and informed public participation is a key element of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase. During the EIS phase, a wide range of partners, including the public, businesses, and agencies at all levels of government, provide input into the project and decisions. To that end, a comprehensive public involvement effort is on-going to advise the public of all opportunities available to participate.

There are two key points in the NEPA process where public participation is particularly focused:

- 1) During Public Scoping (Completed)
- 2) Following the publication of the Draft EIS (Spring 2014)





The publication of the Draft EIS is scheduled for Spring 2014, at which time there will be public hearings along with a 45-day comment period. Following the comment period, the GCL team will carefully consider all comments received and begin preparing a Final EIS.

It is anticipated that the Final EIS will be published in late 2014. If the GCL project moves forward, it would then

enter into Preliminary Engineering and Design, at which time the final track alignment and station locations would be set. The station locations analyzed in the EIS represents a reasonable best understanding at how this project would be implemented. As engineering and design progress and specific ground conditions are understood, it is possible that the station locations could be different from those shown in the EIS. Public review and input would be sought if that were to occur.

What

**Comes Next** 



## **How To Get Involved?**

- Become informed on the project by viewing the project website, www.GlassboroCamdenLine.com, for the latest news, and review the available documents and past studies
- Offer comments on the Draft EIS
- Attend the public hearings in Spring 2014
- Call the project information line
- Communicate with your local government, businesses, and neighbors about the project

## THE PROJECT

# We Are Here Complete

18 - 24 Months

# ENVIRONMENT

## **Study Corridor by the Numbers**

#### The Corridor:

» 18 mile long new transit line running through 12 established South Jersey communities making stops at **14** new stations

#### The Region:

- **18,000** students and **2,400** staff at the two major universities anchoring both ends of the line
- 296 miles of rail transit in Southeastern PA and 583 miles of rail transit in North Jersey, but only **98** miles of rail transit in South Jersey

#### The Environmental Study:

- » 11 Historical Districts studied
- » 7 towns with redevelopment plans supporting transit in the corridor
- 44 acres of wetlands mapped and delineated
- 42 public parks and recreational facilities along the corridor
- » 22 state and federal agencies and local governments committed to participating in the GCL EIS study

# COMMUNITY

## **Public Outreach and Participation**

	Feasibility Study	AA Study	GCL EIS	Grand Total
Number of Comments (Subjective & Objective)	221	1102	208	1531
Meetings				
Public	11	9	5	25
Elected Officials	6	28	22	56
Targeted Outreach	35	53	5	93
Agencies	13	12	3	28
Total Meetings	65	102	35	202

# LOOKING AHEAD

PROCESS	DATE	
Wrap up Environmental Analyses	Winter 2013/2014	
Publish Draft EIS	Spring 2014	
Public Hearings	Spring 2014	
Respond to Draft EIS comments	Summer 2014	
Publish Final EIS	Late Fall 2014	
Preliminary Engineering	2015-2017	
Construction	2016-2018	
Start of Operation	2019	

### **Contact Us:**

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www.GlassboroCamdenLine.com

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