



Scoping Information Booklet

Scoping Information Booklet
For the Glassboro-Camden Line
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS)

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)
Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO)

Spring 2010

Glassboro-Camden Line | Contents

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Meet the team

Lead Federal Agency

Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Joint Lead Agencies

Delaware River Port Authority (DRPA)

Port Authority Transit Corporation (PATCO)

Sponsor Agencies

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)

New Jersey Transit (NJT)

Project Study Team

STV Incorporated (STV)

Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)

Envision Consultants, Ltd.

Medina Consultants

Armand Corporation

Gallop Corporation

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the Project Website at www.GlassboroCamdenLine.com for additional project information including key GCL information and documents and upcoming public involvement events.

Project Information Line: (856) 595-4GCL



About the project

The Glassboro-Camden Line (GCL) is a proposed 18-mile passenger rail line between Glassboro and Camden in Southern New Jersey being studied by DRPA and PATCO. The GCL corridor traverses Gloucester and Camden counties including the communities of Glassboro, Pitman, Sewell, Mantua Twp., Deptford Twp., Wenonah, Woodbury Heights, Woodbury, Westville, Brooklawn, Gloucester City and Camden.

The proposed line would restore passenger rail service along the existing Conrail rail right-of-way from Glassboro to Camden. Using light rail vehicles similar to the NJ TRANSIT River LINE, the GCL would offer quick, reliable, frequent service between the communities of the Glassboro to Camden corridor. Connections will be possible in Camden from the GCL to Philadelphia, Trenton, and more

distant points in the region via the PATCO Speedline or the River LINE.

DRPA completed a 2-year Alternatives Analysis study in 2009 which recommended Light Rail from Glassboro to Camden as the preferred option for transit expansion in Southern New Jersey. This project has now advanced to the environmental review phase. DRPA, in coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the federal lead agency, is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in compliance with federal regulations.

This Scoping Information Booklet contains an explanation of the environmental process, scoping process, status of the GCL Project and information on how the public can become involved.



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The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.] was signed into law on January 1, 1970. The Act establishes national environmental policy and goals for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment, and it provides a process for implementing these goals within the federal agencies. The Act also establishes the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



What is involved in the environmental review process?

The environmental review process for the GCL will be performed in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Compliance with NEPA's implementing regulations is necessary for a project to be eligible for federal capital funds.

The environmental review process is aimed at ensuring that environmental information is available to the public and public officials before decisions are made and actions are undertaken by agencies. For the GCL project, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared. An EIS documents the potential social, economic and environmental benefits and impacts of a proposed project

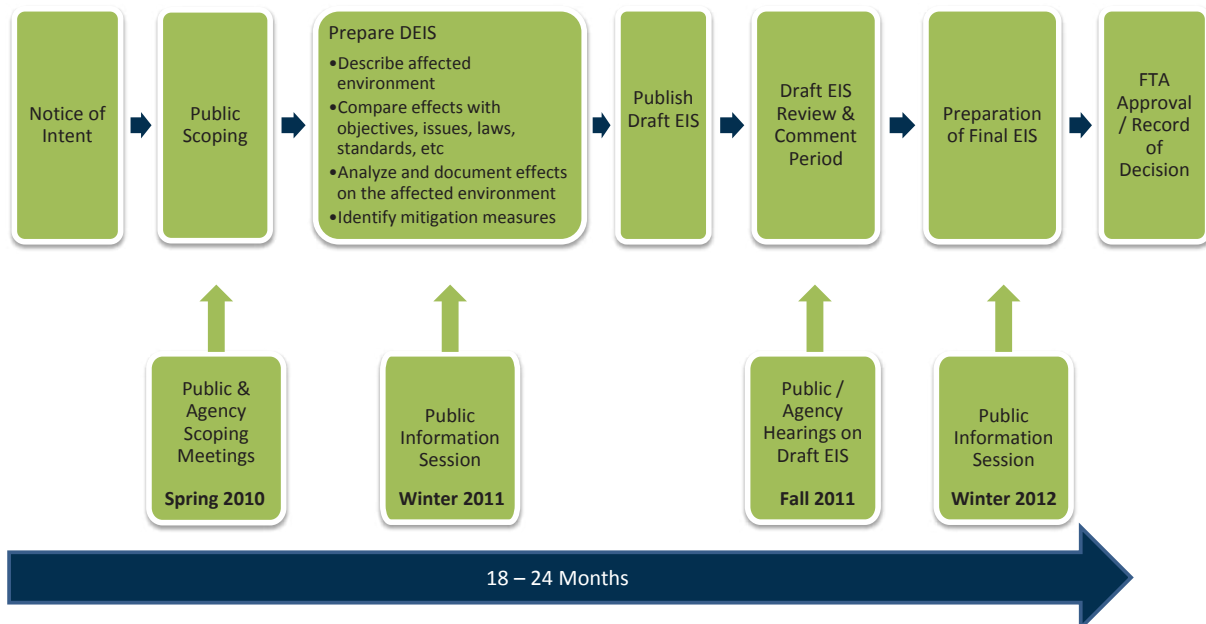
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

or action and proposes measures to mitigate any adverse impacts. Public participation is a requirement and a fundamental component of the environmental review process. There are two key points in the NEPA

process where public participation is particularly focused: (1) during Scoping and (2) following the publication of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Glassboro-Camden Line EIS Study Process Chart



Thursday, May 6, 2010

Evening Session

5:30pm – 6:30pm Information Session
6:30pm – 8:30pm Presentation
& Formal Comment Period

**Camden County College,
Camden Technology Center
200 North Broadway,
Camden, NJ 08102**

FREE PARKING WITH VALIDATION
Garage located at 6th and Penn Street,
Camden NJ 08102
Transit: PATCO, River LINE & NJ Transit
Bus at Walter Rand Center

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Day Session

1:30pm – 2:30pm Information Session
2:30pm – 4:30pm Presentation
& Formal Comment Period

**Rowan University
Henry M. Rowan Building
(The Engineering Building)
201 Mullica Hill Road,
Glassboro, NJ 08028**

FREE Parking Available, Lots M-1 & D-1
Accessible from Robert Bowe Blvd
and North Campus St.
Transit: NJ Transit Buses 412, 313, & 408

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

Evening Session

5:30pm – 6:30pm Information Session
6:30pm – 8:30pm Presentation
& Formal Comment Period

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What is scoping?

Scoping is an early and open process to determine the scope (breadth) of issues to be addressed and to identify the most significant issues related to a proposed project. It serves as an opportunity for the public and government agencies to provide timely input at the outset of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase.



During scoping, the plan for how the environmental review is going to be conducted is issued in draft form, known as the Draft Scoping Document. The public and agencies are invited to offer comments on this plan.

The Draft Scoping Document includes information about the project including:

- The Purpose and Need of the project;
- The Alternatives to be analyzed; and
- The potential impacts and benefits of the project.

In addition, it explains how the public and agencies can get involved. The scoping process includes public meetings at which the public, organizations and government agencies are encouraged to provide their comments. Comments should focus on the three elements above and can be provided orally or in written form.

The ultimate goal of scoping is to assist the lead agency in defining the social, economic, environmental and transportation issues and alternatives to be examined and documented in the EIS; identifying significant issues for detailed study while eliminating from detailed study those issues that are not significant; as well as establishing the roles of other agencies and processes for coordinating the environmental review.

At the conclusion of the scoping period, the lead agencies for the EIS will review all scoping comments received and finalize the Scoping Report including the Purpose and Need, Alternatives to be analyzed, the issues to be addressed by the EIS, as well as outline a schedule for the remaining steps of the environmental review process. The Final Scoping Report will be issued to all participating agencies and published on the project website.

What is a draft environmental impact statement?

An EIS is a report that documents the environmental conditions, describes the possible social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits of a proposed project and identifies proposed mitigation measures for any adverse impacts. When the environmental analysis is nearing completion, a Draft EIS is published for public and agency review. It is a requirement of NEPA to prepare a Draft EIS with a detailed description of the project's effect on the environment and the proposed mitigations. Once the Draft EIS is published, Public Hearings are held to obtain comments from the public and interested agencies about the Draft EIS. Following completion of the comment period, a Final EIS document is prepared addressing and incorporating the comments.



What is the Purpose and Need for the GCL?

The purpose of this project is to improve transit service along the Glassboro to Camden corridor in Southern New Jersey with a focus on increasing mobility and improving links between the established communities and activity centers.

The Glassboro to Camden corridor is characterized by older, densely populated communities that developed along the rail line as well as by major employment and activity centers including universities, medical centers and other institutions. However, connections between these activity centers and the people who access them are not efficient and travel along the corridor is difficult. With regard to transit service especially, the corridor lacks competitive and reliable transit options between the major communities and activity centers.

Trips along the corridor are primarily made by car. Major roadways experience congestion during peak hours. Even greater travel demands are predicted for the future in Gloucester and Camden counties associated with growth in population and employment. This growth will contribute to continued increases in vehicle miles of travel, air pollutants and greenhouse gases,

and travel times. In addition, this auto dependence has contributed to and continues to encourage development “sprawl” into open space and agricultural land, requiring new supporting infrastructure, and does not encourage growth in the established communities as promoted by state and local “Smart Growth” initiatives.

The proposed 18-mile GCL traverses established communities and would provide a new reliable transit system competitive with auto travel, linking activity centers, employment destinations and established residential areas. This reliability and competitiveness would encourage a modal shift from auto to transit and contribute to reduced congestion, vehicle miles of travel, air pollutants and greenhouse gases, and travel times. Locating the proposed GCL within or adjacent to the existing Conrail railroad right-of-way would minimize property acquisition and take advantage of an underutilized transportation corridor. Moreover, its location amid established communities would encourage growth and economic development consistent with “Smart Growth” programs and policies at the local, state and regional level.

Project Goals

Provide more transit choices and improved quality of service

Develop a transit network that improves links between people and activity centers

Reduce highway congestion with alternate transit investments

Maximize existing transportation assets and minimize impacts to the environment

Support state and local planned growth initiatives

Promote economic development and improve quality of life

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the Project Website at www.GlassboroCamdenLine.com for additional project information including key GCL information and documents and upcoming public involvement events.

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Alternatives

The alternatives expected to be included in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) include:

Light Rail Alternative: Based on the results of the 2009 Alternatives Analysis study of transit options, light rail service from Glassboro to Camden was selected as the Recommended Alternative to provide expanded transit service in Gloucester and Camden counties. This alternative will be the focus of the Draft EIS assessment and documentation.

The Light Rail Alternative would traverse the communities of Glassboro, Pitman, Sewell, Mantua Township, Deptford Township, Wenonah, Woodbury Heights, Woodbury, Westville, Brooklawn, Gloucester City and Camden. The new line would primarily run along Conrail's freight alignment, which is roughly parallel to Woodbury-Glassboro Road and NJ Route 45. The northern segment in Camden would follow a new right-of-way adjacent to I-676 before entering an in-street alignment to reach Walter Rand Transportation Center where riders could transfer to the PATCO Speedline and the NJ TRANSIT River LINE.

The Light Rail Alternative would use diesel-powered light rail vehicles, operating on new dedicated tracks and/or sharing portions of Conrail track with temporal separation. Approximately fourteen (14) new stations would be located along the alignment; station locations will be studied in detail during the EIS phase.

Transportation System Management (TSM) Alternative: The TSM Alternative consists of enhancements and upgrades to the existing transportation system to address some of the needs and purpose of the project at less capital cost. These upgrades can include bus route restructuring and headway reductions, express and limited-stop service, intersection improvements, and other limited infrastructure improvements that enhance the transportation system. The specific combination of improvements to be incorporated into the TSM will be developed during the EIS process.

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative represents future conditions in the EIS analysis year of 2035 without the GCL Project. The No Action Alternative includes the existing transit and transportation system in Southern New Jersey plus planned improvements which may reasonably be expected to be implemented. This Alternative is included in the Draft EIS as a means of comparing and evaluating the impacts and benefits of the GCL alternatives.



Public Involvement

Active and informed public participation is a key element of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase. A comprehensive public involvement effort is being initiated to advise the public of all opportunities available to participate in the scoping process. DRPA/PATCO strongly encourages the public to participate in the public scoping meetings and provide comments.

The scoping comment period for the GCL will close on Thursday, June 10, 2010.

How can I get involved?

- In order to participate in this process we suggest/invite you to become informed on the project by reading this booklet, visiting the project website (www.GlassboroCamdenLine.com), and/or reviewing the previous studies on the website (Alternatives Analysis and Feasibility Studies).
- Attend a Public Scoping Meeting:** participate in an information session where you can view a presentation by the project study team and provide us with your thoughts, ideas and comments verbally or by written submission.
- Fill out a comment form:** In addition to providing comments during the scoping meetings, the comment form is attached to this booklet and available on the project website (www.GlassboroCamdenLine.com). Comments should be addressed to Ms. Victoria Malaszecki, Public Outreach Liaison, Envision Consultants, Ltd., P.O. Box 536, Mullica Hill, NJ 08062, telephone (856) 595-4GCL, fax, email publicinvolvement@GlassboroCamdenLine.com.
- Check the project website frequently for updates in public involvement. The project study team will keep you updated with project information, news, and ways to be involved.



Contact us

Your feedback is very important to the project study team. Our Public Involvement Liaison will contact you directly regarding updates on the project.

To submit written comments contact:

Ms. Victoria Malaszecki,

Public Involvement Liaison

Envision Consultants, Ltd.

PO Box 536 • Mullica Hill, NJ • 08062

Phone: (856) 595-4GCL

E-mail: publicinvolvement@GlassboroCamdenLine.com

Will my comments affect this process?

Yes – your comments are a significant and valued part of the scoping process. Comments may be the most important contribution from the public and truly can make a difference in the EIS process. Don't wait to get involved. Since scoping is the first phase in the EIS process, **now is the time to provide comments.**

At the conclusion of the scoping period, the Lead Agencies will compile and review all comments received, and will consider the comments in refining the Purpose and Need, the Alternatives, and the potential impacts to be addressed by the EIS. These will be documented in the Final Scoping Report. A transcript of all comments will accompany this report.



Scoping Comment Form

Please utilize the attached form to provide us with your written comments regarding this project.

The scoping comment period ends Thursday, June 10, 2010.

Scoping Comment Form

Glassboro-Camden Line (GCL)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Introduction:

We thank you for your interest in this study and taking the time to provide us with your comments during this very important Scoping Phase. Please provide the project study team with your thoughts, ideas and concerns on the Glassboro-Camden Line (GCL) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS). We value your input and need to hear from you. Your input truly makes a difference.

Privacy Notice:

Your privacy is important to us. Your contact information will be used for the sole purposes of this project and will **not** be sold, shared, distributed or used for any other purpose. However, we wish to inform you that all comments during Scoping **will be part of the public record**.

Contact Information: (please print)

At a minimum, please provide your name, the city in which you live, and ZIP code. If you would like to be added to the project mailing list, please fill out the rest of the contact information and check the box below.






Name (required)	_____
Address	_____
City (required)	_____
State	_____
ZIP code (required)	_____
E-mail	_____
Organization	_____

Check here if you would like to be added to the project mailing list in order to receive project updates.

The scoping comment period ends on Thursday, June 10, 2010.

All comments must be received by this date. A summary of the scoping comments will be available on the project website www.GlassboroCamdenLine.com upon completion of the comment period.

How to Return Comments:

-  Complete comment form in person at the public scoping meeting;
-  Complete comment form on project website www.GlassboroCamdenLine.com;
-  Email publicinvolvement@GlassboroCamdenLine.com;
-  U.S. Mail to Ms. Victoria Malaszecki, Public Involvement Liaison, P.O. Box 536, Mullica Mullica Hill, NJ 08062;
-  Fax at 856.223.8886 or Telephone at (856) 595-4GCL

Thank you for your interest in this transit project for Southern New Jersey.

Scoping Comment Form

Glassboro-Camden Line (GCL)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Please answer the following so that we may get to know you better:

1. What is your primary interest in the GCL? (Check One)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commuter | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood/Area Resident |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

2. Tell us more about your interest in the project:

3. How often do you travel within the study corridor? (Check One)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily | <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently | <input type="checkbox"/> Never |

4. What are the primary reasons you travel within the study corridor? (Check All That Apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School | <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure/Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | |

5. How are you receiving information about this project? (Check All That Apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor/Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper/Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School/University | |

6. How did you hear about this public scoping meeting? (Check All That Apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Update By Email | <input type="checkbox"/> DRPA Email Notification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Media – Radio/Cable TV |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor/Friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School/University | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |