

H.013284

MRB South GBR: LA 1 to LA 30 Connector



September 29, 2025

- Project Progress Overview
- NEPA Process Overview



ATLAS

Completed Tasks

- Solicitation of Views
- Public Engagement in 2022:
 - Compile Stakeholders
 - 6 open house events
 - 14 stakeholder meetings
 - 12 agency briefs
- EPI (Enhanced Planning Investigation)
- PEL (Planning & Environmental Linkages) document submitted (includes Stage 0 report)
- Finalize Alternatives
 - E-11-IV
 - F-13-IV
 - F-14-V
- Surveys:
 - LiDAR
 - Topo
 - SUE
 - Elevation
 - Permit
 - Data Analysis
 - Bathymetric Studies
 - Navigation Studies

Completed Tasks

- Bridge Design
 - Develop Design criteria
 - Draft line and grade
- Cultural
 - Cultural Field Work
 - Tribal Coordination
- Wetlands
 - Wetlands Field Work
 - Draft Wetlands Report
- Geotech
 - Geotech Field Work
 - Borings
 - Foundation Analysis
 - Embankment Analysis
- Traffic
 - Data Collection/Volume Counts
 - Build/No Build Models
 - Preliminary ROW Assessment
- Toll Analysis
 - Level 1 Study
 - Level 2 Study
 - Preliminary Cost Estimate
- Socioeconomic Analysis
- Phase 1 ESA

FHWA Approval to Initiate NEPA Phase

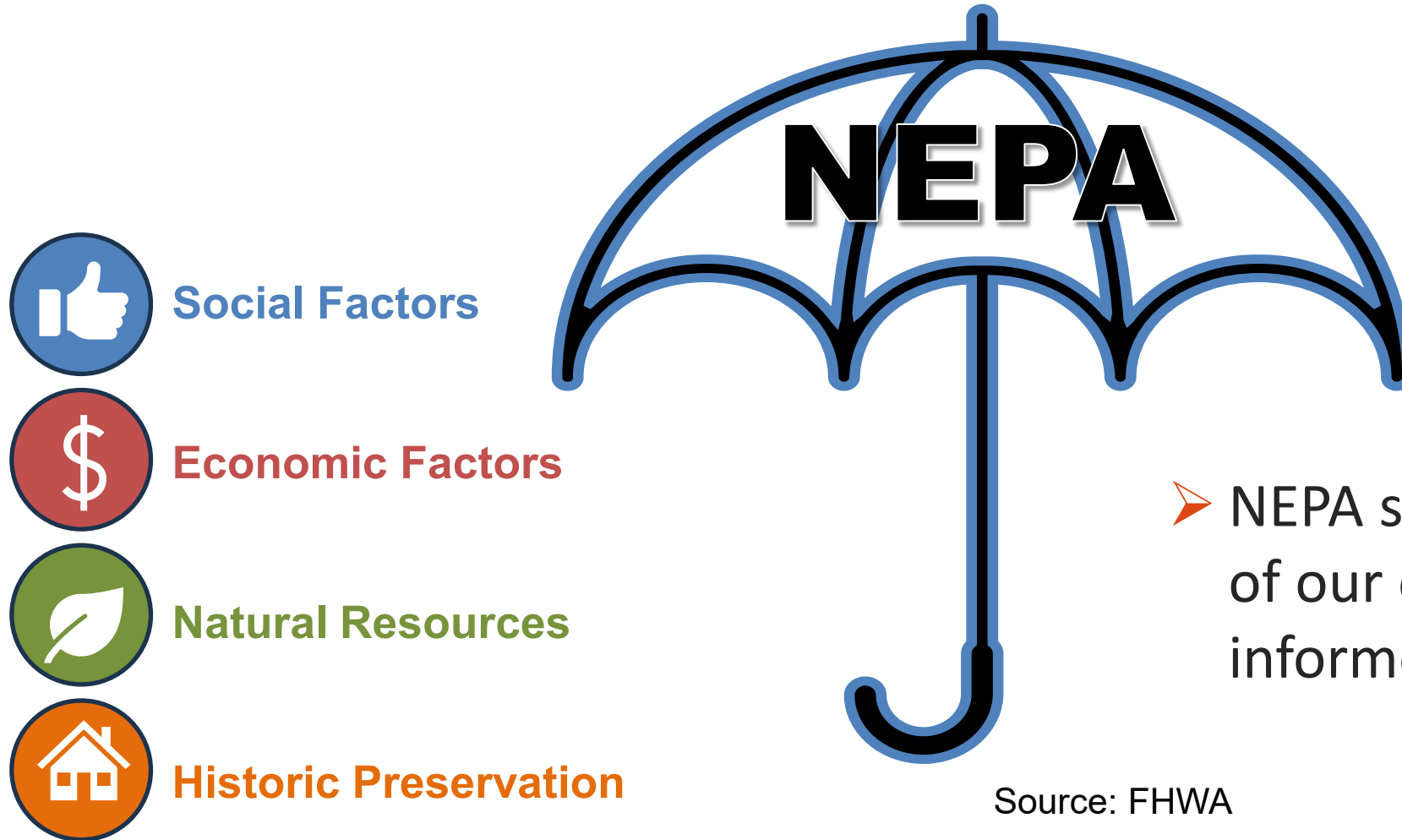
What Will Be Completed Under NEPA?



- Finalize Purpose and Need
- Public Outreach
 - December 2025 Events
 - February 2026 Events
 - Public Hearings 2026
- Agency Coordination
- Technical Document Preparation
 - Line & Grade
 - Bridge Design
 - Final Cost Estimates
 - Hydrology Studies
 - Traffic Study
- Field Surveys:
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Air
 - Noise
- Environmental Assessment
 - Draft EA
 - Agency Review
 - Final EA

The logo for ATLAS, featuring the word "ATLAS" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A stylized blue line, resembling a road or a wing, swooshes under the letters from the left and right, meeting in the middle.

Importance of NEPA



➤ NEPA serves as the foundation of our environmental process for informed decision-making.

Source: FHWA

What is NEPA?

- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
 - Created the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
 - Reviews a project's impact on Natural and Human environments, which means...

The Natural Environment Is...



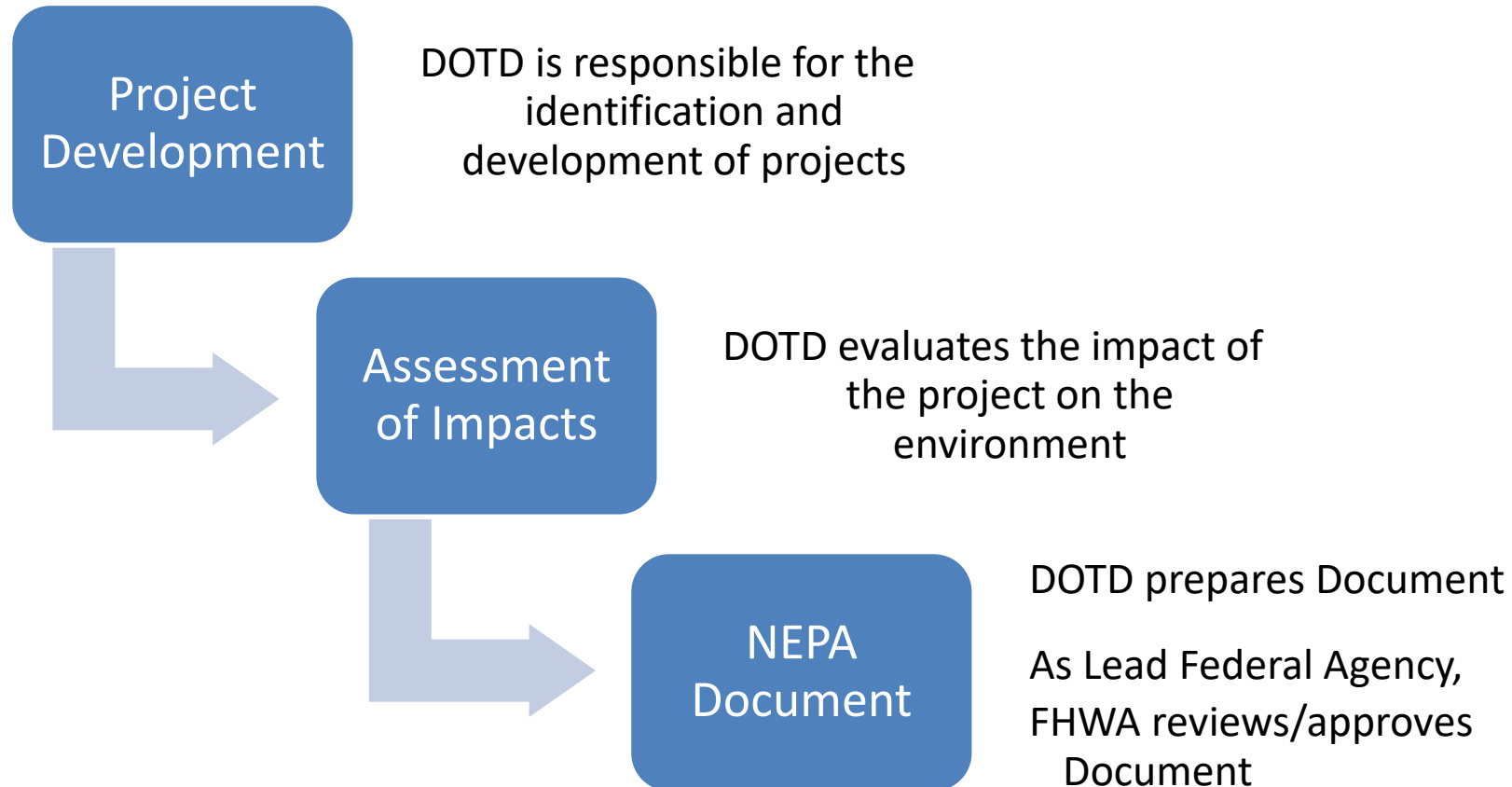
- Plant and Animal Species / Natural Communities
- Wetlands and Other Waters of the US
- Cultural, Archaeological and Paleontological Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Seismology and Topography
- Water Quality and Hydrology, Wild & Scenic Rivers
- Stormwater
- Floodplains
- Coastal Zones
- Agricultural and Timber Lands

The Human Environment Is...



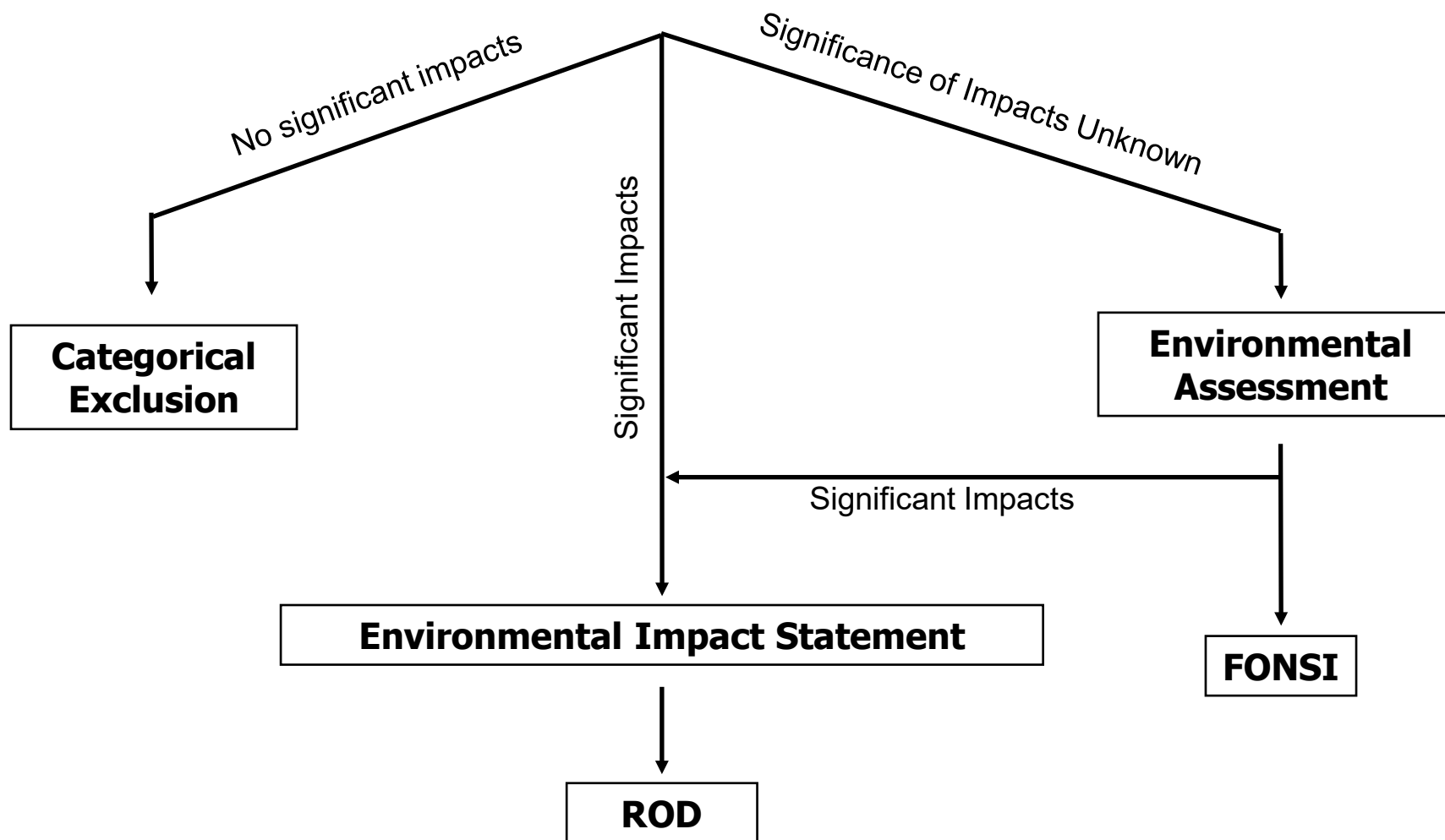
- The Built Environment, Historic Resources
- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Noise
- Hazardous Waste and Materials
- Community Growth and Cohesion
- Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Public Services
- Utilities
- Consistency with State, Regional and Local Plans and Programs

NEPA & Transportation Decision Making



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Classes of Action in NEPA



Source: FHWA

What are the Next Steps?



Public Engagement

■ December 2025 Events (2)

- Tuesday Dec. 9, 5 – 7pm
@ St. Gabriel Community Center
- Wednesday, Dec. 10, 5 – 7pm
@ Plaquemine Community
Center

■ Q1 - 2026 Events (4):

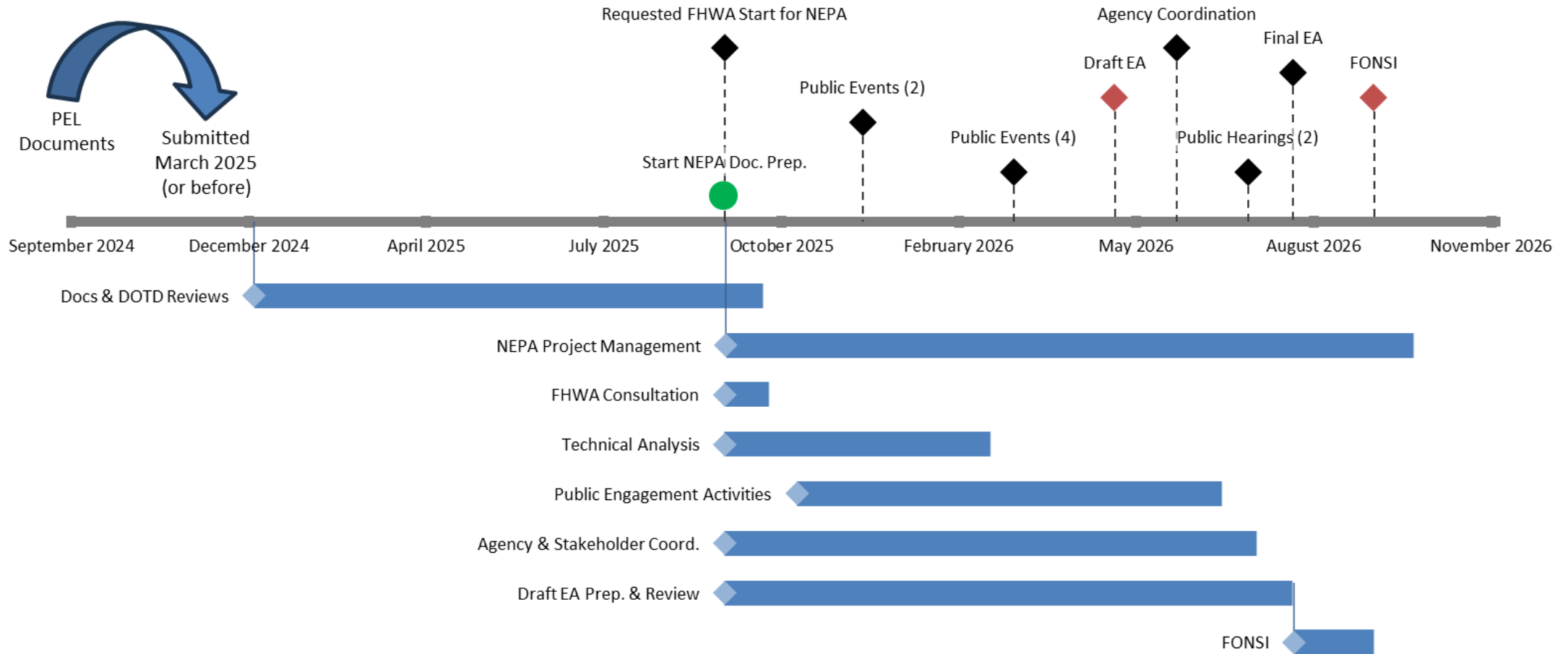
- 2 locations on east bank (TBD)
- 2 locations on west bank (TBD)

■ Q2/Q3 - 2026 Public Hearings* (2)

* Pending Agency Review and Comments

Anticipated Schedule

Mississippi River Bridge South: NEPA Phase



Potential Public Meeting Venues



Opportunities for Public Involvement

➤ When?

- During project Scoping, at the start of a project
- At public meetings during project evaluations/technical analysis
- At public hearing before final decision on project is made

➤ Where?

- Locations which are convenient and accessible to all

➤ How?

- A combination of presentations, video recordings or broadcasts, and exhibit areas staffed by project representatives

➤ Why?

- Required part of the process and informs decision making

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Project Contact:

Atlas - Anna Choudhuri

Ananya.Choudhuri@oneatlas.com

DOTD - Christina Brignac

Christina.brignac@la.gov



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