

MAY
2012

VIRGINIA AVENUE TUNNEL

VOLUME I // ISSUE I

PROJECT UPDATES

Virginia Avenue Tunnel Project Changed to Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



The lead federal agency, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has changed the classification of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel Reconstruction project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) from an Environmental Assessment (EA) process to the Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS) process. Regardless of an EA or EIS, the NEPA process includes a rigorous evaluation of the environmental and community impacts of the proposed action.

The decision to move from an EA to an EIS is based on the need for FHWA to evaluate all aspects of the project that include interstate approvals, construction and the urban environment with unique characteristics. In this urban context, FHWA believes an EIS is the more appropriate process to satisfy NEPA.

The shift to an EIS was not triggered by any new information revealed during this process, but by FHWA's evaluation of the project scope in the context of the surrounding urban community.

Upcoming Public Meeting

On May 21, 2012 from 6pm to 8pm, FHWA and DDOT will hold another public meeting as part of the NEPA process to provide a project update on the Virginia Avenue Tunnel Reconstruction project. During this public meeting, the concepts to move forward in the EIS will be announced. Now that the meeting has been scheduled, we will alert the community through email, print advertising and direct outreach to residents and various organizations.

Throughout the NEPA process, questions and comments from the public can be submitted and regular updates on this important project will be provided. Please continue to visit <http://www.virginiaavenuetunnel.com> for new updates on the Virginia Avenue Tunnel.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

virginiaavenuetunnel.com

email us

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Steve Plano

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Attn: Virginia Avenue Tunnel Project

1401 K Street, NW, Suite 701

Washington, DC 20005

UPCOMING EVENT >>

Public Meeting

Nationals Park

1150 South Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003-1507

Monday, May 21, 2012

6:00pm - 8:00pm

PROJECT SCHEDULE >>

Draft EIS

Fall 2012

Public Hearing

Winter 2012

Final EIS

Spring 2013

Record of Decision

Spring 2013

CSX IN THE COMMUNITY

CSX Officer Andrew Ford Joins Capitol Hill Community

As of fall 2011, Andrew Ford, Supervisory Special Agent of CSX, has been working closely with District law enforcement, community residents and organizations to promote safety in and around the Capitol Hill neighborhood. To better serve the community, in the near future Special Agent Ford will be stationed at a Virginia Avenue SE office location. He may be reached via e-mail at Andrew_Ford@csx.com.

VIRGINIA AVENUE TUNNEL BACKGROUND



Looking west from the Virginia Avenue Tunnel portal near Garfield Park.



A view of the east portal of the Tunnel.

Owned and maintained by CSX, the Virginia Avenue Tunnel is located in Southeast Washington, DC, beneath the eastbound lanes side of Virginia Avenue SE. By reconstructing Virginia Avenue Tunnel with a vertical height that will allow CSX to operate double-stack intermodal container freight trains, the railroad will be able to expand its capacity to transport freight in an environmentally sensitive manner. Furthermore, because the new tunnel will re-establish a second set of tracks, CSX will eliminate the chokepoint that currently delays all trains traveling through the Washington region.