



How to Participate

What is the purpose of this meeting?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Assessment for the Cape Cod Canal Bridges Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (MRER).

The USACE is conducting a multiyear study of the bridges to determine whether major rehabilitation or replacement of either or both bridges will provide the most reliable, fiscally responsible solution for the future. The existing bridges were constructed 83 years ago and require frequent maintenance, which is costly and causes significant impact to traffic crossing the Cape Cod Canal.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be conducted as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Under NEPA, Federal agencies must consider the impacts of a proposed project or action on the natural and human environment and take this information into account in their decision-making.



What is an Environmental Assessment?

Proposed actions that are not anticipated to result in significant impacts are analyzed through an EA rather than a more detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EA analyzes the potential impacts of an action in sufficient detail to determine whether there are likely to be significant effects. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is issued if the agency determines the proposed action will not have a significant impact to the human environment. The proposing agency may proceed with implementing the action once all analyses have been completed and potential effects thoroughly considered.

How is an EA prepared?

A typical Environmental Assessment involves the following steps:

1. **Public Involvement:** The USACE consults with agencies, federally recognized Tribes, interested groups, and the public to ensure that all important issues are considered.
2. **Preparation of the Draft EA:** A Draft EA is prepared by a team of environmental professionals to address all identified concerns. It describes the proposed action, the alternatives being considered, and the potential impacts of these alternatives on the environment both natural (air, water, vegetation, wildlife, etc.) and human-made (land use, traffic and transportation, noise, community resources, etc).
3. **Review of the Draft EA:** Once complete, the Draft EA is made available for review and comment. The USACE will hold public meetings when the Draft EA is released.
4. **Preparation of the Final EA:** After comments are received and analyzed, the USACE will prepare a Final EA. The Final EA incorporates and addresses the comments on the Draft.
5. **Publication of the Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):** If the USACE determines the proposed action will not have a significant impact USACE will prepare a FONSI. The FONSI document is the document in which the USACE announces and explains its decision after having considered the findings of the EA and the comments received. If the USACE determines the action will have a significant impact on the human environment an EIS will be prepared.

What will the USACE do with my comments?

Comments will be collected, reviewed, and considered during drafting of the EA. They will be taken into consideration in making the decision as to whether issuing a FONSI is warranted. Although the USACE will not respond to each comment individually, both the Draft EA and the Final EA will be made available to the public.

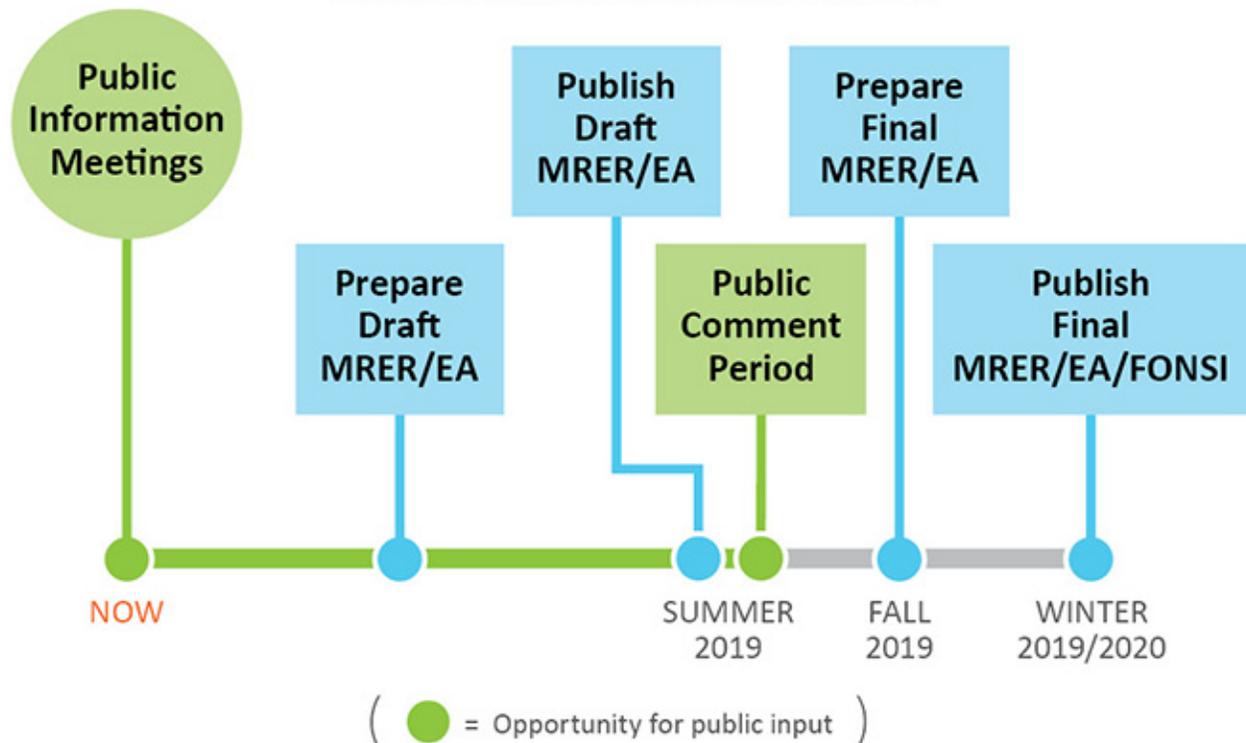
Is this meeting my only chance to comment?

There are multiple ways to submit comments, as identified in the box on this page. Another series of public meetings will be held following publication of the Draft MRER/EA. All comments received will become part of the Administrative Record and will be published in the final EA.

Ways to Comment

- Voice your comment at today's meeting where a court reporter will record your comment
- Provide written comments at today's meeting
- **Submit comments online via the project website:**
www.CapeCodCanalBridgesStudy.com
- Mail written comments to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Cape Cod Bridges Study NEPA
Coordinator
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742

Environmental Assessment Timeline



To learn more about the study, please visit the project website:
www.CapeCodCanalBridgesStudy.com