



Welcome

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Goethals Bridge Replacement

**Public Scoping Meetings
October 5-6, 2004**



Key Project Participants

Lead Federal Agency

U. S. Coast Guard
Department of Homeland Security

Consultant Team

Cooperating Agencies

Project Sponsor
Port Authority of NY & NJ

The Public



Coast Guard Authority

■ Laws

- General Bridge Act of 1946
(33 USC 525 *et seq.*)
- Section 9, Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
(33 USC 401)

■ Regulations

- Title 33, CFR (114-115) – Bridge Locations & Clearances
- Title 40, CFR (1500 *et seq.*) – NEPA / CEQ



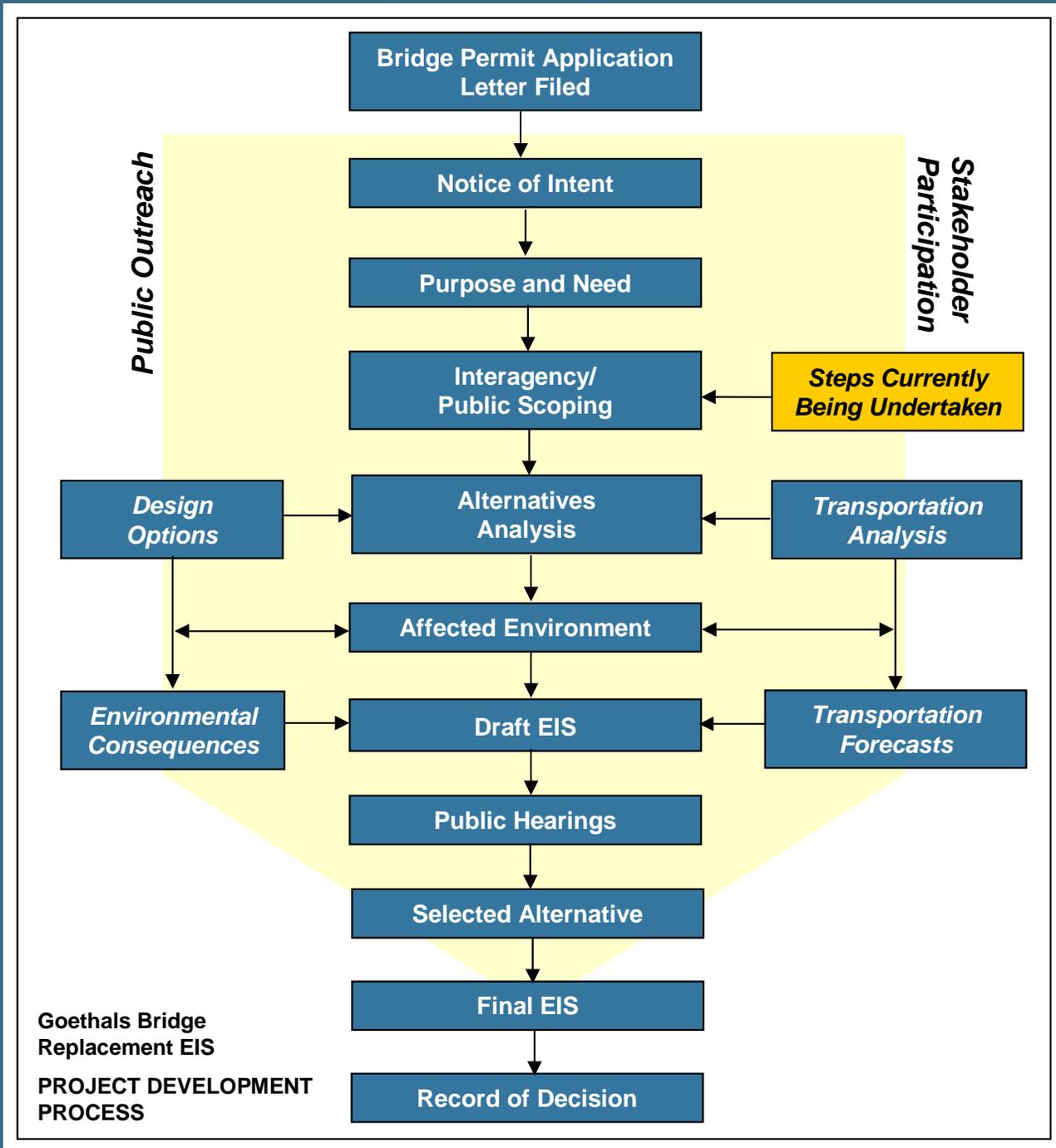
Presentation Agenda

- Background
- Process
- Purpose & need
- Project goals
- Types of preliminary alternatives
- Preliminary study areas
- Potential environmental issues
- Schedule
- Public participation program



Background

- Goethals Bridge built in 1928
- Previous Staten Island Bridges Program
- PANYNJ initiates new Goethals Bridge Modernization Program in Sept. 2003
- PANYNJ submits a preliminary bridge permit application for the proposed replacement bridge to USCG on June 3, 2004
- NOI to prepare DEIS published in *Federal Register* on August 10, 2004





Purpose and Need

- Narrow lane widths and approach alignment
- Increasing traffic and wider trucks and buses
- No emergency shoulders





Purpose and Need

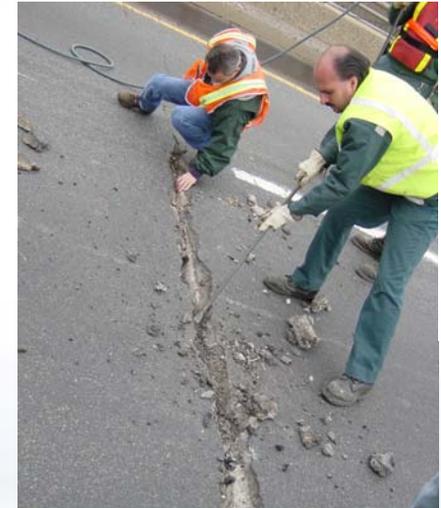
- Higher accident rates than area bridges
- Deficiencies for seismic protection and security
- Closure of pedestrian walkway for safety reasons





Purpose and Need

- Extended disruptions for rehabilitation work
- Escalating maintenance and repair costs
- Inability to have HOV/transit on the bridge
- Impacts on entire regional transportation system efficiency



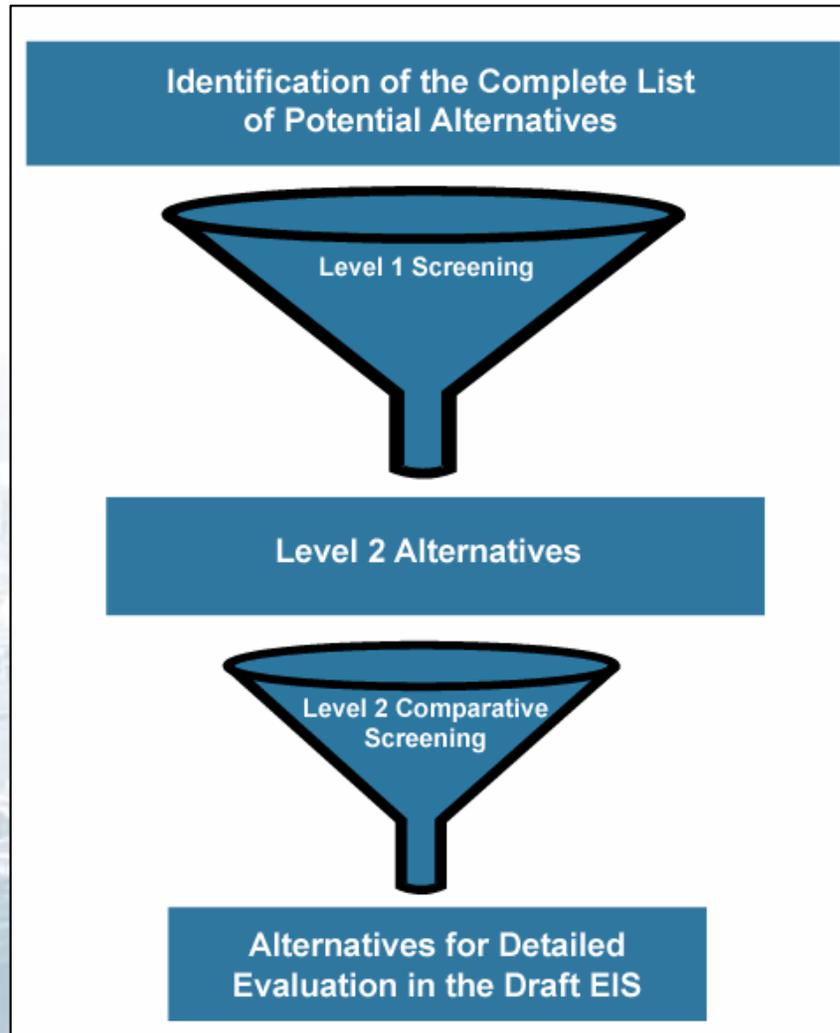


Project Goals

- Eliminate design deficiencies and functional obsolescence
- Avoid disruptive and costly rehabilitation required to maintain structural integrity
- Reduce roadway congestion and delays and enhance operational flexibility
- Address local / regional goods movement needs
- Create capability for crossing to accommodate HOV / Transit
- Restore and enhance pedestrian / bicycle access
- Improve structural security and provide greater redundancy to other regional bridges
- Minimize environmental consequences of improvement



Alternatives Screening Process





Basis for Identifying Preliminary Alternatives

- EIS scoping with agencies and public
- Previous PANYNJ engineering studies
- Previous Staten Island Bridges Program FEIS findings
- Regional plans and studies
- Analysis of existing & future transportation demand in study area

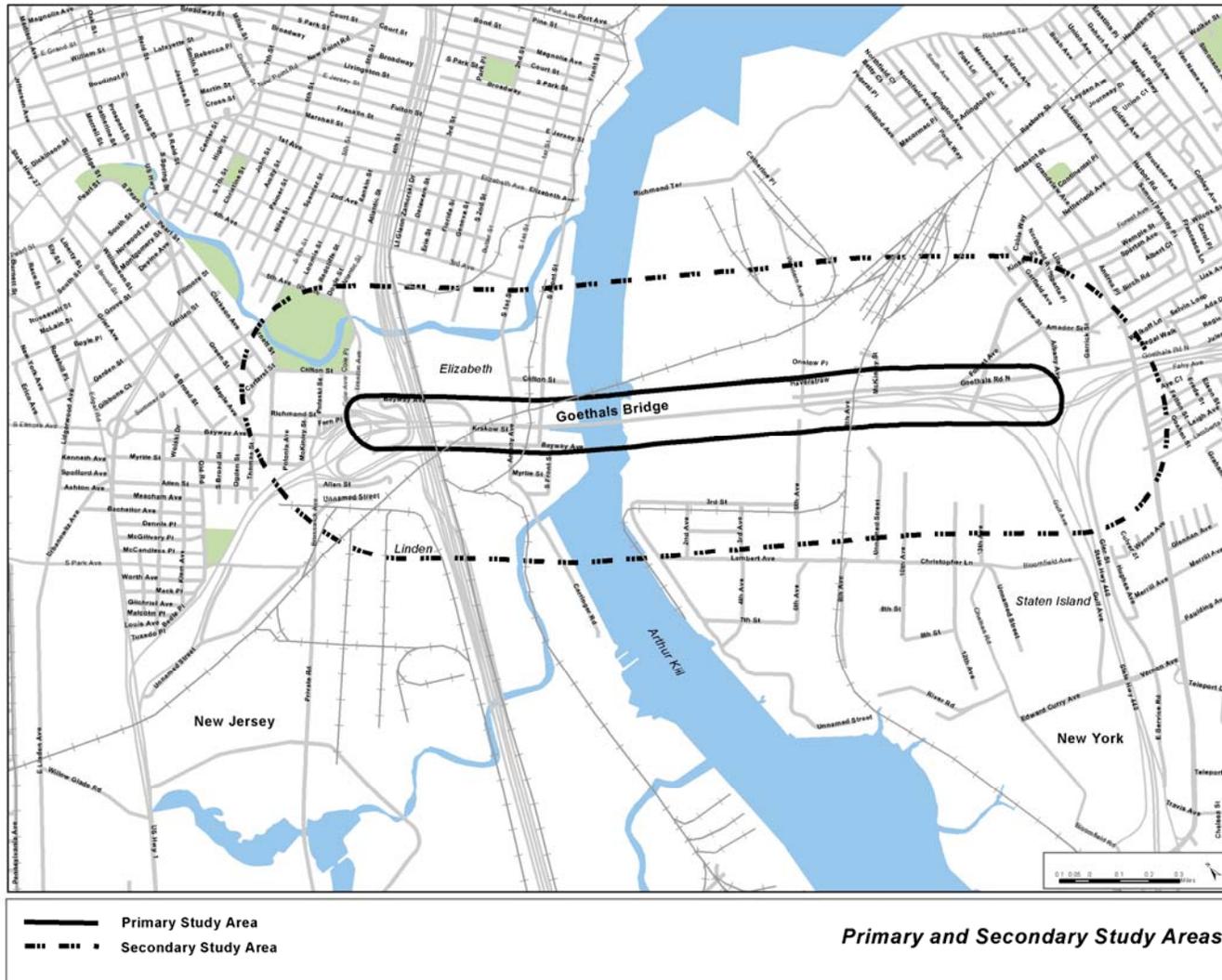


Types of Preliminary Alternatives

- No action
- Bridge rehabilitation for significant life-span extension
- Bridge replacement south of existing Bridge (PANYNJ's proposal)
- Other structural alternatives including transit, and other bridge alignments
- Operational alternatives such as congestion pricing

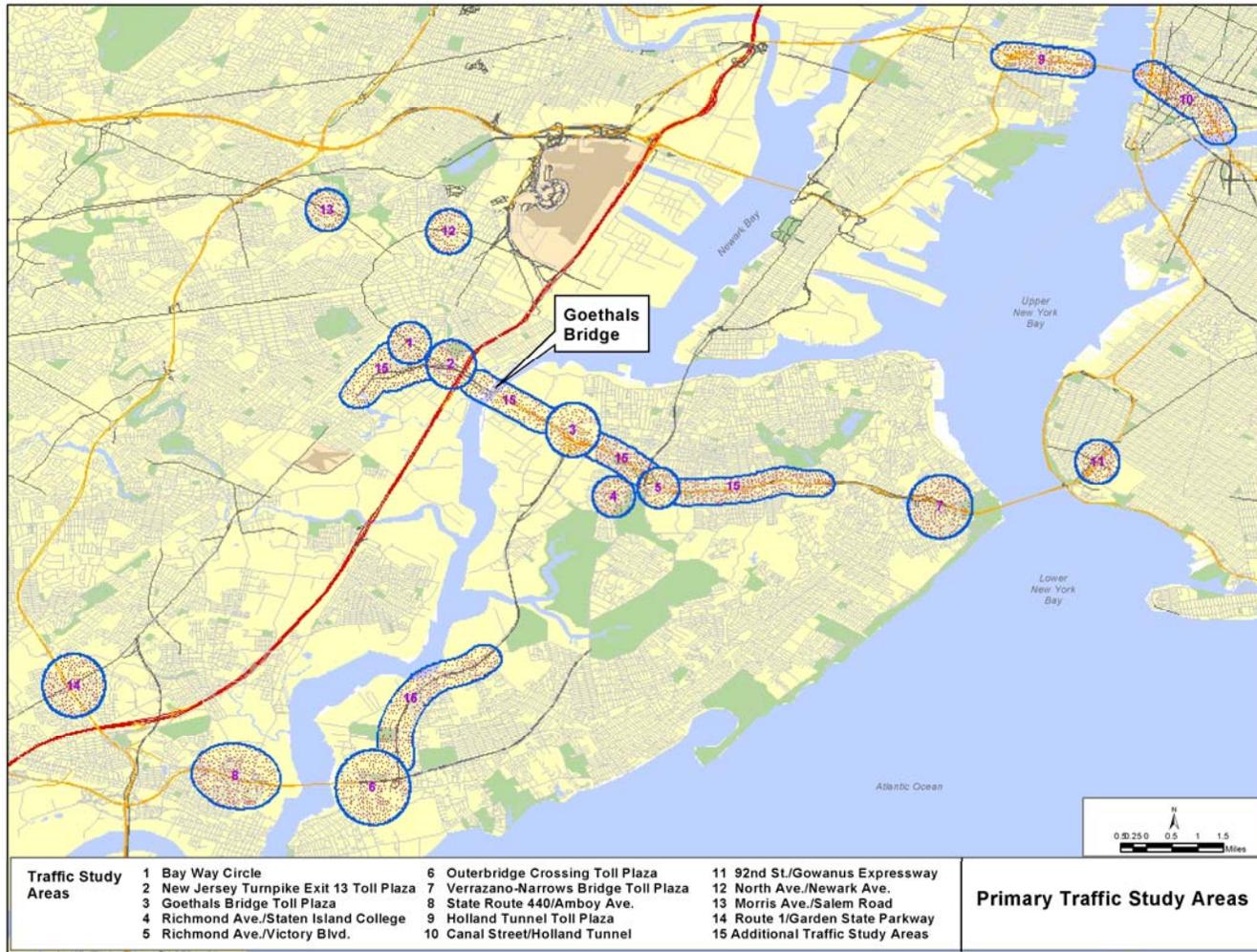


Preliminary Environmental Study Areas





Transportation Study Areas





Potential Environmental Issues

- Traffic & transportation
- Air quality / noise
- Navigation
- Wetlands / biological resources
- Surface water / groundwater resources
- Federal / State protected species
- Land use
- Cultural resources
- Socioeconomics - including environmental justice, neighborhood character & cohesion
- Hazardous materials



Schedule

- Public scoping meeting – October 5, 2004
(Staten Island, NY)
- Public scoping meeting – October 6, 2004
(Elizabeth, NJ)
- Close of scoping comment period – November 5, 2004
- Draft EIS (target date) – early 2006



Public Participation Plan

- Public scoping meetings
- Web site – www.goethalseis.com
- Newsletters
- Meeting flyers
- Public information sessions
- Stakeholder committee
- DEIS public hearings

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
GOETHALS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

Please Join The United States Coast Guard at Scoping Meetings for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Goethals Bridge Replacement

ABOUT THIS PROJECT:
The United States Coast Guard is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the proposed Goethals Bridge replacement. The Port Authority of NY & NJ, project sponsor, has proposed this action as part of its Goethals Bridge Modernization Program.

WHAT IS SCOPING?
The public has a critical role to play in the environmental review process. The purpose of "scoping" the EIS is to provide an opportunity for members of the general public, and others interested parties to comment on the purpose and need for the proposed bridge replacement, the types of alternatives to be considered, and to provide input on the issues and concerns that should be addressed in the EIS.

The Coast Guard will be holding two public scoping meetings to receive your comments on the scope of the environmental review for the proposed Goethals Bridge replacement. You will be able to review background information and talk informally with members of the study staff at an open house format. Following a presentation about the EIS studies to be undertaken, you will be invited to formally submit your comments only at the meetings of in writing to the Coast Guard by November 8, 2004.

We hope to see you there!

Mail comments to:
Commander (USCG)
First Coast Guard District
United States Coast Guard
Battery Building
One South Street
New York, NY 10004
Attn: Mr. E. Fawcett

SCOPING MEETING LOCATIONS:

Staten Island, New York
Tuesday, October 5th, 2004
Two Sessions: 2:00 - 5:00 PM and 5:30 - 8:30 PM
Presentations: 2:30 PM and repeated at 6:00 PM

The Staten Island Hotel
Harbor Room and Ballroom
1415 Richmond Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10314

Elizabeth, New Jersey
Wednesday, October 6th, 2004
Two Sessions: 2:00 - 5:00 PM and 5:30 - 8:30 PM
Presentations: 2:30 PM and repeated at 6:00 PM

City of Elizabeth City Hall
Council Chambers - 3rd Floor
50 Market Street
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201

Special Needs Assistance:
If you require any special assistance including sign and other language interpretations, please contact Howard/Stein-Hudson Associates by October 1 at (973) 339-0488.

GET INVOLVED:
For more information on this project, visit the Web site at www.goethalseis.com

**GOETHALS BRIDGE
MODERNIZATION PROGRAM EIS**

Welcome.

The United States Coast Guard is directing preparation of the Goethals Bridge Modernization Program Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's proposal to replace the existing Goethals Bridge, as well as other alternatives for modernizing the bridge crossing.

The Coast Guard, as Federal lead agency for the EIS, invites you to learn about the proposed project, the environmental review process, and about how you can become involved.

WHAT'S NEW

- ▶ [Read the Public Scoping Information Packet](#)
- ▶ [Come to the Public Scoping Meetings, October 4th and 6th](#)
- ▶ [Tell the Coast Guard about issues the EIS should address](#)
- ▶ [Sign up for the GBMP EIS mailing list](#)

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
GOETHALS BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

NEWSLETTER 1 / FALL 2004

ABOUT THIS PROJECT:
The United States Coast Guard is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental, economic, and social impacts of the proposed Goethals Bridge replacement. The Port Authority of NY & NJ, project sponsor, has proposed this action as part of its Goethals Bridge Modernization Program.

The Goethals Bridge is a major bi-state crossing connecting Staten Island, New York, and Elizabeth, New Jersey. The Bridge carries approximately 76,000 vehicles daily (both directions) and provides direct connections to the New Jersey Turnpike and Routes 1 & 9 in New Jersey, and to the Staten Island Expressway and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in New York. Constructed in the 1920s, the 78-year-old bridge is outdated, having narrow lanes, lack of emergency breakdown lanes, and other structural limitations. These deficiencies contribute to deteriorating traffic and safety conditions on the bridge, as well as increasing maintenance and repair costs.

STUDY AREA:
The EIS will be prepared in accordance with regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. NEPA ensures that environmental information is available to the public before any decisions are made. Participation by the public is a critical part of the environmental review process to ensure that public concerns and issues are addressed in the EIS. This newsletter is the first in a series that will be issued during the EIS process to keep you informed about this important study.

The Coast Guard invites you to learn about the proposed action, the environmental review process, and about how you can become involved.

United States Coast Guard



Submit Comments

- Submit written comments for the official scoping record by November 5, 2004
- Mail to:
 - Commander (obr)**
 - First Coast Guard District**
 - United States Coast Guard**
 - Battery Building**
 - One South Street**
 - New York, NY 10004**
 - ATTN: Mr. E. Feemster, Project Manager**
- Fax to: 917-339-1068
- E-mail to: mfitzpatrick@hshassoc.com



Public Comment Period

Thank you.

