

Public and Agency Comments

The Project Team received 161 comments via mail, email, and three public hearings during the DEIS Comment Period. FEIS Appendix I includes a response for each comment. Below is a summary of the major themes.

Comment: Concerns about freight trains, hazardous materials, emergency events

Response:

- It is unlikely that there will be an increase in the number of freight trains using the new tunnel.
- Additional infrastructure improvements not currently planned or part of the Project would be required in order to route double-stack freight trains through the new tunnel.
- Freight operators have legal rights to operate and transport hazardous cargo through the existing and future B&P Tunnel.
- An Emergency Management Plan will be developed during final design.

Comment: Concerns about Air Quality, Vibration, and Noise

Response:

- Analysis has shown that the net change in emissions from operations and ventilation facilities would be well below applicable Clean Air Act thresholds.
- Vibration impacts are not likely. Ground-borne noise impacts would occur along the alignment, mitigation will be considered to reduce ground-borne noise.
- Further study indicates very low likelihood of tunnel construction damaging historic homes.
- Noise impacts would occur near the south portal. Noise walls will help reduce noise impacts.

Comment: Concerns about Neighborhood character, quality of life, and neighborhood revitalization

Response:

- Engineering refinements have reduced the demolition and relocation impacts of the Preferred Alternative.
- The FEIS includes \$50 million of proposed mitigation measures to benefit the affected communities.
- The preferred Intermediate Ventilation Facility location is now 900-940 West North Avenue.

Major Comment Themes

