

# Screening Methodology

## Screening Level 1: Fatal Flaw Screening

A fatal flaw is an issue that renders an alternative infeasible or unreasonable, including:

- Does not utilize existing infrastructure
- Infeasible geometry

## Screening Level 2: Screening of remaining preliminary alternatives using the following criteria:

Category	Criteria
Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets tunnel separation goal</li> <li>• Meets tunnel clearance goal</li> <li>• Meets horizontal curvature goal</li> <li>• Meets vertical grade goal</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintains a West Baltimore MARC Station</li> <li>• Maintains existing grade at Penn Station</li> <li>• Avoids impacts on physical constraints</li> </ul>
Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets separated right-of-way (ROW) goal</li> <li>• Maintains passenger operations</li> <li>• Provides at least two tracks and meets throughput goal</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces existing travel time</li> <li>• Provides NEC reliability</li> <li>• Maintains existing freight movements</li> </ul>
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compares primary construction method</li> <li>• Impacts number of parks within surface footprint</li> <li>• Impacts residential land uses within surface footprint</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilizes existing bridge over Jones Falls</li> <li>• Avoids low-income and minority populations</li> <li>• Avoids historic districts and structures</li> </ul>