

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