

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	S-1
S.1 BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION	S-1
S.2 PURPOSE AND NEED	S-1
S.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED	S-2
S.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	S-6
S.5 SECTION 4(F) ANALYSIS	S-6
S.6 SECTION 7 CONSULTATION	S-6
S.7 SECTION 106 CONSULTATION.....	S-7
S.8 INTEGRATED NEPA/404 PERMIT PROCESS	S-8
S.9 IDENTIFICATION OF A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.....	S-11
S.9.1 POST-SDEIS COORDINATION.....	S-11
S.10 OTHER GOVERNMENT ACTIONS REQUIRED	S-12
SECTION I: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND NEED.....	I-2
1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND	I-2
1.1.1 HISTORY OF APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR H.....	I-2
1.1.2 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS.....	I-5
1.1.3 WEST VIRGINIA NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL AVOIDANCE.....	I-6
1.1.4 SEIS REQUIREMENTS	I-6
1.1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE PARSONS-TO-DAVIS PROJECT SEIS PROCESS	I-7
1.1.6 THE STUDY AREA	I-8
1.1.7 INITIATION AND SCOPING OF THE SEIS	I-10
1.2 NEEDS ANALYSIS.....	I-10
1.2.1 IMPROVE EAST-WEST TRANSPORTATION.....	I-10
1.2.2 PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVE/IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE..	I-12
1.3 PURPOSE OF THE PARSONS-TO-DAVIS PROJECT.....	I-13
1.4 PARSONS-TO-DAVIS PROJECT SEIS STATUS	I-13
SECTION II: ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS	II-1
2.1 HISTORY OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED FOR CORRIDOR H	II-1
2.2 RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES FOR THE PARSONS-TO-DAVIS PROJECT	II-1
2.2.1 DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES	II-1
2.2.2 CONSIDERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS	II-2
2.2.3 CONSIDERATION OF ENGINEERING CONSTRAINTS	II-5
2.3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES IN THE SDEIS	II-7
2.3.1 NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE	II-7
2.3.2 IMPROVED ROADWAY ALTERNATIVE (IRA).....	II-8
2.3.3 BUILD ALTERNATIVES.....	II-8
2.3.4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING SDEIS PREPARATION	II-10
2.3.5 SDEIS ALTERNATIVE SCREENING PROCESS.....	II-11
2.4 APPROVAL AND CIRCULATION OF THE PARSONS-TO-DAVIS SDEIS.....	II-14
2.4.1 AGENCY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE SDEIS	II-14

2.4.2 ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON SDEIS II-15

2.4.3 ADDITIONAL COORDINATION WITH CITIES OF THOMAS AND DAVIS II-15

2.5 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE REPORT- DECEMBER 2003 II-16

2.5.1 UPDATED COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES II-16

2.5.2 IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE II-22

2.5.3 COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES ON PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE REPORT II-22

2.6 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) SECTION 7 CONSULTATION (INFORMAL)..... II-22

2.7 AMENDED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE REPORT- NOVEMBER 2004 II-22

2.8 REFINEMENT OF THE ROPA II-23

2.9 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA) SECTION 7 CONSULTATION (FORMAL) II-24

2.10 CONCLUSION II-25

SECTION III: EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES III-1

3.1 INTRODUCTION III-1

3.1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY AREA III-1

3.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT III-1

3.2.1 ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT..... III-2

3.2.2 LAND USE..... III-11

3.2.3 FARMLANDS III-14

3.2.4 SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT III-15

3.2.5 RELOCATIONS III-18

3.2.6 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE III-18

3.2.7 RECREATION III-19

3.2.8 VISUAL ENVIRONMENT III-23

3.2.9 SECONDARY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS..... III-25

3.3 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT..... III-33

3.3.1 FLOODPLAINS..... III-33

3.3.2 VEGETATION & WILDLIFE III-34

3.3.3 THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES..... III-42

3.3.4 WETLANDS III-51

3.3.5 WATERSHEDS & STREAMS III-57

3.3.6 WILD & SCENIC RIVERS..... III-71

3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES III-71

3.4.1 SECTION 106 PROCESS..... III-71

3.4.2 KNOWN AND EXPECTED CULTURAL RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA III-73

3.4.3 POTENTIAL IMPACTS III-76

3.5 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT III-78

3.5.1 GROUNDWATER RESOURCES III-78

3.5.2 GEOLOGY, MINES & MINERALS..... III-81

3.5.3 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS..... III-85

3.5.4 AIR QUALITY III-87

3.5.5 TRAFFIC NOISE III-90

3.5.6 ENERGY III-104

3.6 RELATIONSHIP OF LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES
VERSUS LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY III-105

3.7 IRREVERSIBLE & IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES III-106

SECTION IV: SECTION 4(F) AND 6(F) ANALYSESIV-1

4.1 PROJECT HISTORY IV-1

4.1.1 INTRODUCTION IV-1

4.1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT IV-1

4.1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED IV-2

4.2 SECTION 4(F) OVERVIEW IV-2

4.2.1 SECTION 4(F) USE DEFINED IV-2

4.3 IDENTIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SECTION 4(F)
RESOURCES IN THE STUDY AREA IV-2

4.3.1 CITY OF THOMAS PARK (PROPOSED) IV-3

4.3.2 BLACKWATER INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL
AND HISTORIC DISTRICT IV-4

4.3.3 THE WEST VIRGINIA CENTRAL & PITTSBURG (WVC&P) RAILWAY IV-5

4.4 IMPACTS ON PROPERTIES WHERE SECTION 4(F) IS APPLICABLE IV-6

4.4.1 BLACKWATER INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC DISTRICT IV-6

4.4.2 THE WEST VIRGINIA CENTRAL AND PITTSBURG (WVC&P) RAILWAY IV-7

4.5 SECTION 4(F) CONCLUSION IV-8

4.6 SECTION 6(F) ANALYSIS IV-8

4.6.1 RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION AND CONVERSION EVALUATION IV-8

SECTION V: LIST OF PREPARERS V-1

5.1 FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION V-1

5.2 WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS V-1

5.3 MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC. V-1

SECTION VI: DISTRIBUTION LISTVI-1

6.1 FEDERAL AGENCIES VI-1

6.2 STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA VI-1

6.3 OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES - WEST VIRGINIA VI-1

6.4 UNITED STATES POST OFFICES VI-1

6.5 LIBRARIES VI-1

6.6 HIGH SCHOOLS VI-1

6.7 INTEREST GROUPS VI-1

6.8 PLAINTIFFS IN SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT CORRIDOR H
ALTERNATIVES V. SLATER, 96-CV-2622 (TFH) VI-1

6.9 COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) MEMBERS VI-2

6.10 SDEIS COMMENTORS VI-2

SECTION VII: COMMENTS AND COORDINATIONVII-1

7.1 NOTICE OF INTENT VII-1

7.2 AGENCY COORDINATION.....VII-1

7.2.1 EARLY COORDINATION / AGENCY SCOPING MEETING – JUNE 14, 2000VII-2

7.2.2 AGENCY STATUS MEETING - DECEMBER 14, 2000VII-3

7.2.3 ADDITIONAL AGENCY MEETING REGARDING WVNFS - AUGUST 9, 2001VII-4

7.2.4 USFS MNF COORDINATION – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)- JUNE 2003VII-6

7.3 SECTION 106 CONSULTATIONVII-7

7.4 SECTION 7 CONSULTATIONVII-8

7.5 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE REPORTS.....VII-9

7.5.1 DECEMBER 2003 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE REPORTVII-9

7.5.2 NOVEMBER 2004 AMENDED PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE REPORTVII-16

7.6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENTVII-20

7.6.1 PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP - JUNE 14, 2000VII-20

7.6.2 PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP - JANUARY 18, 2001VII-22

7.6.3 PUBLIC INFORMATION WORKSHOP - OCTOBER 23, 2001VII-23

7.7 SDEIS NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND COMMENT PERIOD.....VII-23

7.7.1 PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 6, 2003VII-23

7.7.2 SDEIS COMMENTSVII-23

7.8 COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)VII-29

7.9 CITY OF THOMAS RESOLUTION ON JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF PARK.....VII-30

7.10 ADDITIONAL COORDINATION WITH CITY COUNCILSVII-30

7.11 OTHER ACTIVITIESVII-31

SECTION VIII: REFERENCES..... VIII-1

SECTION IX: INDEX IX-1

LIST OF TABLES

Table S-1 Alternatives Evaluated in the SEIS for the Parsons-to-Davis Project..... S-5

Table S-2 Updated Summary of Impacts by Alternative S-9

Table I-1 Levels of Service on the Primary Existing East-West Route I-11

Table I-2 Accident and Injury Rates for the Principal Existing East-West Route (US 219-WV 32) in the Study Area I-12

Table II-1 Level Two Screening Results¹ II-12

Table II-2 Summary of Impacts by Alternative in December 2003 Preferred Alternative Report II-19

Table II-3 Alternatives Evaluated in the SEIS for the Parsons-to-Davis Project..... II-25

Table III-1 Tucker County Population and Employment..... III-2

Table III-2 Tucker County Labor Force and Employment..... III-3

Table III-3 Tucker County Income and Poverty Levels III-3

Table III-4 Effects of Alternatives and Connection Scenarios on Truck Traffic in Downtown Thomas..... III-7

Table III-5 Land Converted to Transportation Use (acres) III-14

Table III-6 Communities and Neighborhoods in the Study Area III-15

Table III-7 Visual Impact on Sensitive Sites in the Study Area III-25

Table III-8	Floodplain/Floodway Impacts (in acres)	III-34
Table III-9	Land Cover Type Use By Evaluation Species.....	III-35
Table III-10	USFWS Land Cover by Build Alternative (in acres)	III-36
Table III-11	Comparison of Baseline Habitat Units (HUs) by Evaluation Species (in acres)	III-37
Table III-12	Minimum Breeding Area Requirements & Breeding Bird Survey Data for Neotropical Migrant Birds and the Brown-Headed Cowbird ¹	III-39
Table III-13	Changes in Forest Cover due to the Construction of Each Build Alternative	III-40
Table III-14	Federally Listed Species Potentially Located in the Study Area.....	III-42
Table III-15	ESA Section 7 consultation for the WVNFS	III-45
Table III-16	Species of Concern Potentially Located in the Study Area.....	III-50
Table III-17	Wetland System Function and Values	III-53
Table III-18	Identified Wetlands and Potential Impacts by Alternative.....	III-54
Table III-19	Summary of Wetland Impacts By Build Alternative	III-57
Table III-20	Summary of Baseline Aquatic Habitat Value for Streams within the Study Area	III-59
Table III-21	Parsons-to-Davis Inventory of Stream Impacts (For Alternatives 1D West, 1D East, 1E, 1G West, 1G East).....	III-63
Table III-22	Parsons-to-Davis Inventory of Stream Impacts (For ROPA/Preferred Alternative, OPA, Alternative 2).....	III-65
Table III-23	Summary of Stream Impacts Based On Total Length of Enclosure, and Total Length of Relocations*	III-67
Table III-24	Proposed Bridge Locations and Lengths by Build Alternative	III-69
Table III-25	Potential Impacts to Prehistoric Probability Areas (acres)	III-78
Table III-26	Issued Mine Permits	III-83
Table III-27	Potential Hazardous Waste Sites in Study Area.....	III-86
Table III-28	National Ambient Air Quality Standards ^a	III-88
Table III-29	Highest Predicted 1-Hour CO Concentrations for Years 2010 & 2020	III-89
Table III-30	Measured Ambient Sound Levels	III-91
Table III-31	FHWA Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC)	III-92
Table III-32	Modeled Noise-Sensitive Receptors.....	III-94
Table III-33	Modeled Noise Levels at Noise Sensitive Receptors.....	III-99
Table III-34	Predicted Design Year Noise Level Impacts	III-103
Table III-35	Energy Consumption for the Ten Year Period 2010 to 2020 (in gallons of fuel)	III-105
Table IV-1	Description of Thomas Park (Proposed)	IV-3
Table IV-2	Description of Blackwater Industrial Complex Archaeological and Historic District	IV-4
Table IV-3	Description of the West Virginia Central & Pittsburg (WVC&P) Railway.....	IV-5
Table VII-1	Agency Scoping Meeting – June 14, 2000 – Canaan Valley Resort & Conference Center.....	VII-3
Table VII-2	Agency Status Meeting - December 14, 2000 – WVDNR Headquarters.....	VII-4
Table VII-3	Additional Agency Meeting Regarding WVNFS - August 9, 2001 – WVDNR Headquarters	VII-5
Table VII-4	Agency Responses to Comments on the Parsons-to-Davis January 2004 Preferred Alternative Report*	VII-11

Table VII-5 Agency Responses to Comments on the Parsons-to-Davis November 2004 Amended Preferred Alternative Report..... VII-18

Table VII-6 General Public Comments and WVDOH Responses – June 14, 2000 Public Meeting VII-20

Table VII-7 General Public Comments and WVDOH Responses – January 18, 2001 Public Meeting..... VII-22

Table VII-8 Agency Responses to Comments on the December 2002 SDEIS..... VII-24

Table VII-9 Community Advisory Group (CAG) VII-29

Table VII-10 Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meetings List VII-30

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure S-1 Parsons To-Davis Project Timeline S-4

Figure I-1 History of Corridor H I-2

Figure I-2 Appalachian Corridor H Settlement Agreement Project Areas I-4

Figure I-3 Parsons-to-Davis Study Area..... I-9

Figure I-4 Parsons-to-Davis Project Timeline I-14

Figure II-1 Corridor H: The Road to a Preferred Alternative..... II-2

Figure II-2 SFEIS Sensitive Watersheds II-4

Figure II-3 Typical Section II-6

Figure III-1 Existing Tourist Traffic Directional Distribution III-6

Figure III-2 Tourist Traffic Directional Distribution with Corridor H – ROPA/Preferred Alternative¹, OPA and Alternative 2 III-8

Figure III-3 Tourist Traffic Directional Distribution with Corridor H – Blackwater Avoidance Alternatives III-10

Figure III-4 SFEIS Bike Paths III-21

Figure III-5 Slip Hill Mill Run..... III-61

Figure III-6 Section 106 Process for Historic Places Under Corridor H Programmatic Agreement..... III-72

Figure III-7 Coketon Area..... III-75

Figure III-8 Generalized Geologic Map of the Study Area..... III-82

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit II-1 Baseline Environmental Constraints and No-Build Alternative

Exhibit II-2 All Alternatives Considered in the SDEIS

Exhibit II-3 Alternatives Carried Forward for Detailed Analysis in the SDEIS

Exhibit II-4 Refined ROPA/Preferred Alternative Plan Sheet and Cross Sections

Exhibit II-5 ROPA/Preferred Alternative

Exhibit III-1 Monongahela National Forest Management Prescription Areas (MPA) And Recreational Resources

Exhibit III-2 Communities And Neighborhoods

Exhibit III-3 Socio-Economic Resources

Exhibit III-4 Surface Water Resources

Exhibit III-5 West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel Habitat

Exhibit III-6 Historic and Archaeological Resources

Exhibit III-7 Public Water Resources

- Exhibit III-8 Mines And Hazardous Waste Sites
- Exhibit III-9 Noise Receptor Locations
- Exhibit IV-1 Section 4(f) Resources and ROPA
- Exhibit IV-2 ROPA Crossing of the Blackwater Industrial Complex at Coketon

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A Comment And Coordination Letters
- Appendix B Corridor H Settlement Agreement
- Appendix C Formal Section 7 Consultation WVNFS USFWS Biological Opinion
- Appendix D Corridor H Programmatic Agreement
- Appendix E USFS MNF Memorandum of Understanding

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
ADHS	Appalachian Development Highway System
AMLR	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection - Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation
APD	Appalachian Development Highway System
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARC	Appalachian Regional Commission
ARDA	Appalachian Regional Development Act
ASDEIS	Appalachian Corridor H Alignment Selection Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (November, 1994)
BA	Biological Assessment
BE	Biological Evaluation
BO	Biological Opinion
BTU	British Thermal Unit
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAG	Community Advisory Group
CALTRANS	California Transportation Laboratory
CEQ	President's Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHA	Corridor H Alternatives, Inc.
CMS	Congestion Management System
CO	Carbon Monoxide
COE	Criteria of Effects
CONSENT	Superfund (CERCLA) Consent Decrees
CSDEIS	Appalachian Corridor H Corridor Selection Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (October, 1992)
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	Decibel
dBA	Decibels on the A-weighted Scale
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DDHV	Directional Design Hourly Volume
DOE	Determination of Eligibility
DOI	United States Department of the Interior
DTEMS	Davis Thomas Elementary and Middle School
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement

FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
gpm	Gallons Per Minute
Ha	Hectare
HBI	Hilsenhoff Biotic Index
HEP	Habitat Evaluation Procedure
HOV	High Occupancy Vehicle
HSI	Habitat Suitability Index
HU	Habitat Unit
HUD	United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
IL	Insertion loss
IRA	Improved Roadway Alternative
Leq(h)	Representative of an average sound level over an hour's time period
LOS	Level of Service
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
LWCFA	Land and Water Conservation Fund Act
MD	Maryland
MP	Management Prescriptions
MRLC	Multi-resolution Land Characterization Consortium
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, 42 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq.
NHS	National Highway System
NOx	Nitrogen oxide
NLCD	National Land Cover Data
NPL	National Priority List
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service)
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRI	Nationwide Rivers Inventory
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
O₃	Ozone
OSM	Office of Surface Mining
Pb	Lead
PEM	Palustrine Emergent Wetland
PFO	Palustrine Forested Wetland
PM	Particulate Matter
PPM	Parts Per Million

PRT	Potential Roost Trees; of Indiana bat
PSS	Palustrine Scrub-Shrub Wetland
PSD	Public Service District
RBP	Rapid Bioassessment Protocol
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RCRIS	Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System
ROD	Record of Decision; issued pursuant to NEPA
ROPA	Revised Original Preferred Alternative
ROW	Right-of-Way
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SDEIS	Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement
SEIS	Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
SFEIS	Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement
SO₂	Sulfur Dioxide
TCHS	Tucker County High School
TCL	Tucker County Landfill
TM	Thematic Mapper
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS MNF	United States Forest Service Monongahela National Forest
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
WV	West Virginia
WVDCH	West Virginia Division of Culture and History
WVDEP	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
WVDHHR	West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
WVDNR	West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
WVDOT	West Virginia Department of Transportation, Division of Highways
WVDOT	West Virginia Department of Transportation
WVGES	West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey
WVNHP	West Virginia Natural Heritage Program
WVNFS	West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel
WVOMST	West Virginia Office of Miner's Safety and Training
WVSHPO	West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer (or an official authorized to act on his or her behalf for purposes of Section 106)

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED TERMS

2000 Settlement Agreement: Refers to February 7, 2000 agreement between Corridor H Alternatives, et. al. and USDOT, the result of Corridor H Alternatives v. Slater, Case No. 96-CV-2622 (TFH). (Appendix B)

Acidity: A measurement of the hydrogen ion concentration of an aqueous solution.

Acid Drainage: Is a low pH, sulfate-rich water with high amounts of acidity, which results from the oxidation of metal disulfide minerals upon exposure to air and water.

Alignment: Refers to the proposed routing of Build Alternatives.

Alternative: General term that refers to possible approaches to meeting the project's purpose and need. Typically refers to the No-Build and the Build Alternatives.

Avoidance Alignments: Alternatives developed for consideration that avoid the use of land in the Blackwater Area as defined in the Settlement Agreement and land known to be occupied by the West Virginia northern flying squirrel.

Anticline: A convex fold in bedrock.

Aquifer: A water-bearing unit of permeable rock, sand, or gravel that yields considerable quantities of water to springs and wells.

Attainment: Status of the various pollutants described in the NAAQS. A condition where a pollutant meets NAAQS.

Benthic: Located on the bottom of a body of water or in the bottom sediments, or pertaining to bottom-dwelling organisms.

Biodiversity: The variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur.

Biological Opinion: Documents the opinion of the USFWS as to whether or not a proposed Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species and details the effects of the action on the species and/or its critical habitat. (50 CFR 402)

Blackwater Area: The area within and around the Blackwater Valley, south of Thomas, as depicted on Exhibit 4 of the Settlement Agreement (Appendix B).

Blackwater Avoidance Alignment: Any alignment for Corridor H that is located entirely outside the Blackwater Area.

Carbon Monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless gas that is formed as a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon and is emitted directly by automobiles and trucks.

Corridor H Alternatives, Inc. (CHA): Any corporations that are subsidiaries of CHA or are otherwise legally affiliated with CHA, any successors-in-interest to CHA, and any existing or future entities, associations, or groups formed by or with the direct involvement of any persons who, as of the Effective Date, are directors or officers of CHA partly or entirely for the purpose of opposing Corridor H or any Project or for the purpose of promoting alternatives to Corridor H or any Project.

Community Cohesion: The connections between and within communities that are essential for serving the needs of the residents (e.g., churches, recreational facilities).

Corridor H: All or a portion of the Appalachian Corridor H Highway between Elkins, West Virginia, and the West Virginia/Virginia State Line.

Court of Appeals: The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Criteria of Effect Evaluation: An assessment of the potential effects of a proposed project on each resource determined eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Cumulative Impact: An impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Cultural Resources: Patterned physical remains of human activity distributed over the landscape through time.

Design Speed: The maximum safe operating speed for which a highway is designed. The posted speed limit is generally slightly less than the design speed.

Determination of Eligibility Evaluation: Identification of all buildings, structures, objects and districts over 50 years of age that may be affected by a proposed project and an assessment of each resource's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

District Court: The United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Environmental Justice: Presidential Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to take into consideration disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of federal programs and projects on low-income and minority populations.

Floodplain: The portion of a river or stream valley, adjacent to the channel, which is covered with water when the river or stream overflows its banks at flood stage. It is also defined as lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including, at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Flood Hazard Zone: The area flooded during a 100-year storm.

Floodway: An area identified on a FIRM or a Flood Boundary Floodway Map (FBFM) that represents the portion of the floodplain that carries the majority of the flood flow and is often associated with high velocity flow and debris impact. The floodway includes the channel of a stream or river and the adjacent floodplain that must be reserved in an unobstructed condition in order to discharge the base flood without increasing flood levels by more than one foot.

Groundwater: Naturally occurring water that moves through the ground and underlying rock, at a depth of several feet to several hundred feet.

Habitat Evaluation Procedure: A method created by the USFWS to evaluate the quality of habitat for selected wildlife species.

Habitat Unit: A non-dimensional unit of comparison in the Habitat Evaluation Procedure (see above), used to quantify gains and losses in wildlife habitat value resulting from project-related activities, and calculated by multiplying an index of habitat suitability by the area of that habitat.

Historic Archaeological Site: Any subsurface cultural manifestation dated post-European contact.

Historic Property: Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register. This term includes, for the purposes of these regulations, artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term "eligible for inclusion in the National Register" includes both properties formally determined as such by the Secretary of the Interior and all other properties that meet National Register listing criteria.

Insertion Loss: The difference in sound levels before and after installation of a noise barrier.

Karst: The occurrence of limestone as the first bedrock unit beneath the soil in which cavities form due to the solubility of limestone under certain conditions. Surface characteristics include sinkholes and sinking streams.

Keeper: The Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, or any other official within the United States Department of the Interior vested with authority to determine the eligibility of historic properties for listing in the National Register, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 470a.

Level of Service (LOS): Operating conditions within a stream of traffic describing safety, traffic interruptions, speed, freedom to maneuver, comfort, and convenience. Six levels of service are defined, designated A through F, with A representing the best conditions and F the worst.

Low-income Populations: A population whose household income is below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.

National Register: The National Register of Historic Places, as maintained by the United States Department of the Interior, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 470a.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document: Any document or report prepared by or on behalf of FHWA or WVDOT pursuant to NEPA for a Project, including but not necessarily limited to any Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact, Draft SEIS, Final SEIS, or Amended ROD, but not including any pre-decisional, deliberative, or privileged materials.

Nitrogen Oxide: Oxides of nitrogen (e.g., NO₂, NO₃)

Non-attainment: A condition where a pollutant exceeds the NAAQS two or more times during a year.

Original Preferred Alternative (OPA): The Build Alternative defined as preferred in the 1996 Corridor H FEIS and 1996 Corridor H ROD. In the Settlement Agreement it was called the "Blackwater Alignment," although other alignments passing through the Blackwater Area may be called a Blackwater Alignment.

Ozone: Unstable blue gas with a pungent odor formed principally in secondary reactions involving volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and sunlight.

Palustrine Emergent (PEM) Wetland: Wetlands that are dominated by erect, herbaceous vegetation present for most of the growing season (i.e., marshes, wet meadows, fens, sloughs, or potholes). (Also, see "Wetland" below.)

Palustrine Forested (PFO) Wetland: Wetlands that are dominated by woody vegetation greater than 20 feet (6 meters) in height (i.e., swamps of bottomlands). (Also, see "Wetland" below.)

Palustrine Scrub-Shrub (PFO) Wetland: Wetlands that are dominated by woody vegetation less than 20 feet (6 meters) in height (i.e., pocosins, shrub swamps, or wet thickets). (Also, see "Wetland" below.)

Physiographic Province: A region which is generally consistent in geologic structure and climate and which has had a unified geomorphic history.

Proclamation Boundary: Legal boundary, established by Congress, for National Forest lands developed to aid in land management planning from project level to forest level.

Project Impact: Partnership between communities and FEMA that helps communities protect themselves from the devastating effects of natural disasters by taking actions that dramatically reduce disruption and loss.

Regulatory Floodway: The portion of the 100-year floodplain within which the majority of the floodwater is carried and where flooding hazards are the highest.

Riparian: Pertaining to anything connected with or immediately adjacent to the banks of a stream.

Secondary Impact: An impact on the environment resulting from the primary impact of the action.

Section 106: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. § 470f.

Section 4(f): Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, 49 U.S.C. § 303(c).

Section 4(f) Document: Any finding, evaluation, report, or other document prepared by or on behalf of FHWA or WVDOT pursuant to Section 4(f) with respect to a Project, including, but not

necessarily limited to, any finding of no constructive use and any approval of the use of a Section 4(f) Resource, but not including any predecisional, deliberative, or privileged materials.

Section 4(f) Resource: Any park, recreation area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge, or historic site that is protected under Section 4(f).

Settlement Agreement: (See "2000 Settlement Agreement" above.)

Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS): Document prepared by FHWA and WVDOT in accordance with NEPA and other applicable laws and regulations; generally presented in two parts – a Draft (SDEIS) and a Final (SFEIS).

Syncline: A concave fold in bedrock.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): A calculation of the maximum amount of pollutant that a waterbody can receive and not diminish its beneficial use classification and still meet water quality standard. In addition, a TMDL contains the reductions needed to meet water quality standards and allocates those reductions among sources in the watershed.

Upland Habitat: Land that has sufficient dry conditions that hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and/or wetland hydrology are lacking. Any area that is not a wetland, deepwater aquatic habitat, nor other special aquatic site is considered upland habitat.

Vertical Curves: Hills, both inclines and declines.

Viewshed: All land seen from one static point.

Watershed: A specific geographic area drained by a major stream or river.

Wetland: Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal conditions do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated conditions.

Zone of Saturation: The area found below the water table where water occupies all open space.

COMMONLY USED METRIC CONVERSIONS

Quantity	Metric Unit	English Unit	Factor to Convert Metric Units to English Units
Length	Kilometer (km)	Mile (mi)	Kilometers x 0.62 = Miles
	Meter (m)	Foot (ft)	Meters x 3.28 = Feet
Area	Square Kilometer (km ²)	Square Mile (mi ²)	Sq. Kilometers x 0.39 = Sq. Miles
	Hectare (ha)	Acre (ac)	Hectares x 2.47 = Acres
Volume	Liter (l)	Gallon (gal)	Liters x 0.26 = Gallon
Mass	Kilogram (kg)	Pound (lb)	Kilograms x 2.21 = Pounds
Velocity	Kilometer per Hour (kph)	Mile per Hour (mph)	kph x 0.62 = mph