

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Milwaukee County, in coordination with the Federal Transit Administration, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the East-West BRT project, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The environmental review process is required for all projects that receive federal funds. The EA evaluates the benefits and impacts of both the No Action (or No Build) alternative and the BRT (Build) alternative.

An EA makes sure decision-makers consider the project's impacts and benefits before the final project decision and document approval.

## What is an EA?

An EA evaluates the project's potential impact to the environment (positive and negative) and identifies measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate those impacts. An EA is required to include brief, but thorough discussion on:

- The need for the project
- Alternatives under consideration
- Environmental impacts of each alternative
- A listing of agencies and persons consulted

## How is an EA approved?

If it is determined that there will be no significant impacts on the quality of the environment, FTA issues a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to conclude the environmental review process and document the decision.

The FONSI:

- Considers all applicable comments and responses
- Identifies the project sponsor's selected alternative
- Concludes the environmental review and allows the project to advance into final design and construction

## What topics does the EA evaluate?

The EA considers short- and long-term impacts related to the construction and operation of the project. It evaluates social, cultural, environmental and transportation-related impacts including:

- Traffic and parking
- Noise
- Air quality
- Historic resources
- Communities and neighborhoods
- Minority and low-income populations
- Land use and economics
- Natural and biological resources

## EA TIMELINE and REVIEW PROCESS

