

Foreword

Since 2008, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) have been advancing a Cross Harbor Freight Program (CHFP), aimed at improving the movement of goods in the greater New York/New Jersey region by enhancing the transportation of freight across New York Harbor. A key component of the CHFP is the preparation and publication of a tiered Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), that examines various alternatives for reducing the region's reliance on trucking and moving freight across the Harbor more efficiently. The EIS is being prepared by FHWA and PANYNJ, with FHWA acting as federal lead agency.

Tier I of the study broadly examines the potential transportation and environmental effects from a range of alternatives, and identifies the Preferred Alternatives proposed for advancement to Tier II. The goal of Tier I is to select alternative(s) for further study and potential implementation, with a focus on freight transportation mode(s), alignment, logical termini, and regional effects.

Tier II of the study will examine the potential transportation and environmental effects of the Preferred Alternatives in much greater detail, including potential effects on local communities along the proposed alignment(s) for such alternatives.

As allowed and encouraged by the 2012 Transportation bill (MAP-21) mandating streamlined action under NEPA, this document incorporates by reference certain portions of the Draft EIS (DEIS) and includes an errata chapter to reflect updates and corrections to the DEIS; it thereby constitutes the Tier 1 Final EIS (FEIS) for the Cross Harbor Freight Program.

This FEIS, therefore, consists of Chapters 1 through 11 of the DEIS (included here by reference only), Chapter 12, "Response to Comments Received on the DEIS," Chapter 13, "Preferred Alternatives," and Chapter 14, "Errata." A supplement to Appendix B, "Updates to Agency Coordination and Public Participation," and three new appendices—Appendix F, "Cultural Resources," Appendix G, "Air Quality," and Appendix H, "Noise and Vibration"—are also included as part of this FEIS.

- Chapter 12, "Response to Comments Received on the DEIS," includes a summary of public comments received on the DEIS and the responses to those comments.
- Chapter 13, "Preferred Alternatives," identifies the Preferred Alternatives recommended for advancement to Tier II and describes the reasons why those alternatives were selected and why others were not.
- Chapter 14, "Errata," includes a list of updates and factual corrections by DEIS chapter and page number.

While MAP-21 also directs agencies conducting environmental reviews under NEPA to develop a single document that can act as both an FEIS and a Record of Decision (ROD) "to the maximum extent practicable," the ROD for the Tier 1 EIS will be prepared separately because the Preferred Alternatives were not identified as preferred in the DEIS. *