

(a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) (1) "Construction phase" means the phase in which a highway project is advanced through detailed engineering, property acquisition, and construction to completion.

(2) This definition does not preclude the Administration from acquiring property during the project planning phase, and the completion of property acquisition does not constitute a commitment to the project's alignment or construction.

(g) "Project planning phase" means the phase in which engineering and environmental studies and analyses are conducted with full participation of the public, in addition to local, State, and federal agencies, to determine the scope and location of a proposed highway project.

(h) "Initial project planning phase" means that portion of the project planning phase which includes:

(1) Notification of local, State, and federal officials;

(2) Initial interagency review;

(3) Initial systems planning;

(4) Identification of alternatives, as set forth in § 8-102 of this title, for the scope and the location of the project;

(5) Estimates of right-of-way requirements, including available detail with respect to specific properties affected, and of cost;

(6) Public meetings for discussion of the foregoing; and

(7) Reports of consultants, if any have been retained for the analysis of preliminary alternatives.

(i) "Final project planning phase" means that portion of the project planning phase which follows the initial project planning phase. The final project planning phase includes:

(1) Detailed review of alternatives;

(2) Selection of final alignment and scope;

(3) Preparation of final environmental impact documents;