
Abstract

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as the federal lead agency, in cooperation with SEPTA as the local Project sponsor, provides this Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation (DEIS) for the King of Prussia Rail Project (Project) in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The Project would extend existing Norristown High Speed Line (NHSL) service to the King of Prussia-Valley Forge area of Upper Merion, a distance of approximately 4.4 miles. This DEIS evaluates the environmental, transportation, social, and economic benefits and impacts of the Project, including No Action and Action Alternatives. The DEIS identifies a recommended Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which is also considered the NEPA preferred alternative per 40 CFR 1502.14(e). Following the DEIS public comment period, SEPTA may choose to select an LPA after examining the comments received during the DEIS public comment period, and other relevant information. After completion of the environmental process, SEPTA will consider officially adopting a Project alternative for implementation.

FTA may issue a single Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision pursuant to Public Law 114-94, 23 USC139(n)(2) as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, unless FTA determines statutory criteria, or practicability considerations preclude issuance of the combined document pursuant to Section 1319.

Comments on the DEIS

The DEIS is available for comment through December 4, 2017. The DEIS is available for viewing on the Project website, www.kingofprussiarail.com, at the Upper Merion Township Library, at the Montgomery County-Norristown Public Library and at the Upper Darby Free Public Library-Municipal Branch. The DEIS is available for public review upon request at the SEPTA office located at 1234 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA. Any person with special needs, such as English language assistance, should contact SEPTA for assistance. During the review period, FTA and SEPTA will hold public hearings at two locations to provide the opportunity for comment on the DEIS. The dates, times, and locations of the public hearings are as follows:

Monday, November 13, 2017

DoubleTree Hotel, 301 West DeKalb Pike, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, 19406
Open House and Private Oral Comments: 1 to 2 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m.; Presentations: 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.;
Public Oral Comments: 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Norristown Municipal Building, 235 East Airy Street, Norristown, PA 19401
Open House and Private Oral Comments: 5 to 6 p.m.; Presentation: 6 p.m.;
Public Oral Comments: 6 to 8 p.m.

Comments on the DEIS may be submitted in writing to the Project mailbox at the address below:

KOP Rail Project Mailbox
c/o McCormick Taylor, Inc. ATTN: SPD
Two Commerce Square
2001 Market Street, 10th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to info@koprail.com or through the Project website. The public comment period deadline of December 4, 2017 is posted on the Project website.