NEPA – What is it? And how does it work?

• The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
• Applies to federally funded actions
• Requires analysis of impacts to natural and cultural resources and the human environment
• Requires a transparent decision-making process with the public
• Analysis of impacts varies depending on project size, complexity and level of impact
  – Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – for projects where it is known that the action will have a significant effect on the environment.
  – Environmental Assessment (EA) – for actions in which the significance of the environmental impact is not clearly established.
  – Categorical Exclusion (CE) – for actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment.

Although the level of environmental documentation for the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study has not yet been determined, IDOT is following the requirements for an EIS.