

SECTION 6.5

SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT VERSUS LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The Project's "short-term" uses would include temporary effects during construction, including disruptions to interstates and local roads, temporary visual effects, noise and potential dust-related effects, the need for stormwater controls during construction, and the closure of a portion of Wilson Park (0.12 acres). At the same time, construction activities would generate local expenditures from the use of local construction materials, the employment of construction workers, and expenditures by construction workers at local businesses. The expenditures would generate tax revenue as well.

Short-term effects due to construction are unavoidable, but best practices measures would be employed to minimize the effects of construction to the greatest extent practicable. Traffic management plans, stormwater pollution prevention plans, erosion and sediment control plans, and communications protocols would be developed. In accordance with standard construction management practices, measures will be developed and implemented to protect certain historic properties from vibration, excavation, and potential damage from heavy equipment during construction. As design advances, specific properties will be identified based on potential risks associated with construction activities. The New York State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) will be afforded the opportunity to review these protective measures before construction commences.

The long-term benefits associated with the Project include improved safety and more efficient traveling within and through greater Syracuse. These benefits are consistent with the long-range plans of the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council and would be achieved through the elimination of substandard conditions on the roadway network and traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. The Project would substantially reduce the need for annual maintenance of the existing highway network (I-81 and I-690) in Syracuse. At the same time, the Project would improve the visual character of areas near the existing viaduct and improve east-west and north-south connectivity for local travel, which are consistent with long-range plans for the community. Improvements to water quality would also be realized via the installation of combined sewer outfalls and landscaping designed to reduce stormwater flows.

Thus, the Project would result in both beneficial and negative short-term effects during construction. The negative effects would be offset by the long-term gains from the enhanced transportation infrastructure.