

4.24 Short and Long Term Impacts

This section will summarize the anticipated short-term and long-term impacts to various resources within the project corridor during the construction and operation of the proposed project.

4.24.1 Short-Term Impacts

Short-term impacts are defined as those impacts that will occur over a relatively short period of time due to temporary conditions. For the Meadowlands Railroad and Roadway Improvement Project, short-term impacts would include those impacts that would occur during construction. In order to minimize overall adverse impacts during construction, the proposed project would be planned, designed, scheduled and staged to minimize disruption to existing traffic, abutting neighborhoods and the environment. Although some adverse impacts would be unavoidable, applying best management practices pertaining to construction operations would minimize the duration and severity of these effects.

Short-term impacts during the construction of the Meadowlands Railroad and Roadway Improvement Project would include:

- Construction-related fugitive dust from concrete demolition, haul trucks, concert trucks, delivery trucks and earth-moving vehicles operating around the proposed project site;
- Erosion and the temporary disturbance of soils due to excavation and grading associated with construction activities;
- Increased air emissions from construction equipment, construction worker vehicles, and placement of asphalt;
- Noise emissions from construction equipment and construction vehicles in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site; and,
- Construction of a temporary access road that would temporarily disturb approximately 1.11 acres of tidal wetland areas.

4.24.2 Long-Term Impacts

Long-term impacts are those impacts that would occur over a long or indefinite period of time. For the Meadowlands Railroad and Roadway Improvement Project, long-term impacts would include those impacts that would be the permanent result of the physical construction of the project, and those impacts that would be the on-going result of the operation of the project. Mitigation measures would be utilized to minimize these impacts.

Long-term impacts from the construction and operation of the Meadowlands Railroad and Roadway Improvement Project would include:

- Approximately 1.6 acres of wetlands would be permanently impacted;
- Relocation of existing utilities would be required under the proposed project;
- Positive impacts on transportation and mobility, as creating this new rail service would ease reliance on regional roads and create increased modal choices; and,
- Positive impacts on access to Meadowlands Sports Complex and surrounding areas, which is both a transportation and economic benefit.