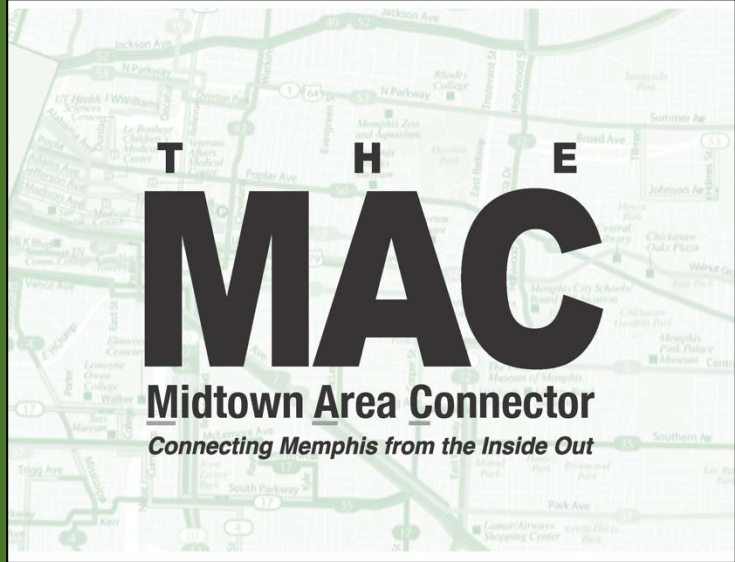


MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

# Midtown

## Alternatives Analysis

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM: 9  
Environmental Considerations



September 2015

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## Section 1|

# Environmental Constraints Review

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## Summary

The seven alignments chosen for further study have been reviewed for environmental considerations, to include potential stream/wetland impacts, protected species concerns, and floodplains. All alignments are within urban and suburban areas of Memphis that are fully developed or provide significant potential for redevelopment, as these are typically the most transit-supportive portions of the city. This previous development will allow for less overall environmental impact to be incurred by construction of any chosen alternative. Several of the alignments already have a built-out corridor, allowing for little to no environmental impacts from a construction footprint for the project.

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## Historic Resources

A number of historic districts and potentially-eligible historic properties are located along the alignments being studied. Further analysis of each alternative will be provided in Preliminary Engineering and Final Design. Among the readily-apparent concerns are the Overton Park, Cooper-Young, and similar residential areas of Midtown Memphis. Both areas contain many potentially-eligible homes and buildings, as well as designated districts and landmarks. While the project's alternatives will primarily fall within existing rights-of-way and paved roadways, consideration will need to be given to historic properties to ensure impacts are minimized and mitigated appropriately.

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## Wetlands/Streams/Floodplains

The alignments being carried forward are within previously-developed corridors, where drainage infrastructure (ditches, pipes, culverts, and bridges) is already in place. Preliminary and final designs should consider whether floodplain encroachment issues need to be addressed, but at this stage of alternative considerations, floodplains do not appear to be a significant issue. Additionally, the corridors being studied have little or no wetlands abutting the alignments. Several of the alignments are along existing roads that run ridges through older parts of Memphis. Streams do occasionally cross perpendicular to the roadways, but are already flowing through culverts that provide existing drainage. These same culverts will be further studied during final design efforts to provide adequate clearance along the right-of-way.

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## Natural Areas / Species of Concern

The developed areas along these alignments provide for little natural habitat. Alternatives 6 and 7 have the highest potential for natural area concerns, as they both abut Overton Park and its intact Old Forest State Natural Area. This Natural Area is documented in the state's 2014 draft "Old Forest State Natural Area Management Plan", and should be considered if those alternatives move forward toward design.

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## **Additional Considerations**

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Due to the developed nature of the corridors, many environmental contamination issues may be encountered. Industrial and commercial development along these alignments create a need for avoidance and mitigative measures to be taken. These should be closely studied during preliminary design to help minimize potential impacts.