EDC's context map for the Cross Harbor Freight Movement Studies

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Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel

New York / New Jersey Harbor

Major Investment Study (MIS Phase) - In 1998, MRCE served on team charged by the NYC Economic Development Corp. to evaluate alternative ways of transporting freight across New York City Harbor. MRCE's project tasks encompassed geotechnical studies, including alternative alignments for tunnels, immersed tube, bored tunnels, and float barge terminals for rail cars in Brooklyn, Staten Island, and New Jersey, and conceptual design of a typical float bridge (rail barge loading platform). The team's additional duties included the study of multiple alternative tunnel alignments, cost estimates and a subsequent narrowing to prime tunnel alternatives for the detailed study.

Tunnel Feasibility Study (EIS Phase) - In 2001-2002, MRCE again served on a Cross Harbor Freight Tunnel study, this time for the EIS study of the feasibility of the tunnel alternatives selected by the previous MIS team. The EIS team evaluated the alternatives proposed by the previous team and narrowed the selection to tunnel alternatives based on soil stratigraphy and rock contours with relation to railroad alignment constraints. MRCE conducted an extensive boring program in the harbor and along land approach routes in Brooklyn, Staten Island and New Jersey for this phase, and continued tunnel studies relating to bored tunnels and immersed tubes. Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), which will be published in the summer of 2003. Public hearings on the DEIS will begin in the fall of 2003.