

## STEPS & TIMELINE: ALTERNATIVE URBAN AREAWIDE REVIEW PROCESS

0. **Informal preparations for AUAR by RGU.** (May include optional “scoping-like” orientation meetings with reviewing agencies if complex or controversial issues may arise.)
1. Only if AUAR will include a specific project that meets a mandatory EIS requirement or covers at least 50% of AUAR area: **RGU issues notice of draft AUAR order and receives public comment** as per EAW process. Commenters address development scenarios and alternatives to be considered and issues to be addressed. RGU considers comments and whether additional scenarios and issues should be covered (must be documented in a record of decision).
2. **RGU orders AUAR** (done by the governing body of RGU). The order for the AUAR establishes the study area & scenarios to be addressed, and starts the 120 day period for completion.
3. Informal process occurs during which RGU, consultants and sometimes project proposers conduct studies and **prepare draft AUAR document**, following content and format guidance issued by EQB. RGU decides when draft AUAR document is ready for public release (this decision is often made by the RGU governing body, but sometimes by staff). (There is no set time limit for this step, except that it must conform to the overall time limit as noted in step 11.) **Note:** Technical tasks to conduct studies, gather data, prepare reports, or write sections to support preparation of the draft AUAR may be done before the AUAR is actually ordered – to the extent allowed by the policies and procedures of the RGU.
4. **RGU distributes Draft AUAR document** (to EQB EAW distribution list) and sends notice to EQB for publication in *EQB Monitor*
5. RGU provides **press release** about AUAR availability to at least one newspaper of general circulation in project area (within 5 business days of submission of notice to EQB)
6. **Notice appears in EQB Monitor** (varies between 7 and 20 days from receipt of notice at EQB, but usually is 7 days). The notice may include the time and place of any (optional) information meeting(s). Such meetings are not required, but would need to occur during the comment period if held.
7. **Public comment period** (ends 30 days after *Monitor* notice, except governmental units have right to 15 business day extension upon request)
8. Informal process occurs during which RGU, consultants and sometimes proposers respond to comments, obtain additional information if needed, and **prepare Final AUAR document**. RGU decides when Final AUAR is ready for

public release. (There is no set time limit for this step, except that it must conform to the overall time limit as noted in step 11.)

9. **RGU distributes Final AUAR document.** (Note: there is no *EQB Monitor* notice or press release required at this step.)
10. **Review of Final AUAR documents.** Reviewers have 10 business days from *receipt* to submit comments or “object” (only state agencies or Metropolitan Council may object)
  - a. If no objections filed, review proceeds to step 11.
  - b. If any objections filed, review proceeds to step 12

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11. **RGU formally adopts AUAR** (after making any final corrections based on any comments received) (must wait until at least 15 business days after distribution of Final AUAR documents) There is an overall time limit between the AUAR order (step 2) and this step: adoption is to occur at first meeting held more than 120 days after the AUAR ordered.

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12. **RGU and objecting agency negotiate resolution** of issues as per 4410.3610, subpart 5, items F & G.
  13. If RGU and objecting agency cannot work out resolution, **EQB determines** whether AUAR is adequate, conditionally adequate, or inadequate.
  14. Once issues worked out, or AUAR revised per EQB instructions, **RGU formally adopts AUAR.**