

COR-8 - Approve Evaluation Criteria, Methods and Measures for Prioritization of Projects

Description

At this key decision priorities for implementation of the individual solutions are established. A second set of evaluation criteria, methods and measures is used for this purpose.

There is information developed in prior key decisions that informs this step. In order to effectively execute this key decision there is essential information created at COR-7 related to the preferred solution set.

Purpose

To identify the evaluation criteria, methods and measures for prioritizing the implementation of the solution set for the corridor.

Outcome

Specific methods, criteria, and measures for prioritizing the individual solutions included in the adopted preferred solution set.

Partner	Role Type	Description
MPO	Decision Maker (urban), No Role (rural)	Approves evaluation criteria and methodology and allows prioritization of the individual solutions.
FHWA/FTA	Observer	Observes establishment of prioritization criteria.
State DOT	Advisor (urban), Decision Maker (rural)	Ensures prioritization process is inclusive and equitable.
Resource Agency	Advisor	Provide information to support prioritization of solutions as needed, including sharing evaluation criteria, methods and performance measures from environmental planning, documentation of prioritization process.
Public Transportation Operator(s)	Advisor	Ensures prioritization process is inclusive and equitable.

Policy Questions

Questions are a way to elicit information and to validate that the information has been considered. The partners should discuss the listed questions to ensure a broad array of interests is considered at a key decision. Discussions arising from these questions support collaborative decision making.

Questions Partners Discuss

Questions about purpose and roles

- No specific questions

Questions about stakeholders, including modal and operational partners

- How does this reflect input and recommendations received from stakeholders, including modal and operational partners?

Questions about the transportation process supporting the decision

- Are performance measures, evaluation criteria and methodology for assessing bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity, accessibility (to jobs, schools, essential services, recreation, etc.), equity, and safety incorporated into the project prioritization process?
- Does the methodology reflect improved system performance and reliability factors?
- Is there a clear linkage between the prioritization process and the goals identified for the corridor?
- Who developed the prioritization evaluation criteria and methodology? What data supports it?

Questions about other phases

- What are the prioritization criteria established for programming? Are our criteria compatible with that?

Questions about non-transportation sectors/processes

- Are more specific evaluation criteria and methods needed to define and prioritize investment strategies for the corridor?
- Are the evaluation criteria and methodology for planning used to identify priority ecological actions compatible with those used in ecological planning?
- Are the performance measures, evaluation criteria and methodology for assessing economic impacts incorporated into the project prioritization and sequencing process?
- Do the metrics include both qualitative and quantitative criteria to evaluate economic impacts and impacts on competitiveness at the project level?
- How did GHG emissions impact the outcome of the corridor scenario/solution set analysis?
- How will the results of technical analysis impact the prioritization process in the context of other study considerations such as cost, public support, or project feasibility?
- Is there an established time period for achieving GHG reduction targets that must be considered in the prioritization process?
- What factors will play a role in project prioritization and how will these factors be weighted or considered in the prioritization process?

Stakeholder Inputs

'Questions to Gather Stakeholder Interests' allow staff to determine which stakeholders have interests at a key decision and to collect those interests for partner consideration. 'Questions to Incorporate Stakeholder Interests' ensure the interests of stakeholders are included in the decision. For more help with stakeholder collaboration visit the Stakeholder Portal

Questions to Gather Stakeholder Interests

- None

Questions to Incorporate Stakeholder Interests

- None

Data

The following is a list of data needed to support the key decision. Practitioners collect this information for decision makers to consider.

Supporting Data for the Key Decision		
From other phases of transportation decision making	Long Range Planning	No Specific Data.
	Programming	No Specific Data.
	Corridor Planning	COR-7: Preferred solution set
	Environmental Review	No Specific Data.
From other sectors and processes	Land Use	Land use and smart growth-related criteria and methodology for prioritizing individual solutions within the preferred solution set
	Transportation Conformity	No Specific Data.
	Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical	Evaluation criteria, methods and measures from ecological planning in order to identify priority ecological actions
	Capital Improvement	No Specific Data.
	Safety and Security	No Specific Data.
	Human Environment	No Specific Data.
	Economic Development	Qualitative factors and performance indicators related to economic vitality and competitiveness
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	External factors regarding the preferred solution set, including applicable time periods, associated mitigation needs and costs, and supporting land use changes
Freight	No Specific Data.	
From the transportation technical process supporting this key decision	Data available to support establishing evaluation criteria and measures	
	Prioritization methodology. For more information, please visit: Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation along Existing Roads—ActiveTrans Priority Tool Guidebook	
From stakeholder collaboration	No Specific Data.	
From public private partnership	No Specific Data.	

Links to Decisions

This table identifies how a key decision is connected to other key decisions. The linkages are a two-way transfer of information. Understanding and applying these linkages means that partners will recognize how a decision will impact other specific key decisions. Recognizing that the transportation processes are linked will: (1) encourage practitioners to produce information that can be used later and (2) remind them to look at information from previous key decisions.

linkages to other phases of transportation decision making

Key Decision	What is Linked?	Purpose of Linkage
To and From Programming		
PRO-2 - Approve Methodology for Identifying Project Costs and Criteria for Allocating Revenue	The evaluation criteria and methodology for prioritizing solutions within the preferred solution set for the corridor	To consider the relationship between the evaluation criteria and methods for the prioritization in the programming process and that used in the corridor planning process: should they be consistent or supportive?
To Environmental Review/NEPA Merged with Permitting		
ENV-1 - Reach Consensus on Scope of Environmental Review	Priorities for implementation of the individual solutions contained in the preferred solution set	To inform identification of logical termini, study area boundaries and potential sequencing of related projects.

Examples

In-depth case studies of successful practices in collaborative decision making were used to develop the Decision Guide. Links in this table point to a specific paragraph or section of a case study that supports a key decision. It is not necessary to read through an entire case study to find the example; however, full versions are available in the Library.

PlanWorks Case Study Examples

- None

Other Examples

- None

Integrated Planning

Integrated Planning looks at the interaction between the transportation decision making process and other processes. Considering these inputs will ensure that important values and goals outside the transportation process are recognized and considered. For a full understanding of a specific process and how it influences transportation decisions, visit Applications.

Process	Integration Type	Integration Description
Land Use	Data	Land use and smart growth-related criteria and methodology for prioritizing individual solutions within the preferred solution set.
Transportation Conformity	None.	None.
Natural Environment and Implementing Ecological	Data From IEF Step 5 - Establish & Prioritize Ecological Actions and IEF Step 8 - Implement Agreements, Adaptive Management & Deliver Projects	At this key decision, input on the evaluation criteria, methods and measures are coming from ecological planning in order to identify priority ecological actions that could feasibly be tackled in the context of the preferred solution set for the corridor. This data could come from IEF Step 5 or IEF Step 8, depending on the status of the ecological planning process.
Capital Improvement	None.	None.
Safety and Security	None.	None.
Human Environment	None.	None.
Economic Development	Data	To evaluate economic vitality or competitiveness at the project level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrics and qualitative factors to be considered for evaluation. • Performance indicators currently used by local government and/or economic development related private organization to track economic vitality or competitiveness.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Data	External factors regarding the preferred solution set, including applicable time periods, associated mitigation needs and costs, and supporting land use changes.
Freight	None.	None.
Bicycles and Pedestrians	Data	Information and data reflecting bicycle and pedestrian stakeholder input to, and understanding of, the prioritization sequencing of projects.

Special Topics

This table provides an overview of the relationship between a key decision and individual special topics. A special topic may be an external process, a new regulation, or any emerging issue requiring collaboration. For a full understanding of a specific topic and how it influences transportation decisions, visit Applications.

Key Decision Relationship to Other Topics

Topic	Description
Planning and Environment Linkages	Identify Metrics - Select metrics to evaluate the impact of project prioritization on corridor operations in the short and long-term.
	Data Transfer - Operational metrics (including reliability) to prioritize improvements.