

ENV-10 - Approve Preferred Alternative / LEDPA

Description

Decision makers approve a preferred project alternative using input from stakeholders, planning partners, and detailed information about potential impacts. A check-point is included to ensure that the preferred alternative is consistent with the LRTP and TIP/STIP.

There is information developed in prior key decisions that informs this step.

Purpose

To evaluate and select the preferred alternative/Least Environmental Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA).

Outcome

A Preferred Alternative/LEDPA for inclusion in final NEPA document.

Partner	Role Type	Description
MPO	Advisor	Observes final EIS approval for consideration of impact to the LRTP, fiscal constraint and air quality conformity.
FHWA/FTA	Decision Maker	Approves the preferred alternative as meeting the purpose and need.
State DOT	Decision Maker	Ensures the approved preferred alternative/LEDPA is well documented and supported by all partners.
Resource Agency	Decision Maker	USACE approves a preferred alternative that is also the LEDPA, meeting preferences regarding avoidance, minimization, potential conservation and restoration investments and mitigation needs.
Public Transportation Operator(s)	Advisor	Observes final EIS approval for transit considerations.

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

- No specific questions

Questions about the transportation process supporting the decision

- Has the preferred alternative been communicated to all private sector stakeholders?
- Is the preferred alternative consistent with any P3 assumptions established in the purpose and need?
- Is the preferred alternative consistent with operations goals in the long range plan and the statement of purpose and need?
- Is the preferred alternative consistent with the bicycle and pedestrian goals in the long range plan and the statement of purpose and need??
- What changes have been made from the draft EIS and why?
- What commitments and agreements were made to the partners to address remaining issues?
- What is the basis of the selection of the preferred alternative?

Questions about other phases

- Will the preferred alternative require a plan or program update?

Questions about non-transportation sectors/processes

- No specific questions

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

- Are there remaining issues or problems that you foresee with the preferred alternative?
- How would you rank the alternatives and why?
- What solutions do you see for any remaining issues?
- Which alternative do you prefer and why?

Questions to Incorporate Stakeholder Interests

- Are there public concerns with implementation of the project as a P3 and how are these being addressed?
- How did the stakeholders rank the alternatives and why?
- How were public comments considered in the selection of the preferred alternative?
- What were the remaining issues that the stakeholders identified for each alternative?

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	Validation that the preferred alternative is consistent with the LRTP.
	Programming	Validation that the preferred alternative is consistent with the TIP
	Corridor Planning	Validation that the preferred alternative is consistent with the corridor plan.
	Environmental Review	No Specific Data.
From other sectors and processes	Land Use	No Specific Data.
	Transportation Conformity	No Specific Data.
	Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical	No Specific Data.
	Capital Improvement	No Specific Data.
	Safety and Security	No Specific Data.
	Human Environment	No Specific Data.
	Economic Development	No Specific Data.
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Not applicable.
Freight	No Specific Data.	
From the transportation technical process supporting this key decision	Comparison of the preferred alternative using the evaluation criteria, methods and performance measures.	
	Comparison to purpose and need and study area.	
	Comparison to the long range transportation plan and air quality conformity, where applicable.	
	Identified actions required to support.	
From stakeholder collaboration	Summary of feedback received in response to the DEIS, both from public stakeholders and partners, and justification for how that feedback was addressed.	
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
From Long Range Transportation Planning		
LRP-10 - Adopt LRTP by MPO	Approved preferred alternative	To validate consistency with the adopted LRPT, fiscal constraint, and air quality conformity.
To Programming		
PRO-3 - Approve Project List Drawn from Adopted Plan Scenario or Solution Set	Approved preferred alternative	To ensure consistency between the preferred alternative and the project concept in the project list
PRO-6 - Adopt TIP by MPO	Approved preferred alternative	To ensure consistency with the project concept, funding, and schedule in the adopted TIP

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	None.	None.
Transportation Conformity	None.	None.
Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical	None.	None.
Capital Improvement	None.	None.
Safety and Security	None.	None.
Human Environment	None.	None.
Economic Development	None.	None.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Freight	None.	None.
Bicycles and Pedestrians	None.	None.

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
Public-Private Partnerships	<p>Ensure Consistency - Determine if the preferred alternative is consistent with previous assumptions made in the long range plan and the TIP/STIP process.</p> <p>Transfer Decision - Inform private sector stakeholders and the public as to the preferred alternative and the impact on P3 options.</p>
Planning and Environment Linkages	<p>Ensure Consistency - Compare the preferred alternative to the preferred scenario in the long range plan (where applicable) to ensure consistency and validate air quality conformity.</p> <p>Transfer Decision - Inform operational partners of the selected alternative and any impacts on system operations and performance. Establish performance measures and monitoring options, if applicable, to inform future long range plan development.</p>
Performance Measures	<p>Using Performance Measures - The selected performance measures are used to evaluate alternatives documented in the Draft EIS and inform the selection of a preferred alternative for inclusion in the Final EIS.</p> <p>Data Transfer - Selected measures are transferred from ENV-5. The measures used at ENV-7 and ENV-9 should be consistent.</p>
Streamlining a Congestion Bottleneck Project	<p>Approve Preferred Alternative - Selection of preferred alternative for implementation</p> <p>Consistency Review - With LRP-8 to ensure that Preferred Alternative is consistent with the adopted Preferred Plan Scenario</p>
Visioning and Transportation	<p>Adopt Futures - Identify how the preferred alternative is supportive of the consensus future and the vision outcome.</p> <p>Data Transfer - Relevant information on preferred alternative for the community vision to LRP 8 and PRO 4.</p>