

LRP-7 - Approve Plan Scenarios

Description

Scenarios are based on approved strategies and are compared using the evaluation criteria, method and measures. Collaboration with partners from other planning processes is important at this stage as scenarios could involve strategies that encompass land use, infrastructure or other components. This step begins the iterative process of refining scenarios in order to select the preferred scenario.

There is information in prior key decisions that informs this step. In order to effectively execute this key decision there is essential information created at LRP-6 related to the range of approved strategies.

Purpose

To identify plan scenarios for testing and comparison in order to select a preferred plan scenario for the region. The scenarios are designed to address the approved deficiencies. This begins the iterative analysis that is conducted for a full understanding of the trade-off decisions necessary to identify the preferred plan scenario. Scenarios should be identified in terms that can be easily understood by the decision makers, planning partners, and stakeholders.

Outcome

A list of feasible plan scenarios.

Partner	Role Type	Description
MPO	Decision Maker	Approves plan scenarios that reflect the broad interests of the region to support comparison and selection of a preferred
FHWA/FTA	Observer	Observes the process of evaluating and considering individual scenarios for consistency with the intent of federal regulations
State DOT	Advisor	Provides information on state perspective and compatible interests
Resource Agency	Advisor	Advise partners about potential impacts to protected resources or conservation and restoration priorities associated with transportation plan scenarios.
Public Transportation Operator(s)	Advisor	Provides information on transit perspective and compatible interests.

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

- Do we have support or opposition from our planning partners for any specific scenarios?

Questions about stakeholders, including modal and operational partners

- Have operational partners been asked for input and recommendations about plan scenarios and roles and responsibilities for operational improvements?

Questions about the transportation process supporting the decision

- Are any scenarios fatally flawed based on financial assessments of costs and revenues of P3 projects included?
- Are the scenarios sufficiently different for meaningful comparison?
- Do any of the scenarios create barriers to bicycle and pedestrian network connectivity and equity?
- Do the scenarios address mobility, performance, reliability and accessibility needs beyond the identified deficiencies?
- Have operations strategies been incorporated into scenarios, including off model analysis to inform scenario comparison?
- Have we identified how each scenario will impact financing, revenues, and implementation schedule?
- How are bicycle and pedestrian network continuity and connectivity addressed in each of the scenarios? For example, is a network of separated bike lanes connected and continuous?
- How do these scenarios address our vision and goals? Are the scenarios sufficient to address the full range of vision and goals?
- How well do the scenarios address system performance and safety?
- How well does each of the scenarios address the approved deficiencies?
- Is there a need to balance mode choices?
- Is there committed political support for P3 projects included in the scenarios?
- To what extent are bicycle and pedestrian components integrated into each of the scenarios? To what extent will each respective scenario meet the needs of all users (e.g. people with disabilities, "interested but concerned" bicyclists, children and older adults, etc.)

Questions about other phases

- No specific questions

Questions about non-transportation sectors/processes

- Are approved transportation strategies consistent with the land use and economic development vision/plans?
- Are the scenarios supportive of future land use patterns and growth forecasts?
- Are there interactive effects that should be considered such as strategies that work better in combination or, alternatively, that work against each other?
- Based on preliminary information about land use and economic development implications, are any of these scenarios fatally flawed?
- Based on preliminary land use and environmental screening, are any of these scenarios fatally flawed?
- Have smart growth impacts on travel demand, congestion and conformity been considered?
- Have we ensured that P3 projects in the scenarios are consistent with existing economic investment and other relevant plans in the region?
- Have we identified how each scenario will impact the ability to meet our goals with regard to conservation?
- How will each scenario impact the ability to meet goals with regard to economic development?
- To what extent are such strategies politically feasible?
- What are the timescales over which the strategies in a scenario are expected to show impacts and how do these match with the target years for GHG reduction?
- What GHG-reduction transportation strategies should be included as part of a scenario analysis?
- What is the combined effect of such strategies?

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 any of these scenarios fatally flawed?
- Are the scenarios that we have presented to you sufficient?
- Will all of the visions and goals be addressed by at least one of these scenarios? Is there a missing scenario?

Questions to Incorporate Stakeholder Interests

- Did the stakeholders express strong opposition in our suggested scenarios? If so, what was the opposition?
- Did the stakeholders identify missing scenarios? If so, how did we address that?
- What is the justification for eliminating or adding certain scenarios or making individual changes within a scenario?
- What scenarios did the stakeholders suggest?

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	LRP-6: the range of approved strategies Previous plan conformity analysis
	Programming	Funding resources that support or limit each scenario
	Corridor Planning	No Specific Data.
	Environmental Review	No Specific Data.
From other sectors and processes	Land Use	Land use implications and impacts for each scenario Smart growth impacts on travel demand, congestion and conformity (as applicable)
	Transportation Conformity	Air quality emissions budget
	Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical	Natural environment impacts for each scenario
	Capital Improvement	No Specific Data.
	Safety and Security	No Specific Data.
	Human Environment	Environmental justice impacts for each scenario Human environment impacts for each scenario
	Economic Development	Economic development impacts of plan scenarios
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Estimates of travel activity and transportation network performance for baseline and planning horizon years Sketch-level planning cost for strategies included in scenarios Target GHG reductions
	Freight	Information gathered from freight stakeholders
	From the transportation technical process supporting this key decision	Analysis from modeling efforts for each scenario
Conformity implications for each scenario		
Existing + committed (E+C) project list for baseline and planning horizon years		
Identification of those things that are qualitative rather than quantitative for consideration		
Off-model analysis to support scenario evaluation		
Policy implications and comparison to stated vision and goals		
Preliminary financial assessments of P3 project costs and revenues		
Scenario combinations that can be analyzed		
Short and long-term outcomes with each scenario		
From stakeholder collaboration	Political interests and trade-offs in the region	
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 Corridor Planning		
COR-1 - Approve Scope of Corridor Planning Process	All scenarios considered in the long range planning process and reasons for eliminating scenarios	To document those scenarios included and eliminated in long range planning
To Environmental Review/NEPA Merged with Permitting		
ENV-4 - Reach Consensus on Study Area	All scenarios considered in the long range planning process and reasons for eliminating scenarios	To document scenarios included and eliminated in long range planning

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

- I-5 Beltline Interchange Plan - Using Community Values as Performance Measures

Other Examples

- Charlottesville-Albemarle MPO's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan, Chapter 7

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	Process	Approve range of land use policy changes in support of LRTP plan scenarios <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purpose - Determine willingness to change land use policy related to the LRTP scenarios Outcome - Commitments of land use stakeholders to implement land use policy changes
	Analysis	Assessment of LRTP scenarios for any implication to the land use plan.
Transportation Conformity	None.	None.
Natural Environment and Implementing Ecological	Analysis Between IEF Step 3 - Create Regional Ecosystem Framework and LRP-7	<p>This is a key link between ecological and transportation planning. Here a combined map of conservation priorities, other land uses and LRTP scenarios is created. A technical process that occurs as an input to this decision is the comparison of transportation/development plan scenarios with the Regional Ecosystem Framework from ecological planning.</p> <p>These substeps listed in the IEF comprise the integrated analysis at this key decision:</p> <p>Sub-step 3a - Overlay LRTP plan scenarios and combined map of conservation, restoration and enhancement priorities;</p> <p>Sub-step 3b and c - Show and record areas and resources potentially impacted by transportation improvements and potential opportunities for joint action on conservation or restoration priorities;</p> <p>Sub-step 3d - Distribute combined conservation and transportation priorities map layer. This integration cannot occur until there are some transportation plan scenarios, but it is possible that plan scenarios could be fatally flawed and eliminated through this analysis.</p>
Capital Improvement	Decision	Whether the scenarios being considered in long range transportation planning meet with capital improvement plans.
Safety and Security	None.	None.
Human Environment	Analysis	Evaluate possible scenarios as to which are prioritized from a human environment perspective.
Economic Development	Data	Data that supports the calculation of economic development impact to identify plan scenarios for testing and comparison.
	Analysis	Comparison of potential outcomes of various scenarios on project costs and benefits, jobs and the economy.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Data	Relevant data for each scenario being considered including GHG reduction strategies, relative importance of GHG-reduction benefits compared to other planning factors, and sketch-level planning cost.
	Analysis	Analysis of strategies selected in LRP-6 and others, as applicable.
Freight	Data	Information and data that supports freight analysis in the plan scenarios
Bicycles and Pedestrians	Data	Information and data that support analysis of bicycle and pedestrian components in the plan scenarios.
	Analysis	<p>Evaluate possible scenarios as to which are prioritized from a bicycle and pedestrian perspective.</p> <p>Evaluate the extent to which each scenario serves the needs of all users and understand how improvements in service for one mode may impact conditions for other more vulnerable modes.</p>

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	Evaluate P3 Impacts - Consider the impact that P3 projects have on project financing, revenues, and implementation.
	Data Transfer - Determine if scenarios or projects with P3 potential or innovative finance and revenue generation strategies are to be included or withdrawn.
Planning and Environment Linkages	Evaluate Impacts - Evaluate operations strategies for both short and long-term improvements to the transportation system. Identify the potential for associated performance measurement.
	Data Transfer - Data and information to support a full evaluation of operations strategies within individual scenarios.
	Analysis Transfer - Analysis performed off-model that can be used to support scenario evaluation.