



COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #3

November 30, 2010



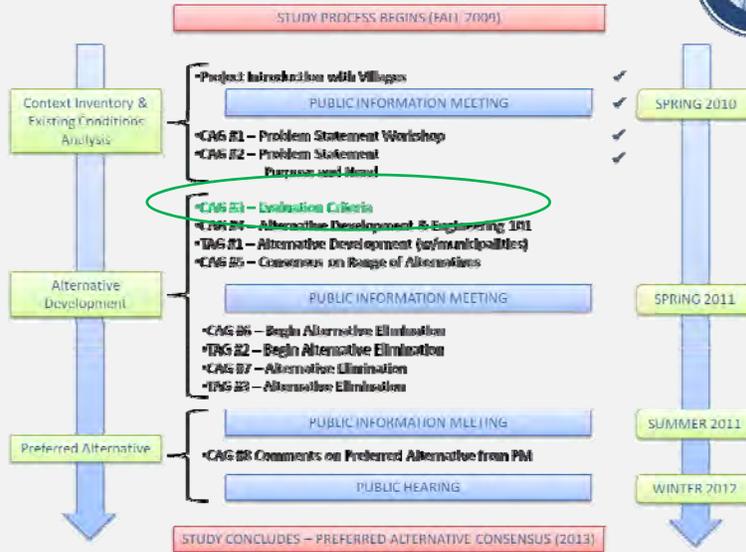
Illinois Department
of Transportation

Meeting Objectives

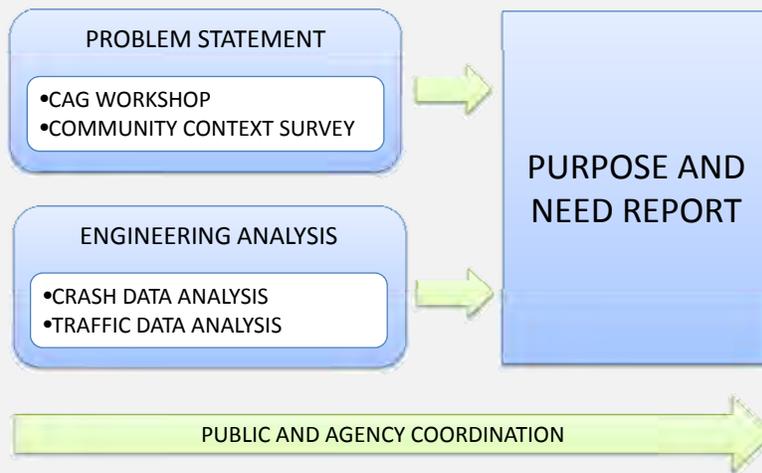


- Update project status
- Review Community Advisory Group Meeting #2
- Discuss Draft Purpose and Need Report
- Present evaluation criteria
- Present evaluation process

Project Status



Purpose and Need Development



Project Purpose



The purpose of the proposed action is to identify transportation solutions that will **address congestion and mobility problems in the Weber Road corridor** identified in the study area, **improve community connectivity**, and **improve access for commercial and residential users** of I-55 and Weber Road.

Project Purpose



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Purpose and Need Report



Need: Address Operational Deficiencies



Technical Analysis

*Traffic signal delay
Unacceptable level of service on Weber Road and I-55 ramps*



Problem Statement

*High volume turn movements
Inadequate lane marking
Merging issues
Poor signage
Traffic signal delay*



Stakeholder Input

*Signals (traffic/pedestrian)
Street lighting/pedestrian lighting
Roadways compatible to existing businesses
Roadways compatible to existing commuting patterns*

Purpose and Need Report



Need: Improve Capacity



Technical Analysis

*Projected increase in traffic volumes
Substandard geometrics (travel lanes, intersections)*



Problem Statement

*High volume of trucks
No alternate north-south routes
Inadequate access to I-55
Congestion*



Stakeholder Input

*Industrial centers and commercial areas
Commuter corridor
Congestion and delay*

Purpose and Need Report



Need: Improve Safety



Technical Analysis

*High number of crashes
Multi-modal conflicts
High number of rear-end and sideswipe collisions
Crashes data consistent with congestion*



Problem Statement

*Motorist delay
Prevents efficient access
Congestion*



Stakeholder Input

*Traffic Safety
Congestion and delay*

Purpose and Need Report



Need: Increase Access to Alternative Transportation



Technical Analysis

*Lack of transit options
Bicycle/pedestrian access is limited*



Problem Statement

*Lack of pedestrian, ADA, and bike facilities
Limited alternative transportation choices
Improve pedestrian access and bike path continuity*



Stakeholder Input

*Handicap accessibility
Sidewalks and pedestrian crossings
Bike lanes/recreation facilities*

Purpose and Need Report



Need: Improve Safety



Technical Analysis

High number of crashes
Multi-modal conflicts
High number of rear-end and sideswipe collisions
Crashes data consistent with congestion



Problem Statement

Motorist delay
Prevents efficient access
Congestion



Stakeholder Input

Traffic Safety
Congestion and delay

Purpose and Need Report



Need: Improve Safety



Technical Analysis

High number of crashes
Multi-modal conflicts
High number of rear-end and sideswipe collisions
Crashes data consistent with congestion
No crosswalks or continuous bike paths



Problem Statement

Motorist delay
Prevents efficient access
Congestion
Lack of pedestrian, ADA, and bike facilities
Improve pedestrian access and bike path continuity



Stakeholder Input

Traffic Safety
Congestion and delay
Handicap accessibility
Sidewalks and pedestrian crossings
Bike lanes/recreation facilities

Identified Needs



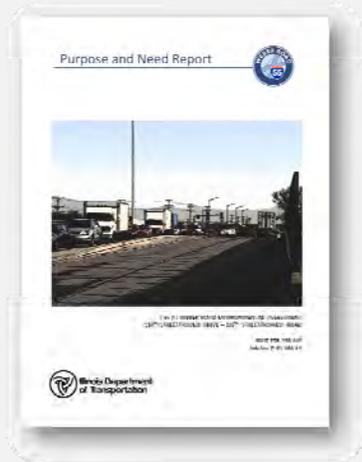
- ⦿ Address operational deficiencies
- ⦿ Improve capacity
- ⦿ Improve safety
- ⦿ Increase access to alternative transportation

Identified Needs



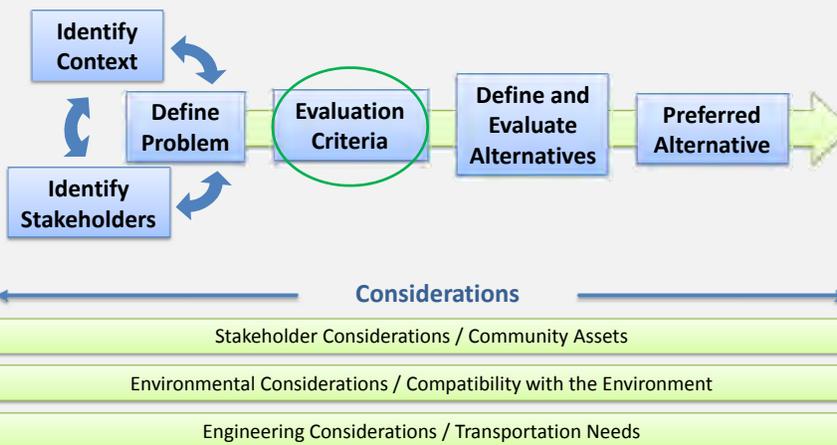
- ⦿ Address operational deficiencies
- ⦿ Improve capacity
- ⦿ Improve safety
- ~~⦿ Increase access to alternative transportation~~

Purpose and Need Report



QUESTIONS???

Project Status





Transportation Performance Measures



NEED

- Address Operational Deficiencies
- Improve Capacity
- Improve Safety

- Assess existing conditions
- Evaluate alternatives on addressing design issues

Performance metrics may include:

- ✓ Design deficiencies
- ✓ Right-of-Way
- ✓ Construction Costs

Transportation Performance Measures



NEED

Address
Operational
Deficiencies

Improve
Capacity

Improve Safety

- Baseline condition will be 2040 (no improvements)
- Evaluate alternatives on projected changes in travel conditions

Performance metrics may include:

- ✓ *Level of Service (LOS)*
- ✓ *Right-of-Way*
- ✓ *Construction Costs*

Transportation Performance Measures



NEED

Address
Operational
Deficiencies

Improve
Capacity

Improve Safety

- Assess existing conditions
- Evaluate safety performance of each alternative

Performance metrics may include:

- ✓ *Adherence to safety standards*
- ✓ *Projected change in crashes from 2040 baseline*
- ✓ *ADA Compliance*
- ✓ *Pedestrian/bicycle compatible*



Social and Natural Resources



- Wetlands
- Floodplains
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Parks/Recreation Areas
- Agricultural Land
- Groundwater
- Special Wastes
- Economic and Business
- Public Facilities
- Air Quality
- Traffic Noise
- Multi-Use Trails
- Trees and Vegetation
- Surface Water Resources

NEPA Umbrella



- Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970
- Americans with Disabilities Act, 1991
- Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)
- Section 4(f) of USDOT Act (49 USC 303)
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act 404
- Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands)
- Endangered Species Act
- Farmland Protection Policy Act
- Solid Waste Disposal Act
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
- Noise 23 CFR 772
- Wetlands 23 CFR 777
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Economic, Social and Environmental Effects
- Highway Noise Standards
- Public Hearing Requirements 23 USC 128
- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act
- **And more...**

What is a Wetland?

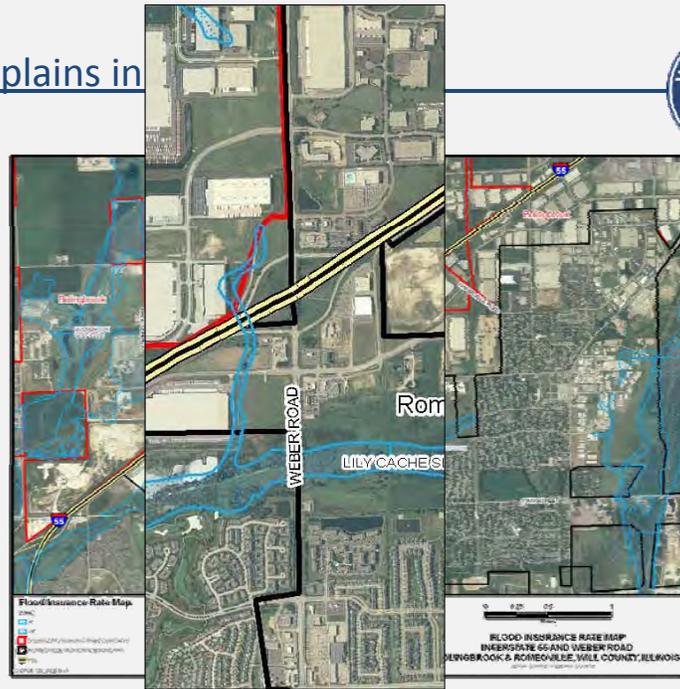


Importance of Wetlands

- Improve water quality
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Adds flood control
- Filters nutrients
- Groundwater recharge

Wetlands are transitional areas between wet and dry areas, defined by specific plants, soil, and hydrology.

Floodplains in



What are threatened/endangered species?



An endangered species is a plant or animal at risk of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

A threatened species is a plant or animal likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future

What T&E species are in the Study Area?



- Currently under review
- Environmental Survey Request submitted for IDNR review.
- 64 plant and animal species in Will County



Blanding's Turtle



Ear-leaved fox
glove



Iowa Darter

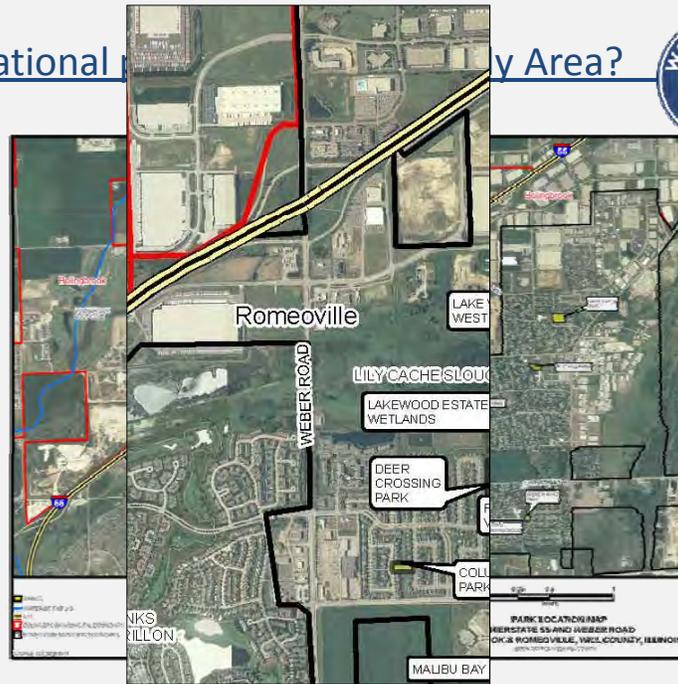
Recreational Areas



Any publicly owned park, recreational area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge or a historic site (publicly or privately owned) of national, state, or local significance



Recreational Area?

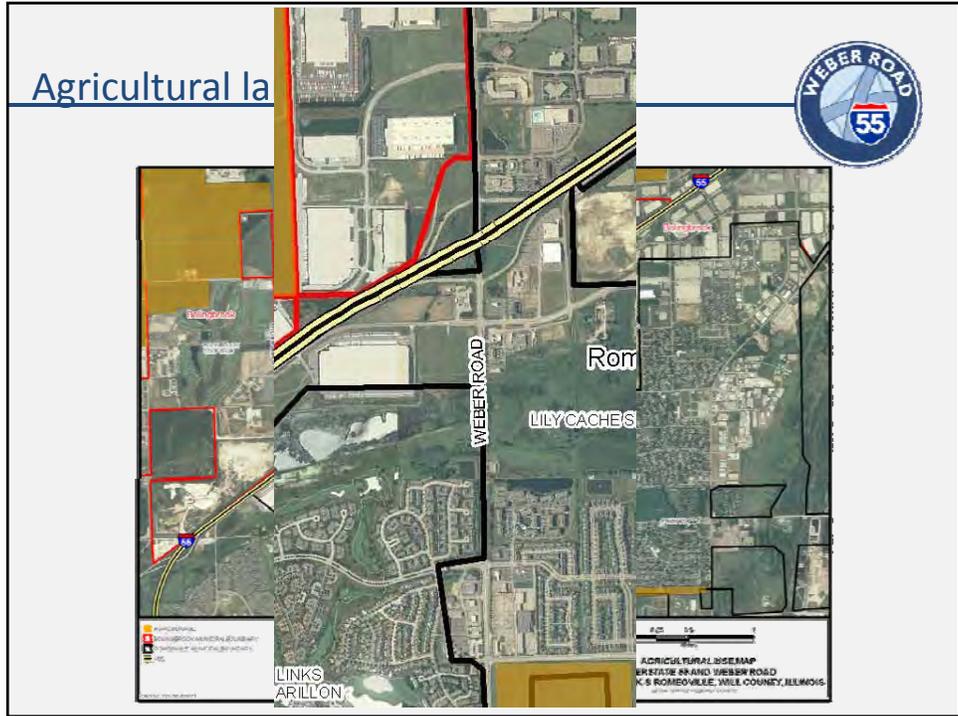


What are agricultural lands?



Land used for the production of crops or raising livestock





What is groundwater?

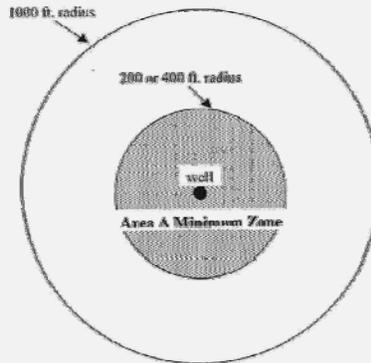
Water located below surface in such a quantity the soil pore spaces become saturated with water.

Class I – Drinking Water
 Class II – Other Groundwater

Groundwater - Setback Zone

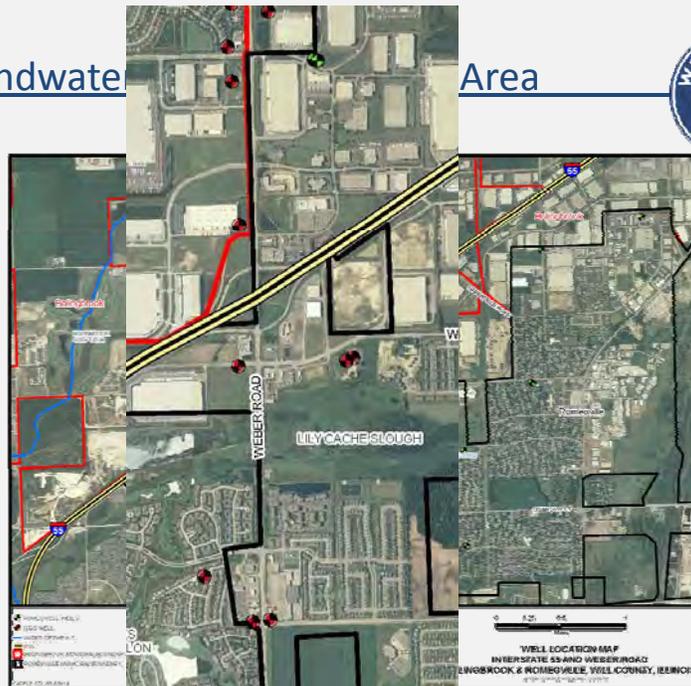


A setback zone is a geographic area containing a public or private well with restrictions on land uses within that zone to protect water supply.



Groundwater

Area



Special Waste Sites



- Regulations are not established to protect special waste sites
- Avoidance of special waste sites preferred
- Special waste sites may include:
 - Underground storage tank sites
 - Leaking underground storage tank sites
 - Hazardous waste generator sites
- Illinois State Geological Survey will identify sites



Economic and Business Guidelines



Transportation projects must evaluate businesses, industry, employment, and income effects in communities.

- Should take all reasonable actions to avoid business relocation, job loss, parking impacts, or other actions that could result in damaging an area's economy.



Businesses in the Study Area

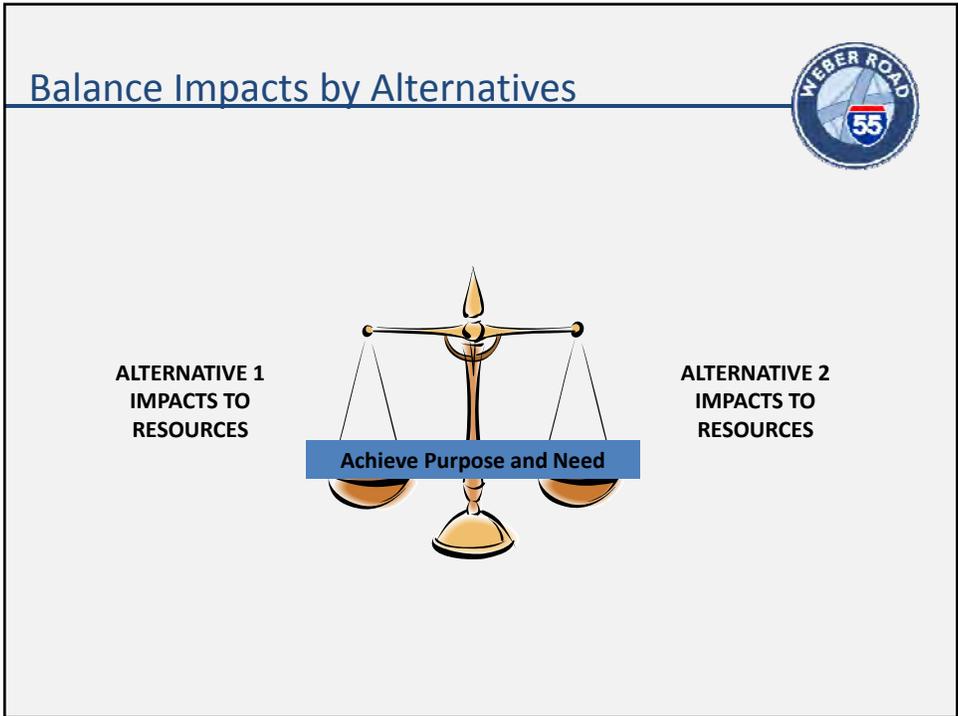
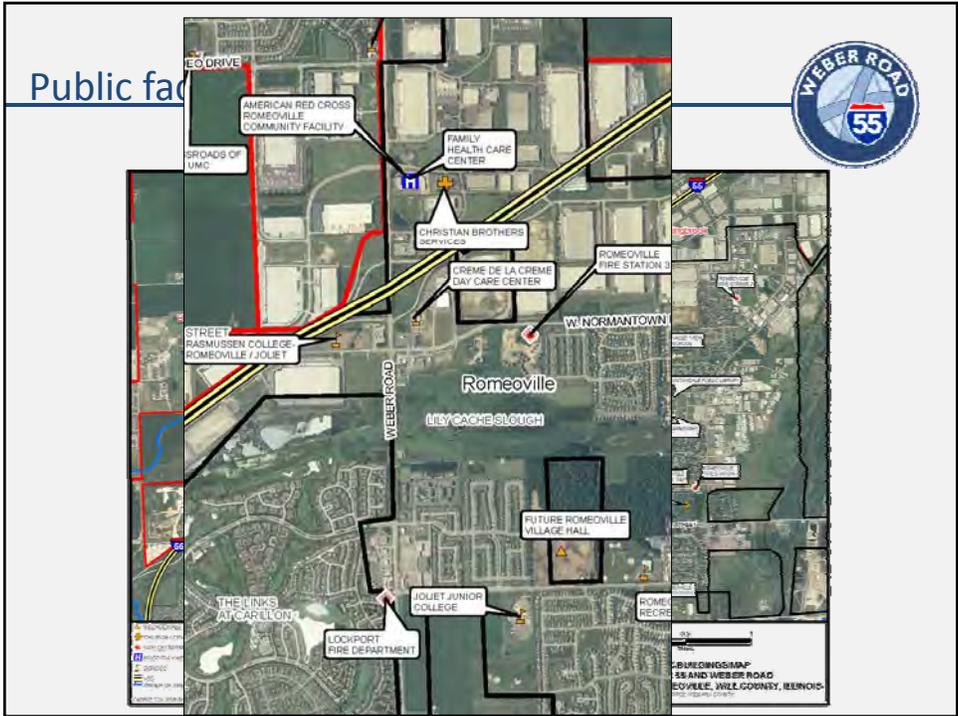


Public facilities, schools, & places of worship



- There are no federal or state regulations protecting non-Section 4(f) public facilities, schools, or places of worship.
- Should avoid impacting these resources, if possible.





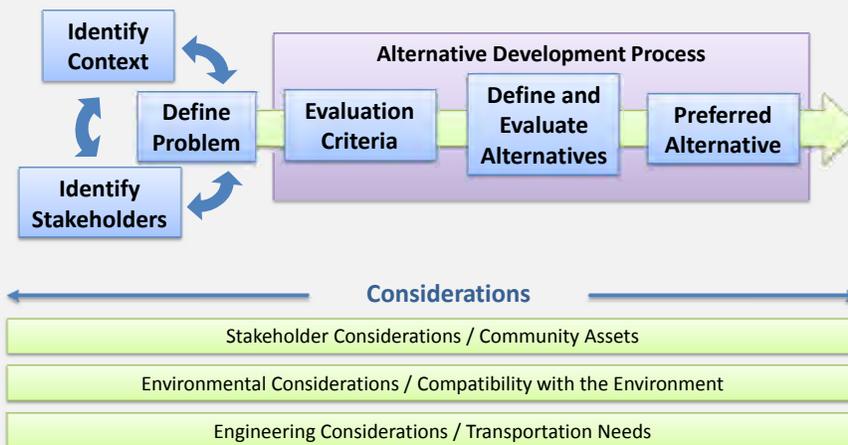
What else is considered?



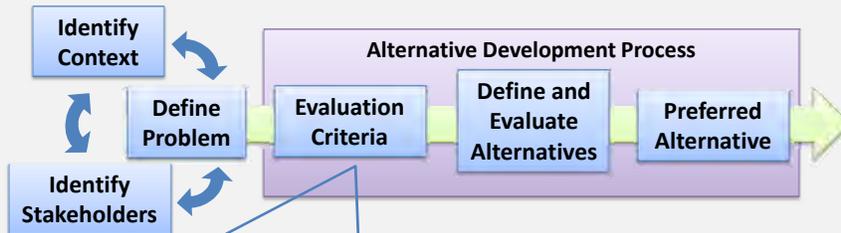
- Air Quality
- Traffic Noise
- Multi-use Trails
- Trees and Vegetation
- Surface Water Resources



Alternative Development Process

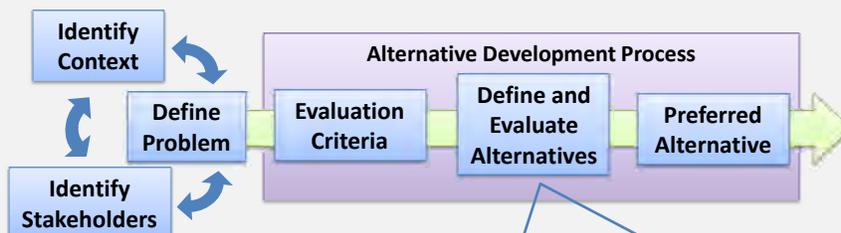


Alternative Development Process



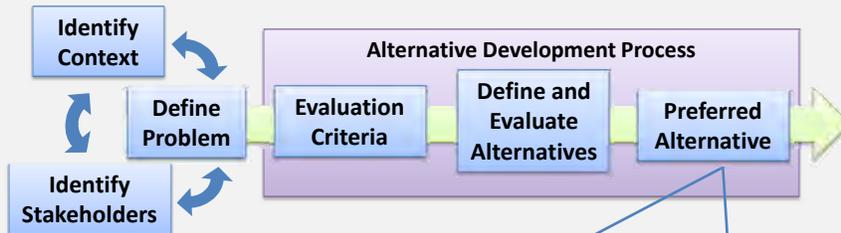
- Establish transportation performance measures
- Inventory existing environmental constraints
- Identify evaluation metrics

Alternative Development Process



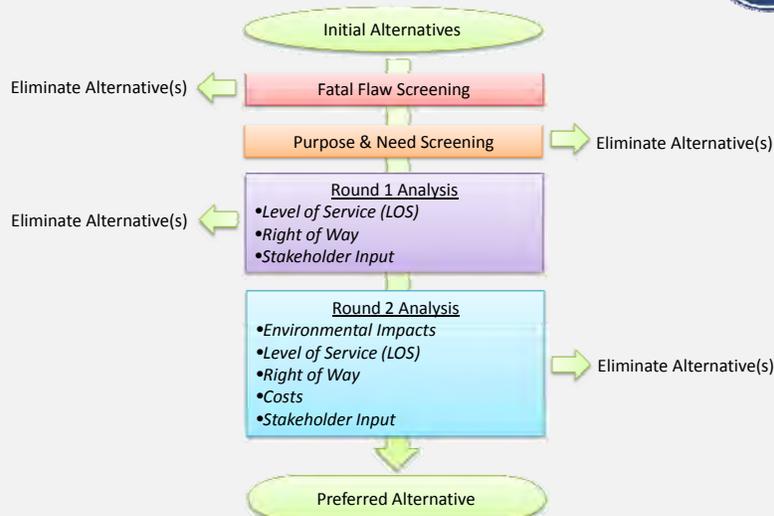
- Develop initial alternatives with stakeholders
- Confirm alternatives meet Purpose and Need and compare transportation performance
- Eliminate low ranked alternatives

Alternative Development Process

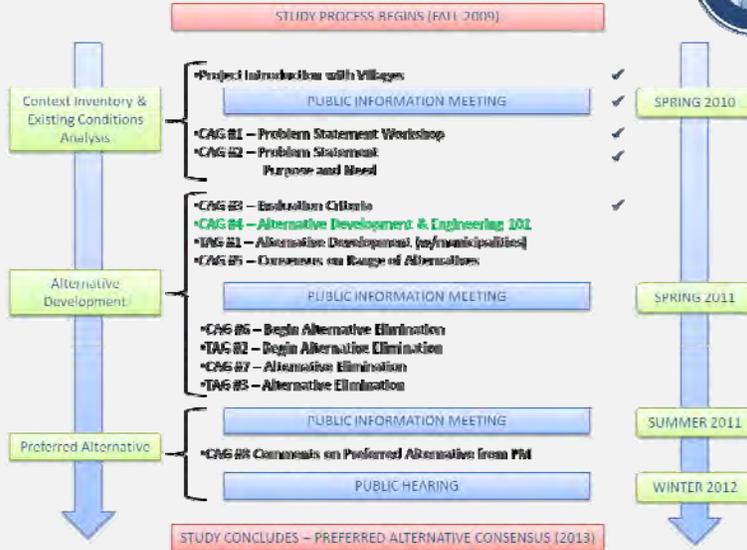


- Detailed engineering and environmental analysis of remaining alternatives
- Evaluate performance, impacts, and costs
- Recommend preferred alternative

Alternative Evaluation



Project Status



Thank You!



Community Advisory Group Meeting #4
Alternative Development
January 18, 2011

