



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM Alternatives Analysis Overview

Date: August 29, 2012
To: Geographic Area Project (GAPS) Groups
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Project #: 11732

The Alternatives Analysis phase of the Transportation System Plan Update consists of 1) evaluating individual projects and 2) evaluating a set of alternative scenarios that could influence the transportation system countywide.

Evaluating Individual Projects

Individual project evaluations consist of assessing previously planned projects (including those in the current TSP, Regional Transportation Plan, and County's pedestrian and bicycle master plans), public suggested projects, and new identified projects to address specific system gaps and deficiencies.

- Prior to TAC Meeting #5 and Geographic Area Project Working Groups (GAPS) Meetings #2, the project team will provide TAC and PAC members and other GAPS participants with preliminary evaluations of the previously planned projects, public suggested projects, and new identified projects.
- At TAC Meeting #5 and GAPS Meetings #2, participants will discuss the preliminary evaluations and start discussing and brainstorming possible project deletions, changes or additions.
- At TAC Meeting #6 and GAPS Meetings #3, members will confirm the evaluation results for the projects under consideration, and discuss project priorities for the new TSP (i.e., which projects should be near-term vs. long-term priorities for the County).

Evaluating Alternatives Scenarios

Larger system alternatives or scenarios fall into three general categories: 1) Major Projects Alternatives 2) Assumptions Scenarios; and 3) Policy Scenarios. The following provides a brief description and example of each.

- 1. Major Project Alternatives** -- Alternatives that evaluate the transportation system impacts of specific roadway capacity projects anticipated to impact regional traffic patterns, e.g., expected to change motorists' route choices at a regional level and therefore analyzed with the countywide traffic model. (The transportation impacts of minor widening and intersection control changes are analyzed as individual projects.)

Example: New arterial or collector roadways or major roadway widening projects in congested areas – what is the system benefit versus local benefit of a project?

The project team proposes evaluating alternatives for a Clackamas Regional Center Southwest Access Corridor as one major project alternative.

- 2. Assumptions Scenarios** -- Alternatives that test or change underlying assumptions in future travel projections and have the potential to impact traffic operations countywide.

Example: Slower growth rate - what will our transportation needs be if our growth is slower than projected?

The project team proposes evaluating a Range Forecasting scenario that looks at roadway capacity needs if only 70 percent of the projected growth occurred over 20 years.

- 3. Policy Scenarios** -- Alternatives that look at the impacts of major policy decisions about transportation investments.

Example: What would the urban area look like if we invested heavily in pedestrian, bicycle, and transit improvements and less in new road capacity projects?

The project team proposes looking at the suitability and feasibility of implementing a Mixed-Use Multi-Modal Area (MMA) in the Clackamas Regional Center/Industrial Area.

TAC, PAC and GAPS Input to Alternatives Analysis Scenarios

At TAC Meeting #5 and GAPS Meetings #2, members will discuss and provide input on the alternatives scenarios the project team is proposing to evaluate. The project team will use this input to consolidate these ideas into six or fewer alternatives scenarios to evaluate for TAC Meeting #6 and GAPS Meetings #3. At those meetings in October/November 2012, the project team will present the results of the Alternatives Analysis Scenarios and discuss how these results can inform the individual project priorities that TAC and GAPS members identify. (For example, results from a Range Forecast scenario could help highlight the highest priority near-term needs.)

Overall Alternatives Analysis Process

Table 1 below provides a brief overview of the draft agendas for TAC Meetings #5 and #6 and GAPS Meetings #2 and #3. Figure 1 provides an overview of the alternatives analysis process and how it relates to the TAC and GAPS meetings.

Table 1 TAC and GAPS Meetings Draft Agendas

TAC Meeting #5 and GAPS Meetings #2 Draft Agenda (August/September)
Discuss initial evaluation of projects under consideration
Discuss Alternatives Analysis scenarios

TAC Meeting #6 and GAPS Meetings #3 Draft Agenda (October/November)
Confirm project evaluation results
Discuss findings of Alternatives Analysis Scenarios
Review draft list of Preferred Projects List
Discuss project priorities

Figure 1 Alternatives Analysis Process

