

Location and Environment Bureau 




Planning Studies




Overview


- Types of Planning Studies
- Timeline for Future Studies
- Study Initiation
- Look ahead
- Right Sizing/ Right Timing

3  The Future of Planning Studies

Better Timing, Better Focus





Planning of projects is critical for mobility, safety, efficiency, and continuity. LEB's goal was to improve Iowa's transportation systems by improving the planning process.

4  The Future of Planning Studies

Types of Planning Studies

- Preliminary Assessment
- Feasibility Study
- PEL (Programming and Environmental Linkage)
- Corridor Planning Study





 The Future of Planning Studies

What is a Preliminary Assessment?

- Pre-NEPA
- Identifies Showstoppers
- Considers Non-traditional Alternatives

A preliminary assessment will be used to evaluate the need, investigate range of possible solutions, determine initial cost estimates, and assess the potential impacts of a proposed project.



 The Future of Planning Studies

What is a Feasibility Study?

Feasibility Studies are conducted when more information is needed to make a decision on a project.

Results will be incorporated into a NEPA document if the project is programmed.

- More Refined Analysis
- Pre-NEPA
- Pre-programming

The Future of Planning Studies


What is a PEL? (Programming and Environmental Linkages)

- After Programming**
- Pre-NEPA**
- Expect an EA or EIS**

Planning and Environmental Linkages studies are conducted after the project is programmed.

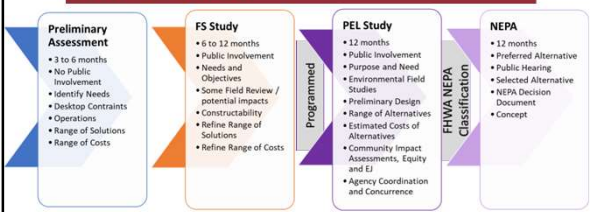
They are distinguished from Feasibility Studies by more detailed decision making resulting in a preferred alternative.

Results will be incorporated into an EA or EIS.



8 The Future of Planning Studies

What is a PEL?



- Preliminary Assessment**
 - 4 to 6 months
 - No Public Involvement
 - Identify Needs
 - Desktop Constraints
 - Operations
 - Range of Solutions
 - Range of Costs
- FS Study**
 - 6 to 12 months
 - Public Involvement
 - Needs and Objectives
 - Some Field Review / potential impacts
 - Constructability
 - Refine Range of Solutions
 - Refine Range of Costs
- PEL Study**
 - 12 months
 - Public Involvement
 - Purpose and Need Environmental Field Studies
 - Preliminary Design
 - Range of Alternatives
 - Estimated Costs of Alternatives
 - Community Impact Assessments, Equity and E
 - Agency Coordination and Concurrence
- NEPA**
 - 12 months
 - Preferred Alternative
 - Public Hearing
 - Selected Alternative
 - NEPA Decision Document
 - Concept


The Future of Planning Studies

What is a Corridor Planning Study?

- Corridor Review/Plan**
- Pre-NEPA**
- Pre-NEPA**

Corridor planning studies review the entire corridor for environmental constraints, operations, safety, public input, and serve as a guidance document for future improvements.

NEPA is conducted later at the project level (typically Ces).



10 The Future of Planning Studies

Study Type	Type of Environmental Analysis	NEPA Document	Input	Est. Time	Output
Prelim Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windshield • Desktop • Research Review 	• None	• Iowa DOT Staff	• 3-6 months	• Need for Project
Feasibility Studies	• Preliminary Field Studies	• None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public • Tribal • Resource Agency 	• 1 year	• Range of Alternatives
PEL	• Field Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA • EIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public • Tribal • Resource Agency Concurrence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year for PEL • +1 year for EA • +2 years for EIS 	• FONSI or ROD
Corridor Planning Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windshield • Desktop • Research Review 	• Multiple—most likely CEs at project level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public • Tribal • Resource Agency 	• 1 year	• Corridor "Road Map"

The Future of Planning Studies

Study Initiation?


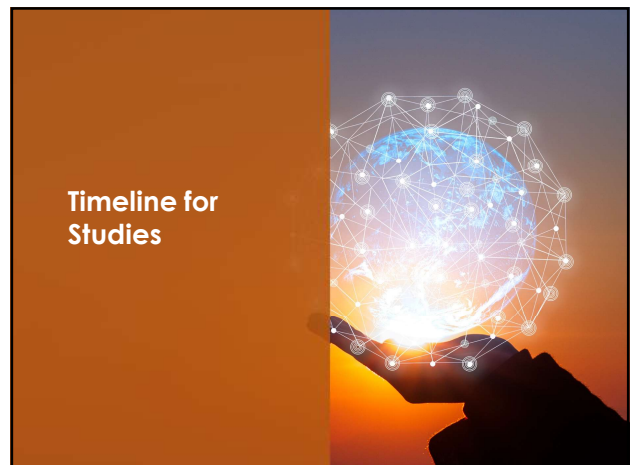
- Studies are requested**
- Staff Action for PA or FS**
- PELs after Business Case Approval**

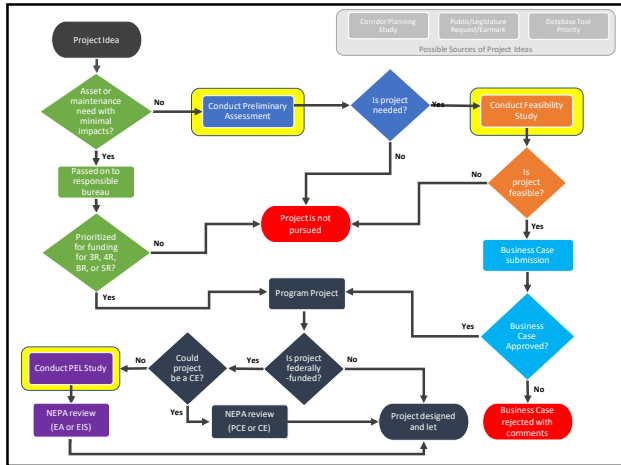
Staff Action

SA Requests submitted by DE or requesting bureau

Approved by TDD Director and Chief Engineer

LEB to track all studies geospatially



Planning Study Outlook

- Short term – continue existing
- Short term – Super 2 – in-house
- Long term - Add studies as process allows

