

# Legislatively-Directed Study: Feasibility of Performance-Based Project Evaluation

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# Discussion Topics

- Why evaluate investments based on performance?
- What did the Legislature ask WSDOT to do?
- What did we hear from stakeholders?
- What's next?



# Multimodal Planning at WSDOT

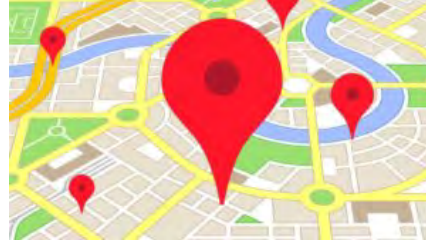
Why?



How?

- Performance-based planning
- "3C's Planning": comprehensive, cooperative, continuous

Where?



Network  
Corridor  
Modes



Local



Metropolitan  
Regional



Statewide

To What End?

Public investments in transportation should achieve these policy goals:

- Economic vitality
- Preservation
- Safety
- Mobility
- Environment
- Stewardship

# Why evaluate transportation performance?



Connect Policies & Investments



Transparency



Consistency



Alignment



Understand Tradeoffs



System Perspective

# Legislative direction

2019 c 416 s218

## For the Department of Transportation— transportation planning, data, and research

The appropriations in this section are subject to the following conditions and limitations: (7) By December 31, 2020, the department shall provide to the governor and the transportation committees of the legislature a report examining the feasibility of doing performance-based evaluations for projects. The department must incorporate feedback from stakeholder groups, including the traditionally underserved and historically disadvantaged populations, and the report shall include the project evaluation procedures that would be used for the performance-based evaluation.

## Proviso key elements:

- Performance-based evaluation assessment
- External stakeholder engagement and feedback
- Performance-based evaluation feasibility report





## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Between September and November 2020, WSDOT hosted six listening sessions, an online open house and two stakeholder workshops to introduce the effort, understand concerns and solicit feedback. To conduct intentional, inclusive and equitable outreach, the study team focused on hearing from stakeholders representing a wide cross-section of perspectives and varying levels of knowledge or involvement in the legislative process. Key takeaways included:

- The way projects are currently selected is not widely understood, particularly for people without deep experience in transportation policy.
- Transportation investments should be guided by clear goals and objectives that represent community values.
- Consider factors such as geographic balance, environmental preservation, health and equity during project evaluation.
- Safety, preservation and maintenance on existing facilities should be emphasized.

## FEASIBILITY AND READINESS ASSESSMENT

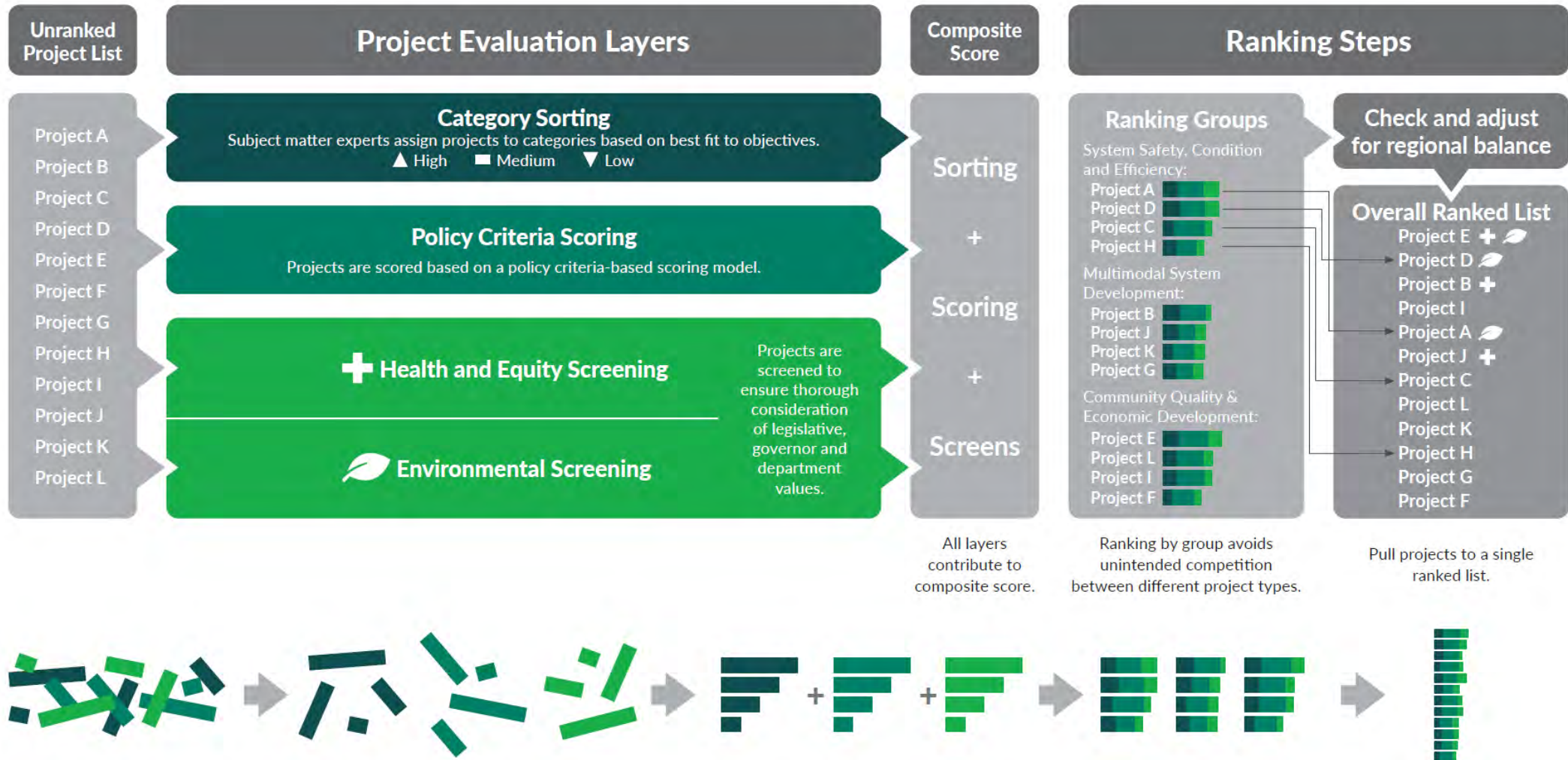
WSDOT assessed the feasibility and readiness of implementing performance-based project evaluation through data analysis, reviewing WSDOT plans and processes, and conducting interviews with staff. Key findings included:

- WSDOT has the necessary knowledge and skills to complete project evaluation.
- Performance-based project evaluation is feasible only if the Legislature supports the process and confirms acceptance and use of the results.
- WSDOT should clarify the **transportation policy goals** through development of **objectives** and **criteria** that reflect community values and system priorities.





# Project evaluation developmental model





# What's next?

## We don't have to start from scratch.

RCW 47.01.078

Transportation system policy goals—Duties.

- Maintain an inventory of conditions
- Develop long-term financing tools for maintenance and preservation
- Balance system safety and convenience to accommodate all users
- Develop strategies to gradually reduce the per capita vehicle miles traveled
- Consider efficiency tools
- Promote integrated multimodal planning
- Design environmentally sustainable, context-sensitive transportation systems

# Build on the Performance Framework

A consistent and flexible system of objectives, measures and metrics developed through engagement within WSDOT and with our partners that align our business practices with the transportation policy goals.

## WSDOT BUSINESS PRACTICES

- Planning
- Scoping
- Programming
- Design
- Maintenance
- Traffic Ops

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES & METRICS

## PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

**GOALS**

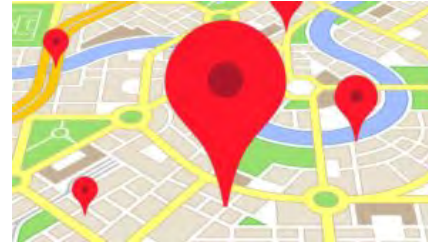
Economic Vitality      Mobility      Stewardship

**Safety**      **Preservation**      Environment

# The planning connection



- Economic vitality
- Preservation
- Safety
- Mobility
- Environment
- Stewardship



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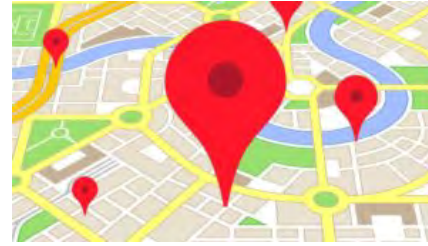
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# Connecting back to the statewide planning

*2040 and Beyond* is based on the Legislature's six statewide goals established in [RCW 47.04.280](#) that relate Economic Vitality, Preservation, Safety, Mobility, Environment and Health, and Stewardship.

These six statewide goals have been in place since 2006 and are well integrated into RTPO and MPO policy plans, local Comprehensive Plans, and WSDOT implementation plans. They provide a good foundation for ensuring consistency between statewide policy objectives and the day-to-day decisions and investments carried out by local, regional, and state partners.

The overall aim of these statewide goals is to:

- Make the best use of existing infrastructure, services, and resources.
- Increase safety and efficiency while keeping life cycle costs as low as possible.
- Increase travel choices, system reliability, and person throughput.
- Align transportation policies and investments to support statewide economic, societal, and environmental objectives.



# Discussion & Feedback

**For additional information on the Performance-Based Project Evaluation Feasibility Report, please contact:**

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