

Statewide Traffic Engineers Meeting

Stage 0 Overview

June 25, 2015





- Purpose of Stage 0
- Level of Detail
- Preliminary Scope & Budget Checklist
- Environmental Checklist
- Next Steps
- Benefit of Stage 0





DOTD Project Delivery Process

- Stage 0 – Feasibility
- Stage 1 – Environmental
- Stage 2 – Funding
- Stage 3 – Design
- Stage 4 – Letting
- Stage 5 – Construction
- Stage 6 – Operation





Purpose of Stage 0

- To support a streamlined project delivery process by:
 - Minimizing duplication of effort
 - Reducing total delay from the planning phase to project implementation





Purpose of Stage 0

- Determine “practical” feasibility of potential projects:
 - Can the project be implemented from a technical standpoint?
 - Are there obvious environmental impacts that would preclude implementation?
 - Is the project cost within the realm of possibility for current DOTD funding programs or will special dedicated funding be required?





Level of Detail

- Stage 0 should contain sufficient information in order to reach a decision regarding the project's feasibility, to determine its funding eligibility and ultimately transition it to Stage 1.
- Complexity of project will determine the level of detail and extent of documentation required.





What should my Stage 0 look like?

Simple



Intermediate



Complex





Level of Detail

Simple:

- Stage 0 Preliminary Scope and Budget Checklist
- Stage 0 Environmental Checklist
- Project Maps
- Include photographs of the existing site and/or facility if available





Level of Detail

Intermediate & Complex:

- The Stage 0 Checklists should be used as an outline for projects with a higher level of complexity.
- Public involvement may be necessary
- Technical analysis such as safety, capacity, air quality, etc. could be required depending on project type.





Level of Detail

- Any technical analysis performed as a part of Stage 0 should be done to a level of detail compatible with requirements in Stage 1.
- Analysis results and any information collected as a part of Stage 0 should be documented in a manner consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).





Preliminary Scope & Budget Checklist



STAGE 0
Preliminary Scope and Budget Checklist

A. Project Background

District _____ Parish _____
Route _____ Control Section _____
Begin Log Mile _____ End Log Mile _____
Project Category (Safety, Capacity, etc.): _____
Date Study Completed: _____
Describe the existing facility:
Functional classification: _____ Number and width of lanes: _____
Shoulder width and type: _____ Mode: _____
Access control: _____ ADT: _____ Posted Speed: _____
Describe any existing pedestrian facilities (ADA compliance should be considered for all improvements that include pedestrian facilities): _____
Describe the adjacent land use: _____
Who is the sponsor of the study? _____
List study team members: _____
Will this project be adding miles to the state highway system (new alignment, new facility)? If yes, has a transfer of ownership been initiated with the appropriate entity? _____
Are there recent, current or near future planning studies or projects in the vicinity? _____
If yes, please describe the relationship of this project to those studies/projects. _____

Provide a brief chronology of these planning study activities: _____

B. Purpose and Need

State the Purpose (reason for proposing the project) and Need (problem or issue)/Corridor Vision and a brief scope of the project. Also, identify any additional goals and objectives for the project.

C. Agency Coordination

Provide a brief synopsis of coordination with federal, tribal, state and local environmental, regulatory and resource agencies.

What transportation agencies were included in the agency coordination effort?

Describe the level of participation of other agencies and how the coordination effort was implemented.

Summary of Stage 0 Checklist:

- Background
- Purpose & Need
- Agency Coordination
- Public Coordination
- Range of Alternatives, Alternatives Evaluation & Screening
 - Project Scope & Description
- Planning Assumptions & Analytical Methods
- Potential Environmental Impacts
- Cost Estimate





Preliminary Scope & Budget Checklist

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Purpose & Need

- **Purpose**

- Defines the transportation need to be solved and outlines the goals and objectives of the specific project

- **Need**

- Provides data to support the purpose/problem statement

- Describes the key problem(s) being addressed and the cause of those problems





Establishing Preliminary Purpose & Need in Stage 0

- Sets the stage for identification and evaluation of project alternatives
- Helps justify funding eligibility
- Helps to prioritize projects within programs
- Helps provide a seamless transition from Stage 0 to Stage 1





Purpose(s) of a Project

- System Linkage
- Capacity
- Transportation Demand
- Legislation (rarely used)
- Economic Development
- Modal Interrelationships
- Safety
- Roadway Deficiencies

FHWA Technical Advisory T 6640.8A





Purpose & Need

Data that will inform the development of the Purpose and Need could include:

- A description of the existing facility
- Background/history of the project
- Air quality context
- Justification of need
- Multimodal considerations
- Context sensitive concepts
- Roadway deficiency data
- Demographic data
- Transportation demand and traffic forecasts
- Adjacent project identification



Purpose & Need - Examples

- The purpose of this project is to reduce delay and improve the operation of the intersection. The need for this project is to improve congestion, emissions and operations.
- The purpose of this project is to improve the safety at the intersection of LA A and East Drive. The need for this project is to reduce the number of crashes at the intersection. Between 2010 and 2012 there were 131 crashes at the location, 82% of these crashes were intersection related.





Purpose & Need - Examples

- The purpose of the project is to maintain the existing infrastructure. The need for this project is to prevent the existing roadway from falling into a condition requiring complete reconstruction and ultimately costing more to repair.





Project Scope & Description

- **Project Scope** – work necessary to deliver a project
 - The scope should reflect the statement of Purpose & Need
 - Is the “what” and “where” of the project
- **Project Description** - the description of all work necessary to complete the project
 - Should include basic design criteria
 - Should include major design features
 - Should be as complete as possible to allow accurate cost estimation
 - Can have multiple descriptions depending on the range of alternatives considered.





Project Scope and Description Example

- Project Scope and description example...



Cost Estimate

The project cost should include estimates for:

- environmental studies
- mitigation
- engineering
- right-of-way
- utility relocations
- construction (including traffic management during construction)



Environmental Checklist





Environmental Checklist

- The purpose is to identify known potential impacts that could affect the cost or feasibility of the project.
- Checklist begins with a series of items to help define the context of the area followed by more detailed items to aid in the identification of potential impacts
- Includes a list of environmental database websites
- Explanation of relevance of each item in checklist





Environmental Checklist

- Potential benefits include:
 - Reduced time preparing and/or agreeing to the alternatives selected for detailed study
 - Less time required to deliver transportation improvements
 - Lower project development and overall project costs
- It is critical that all findings be sufficiently documented in order for the planning document to be incorporated into the NEPA process.



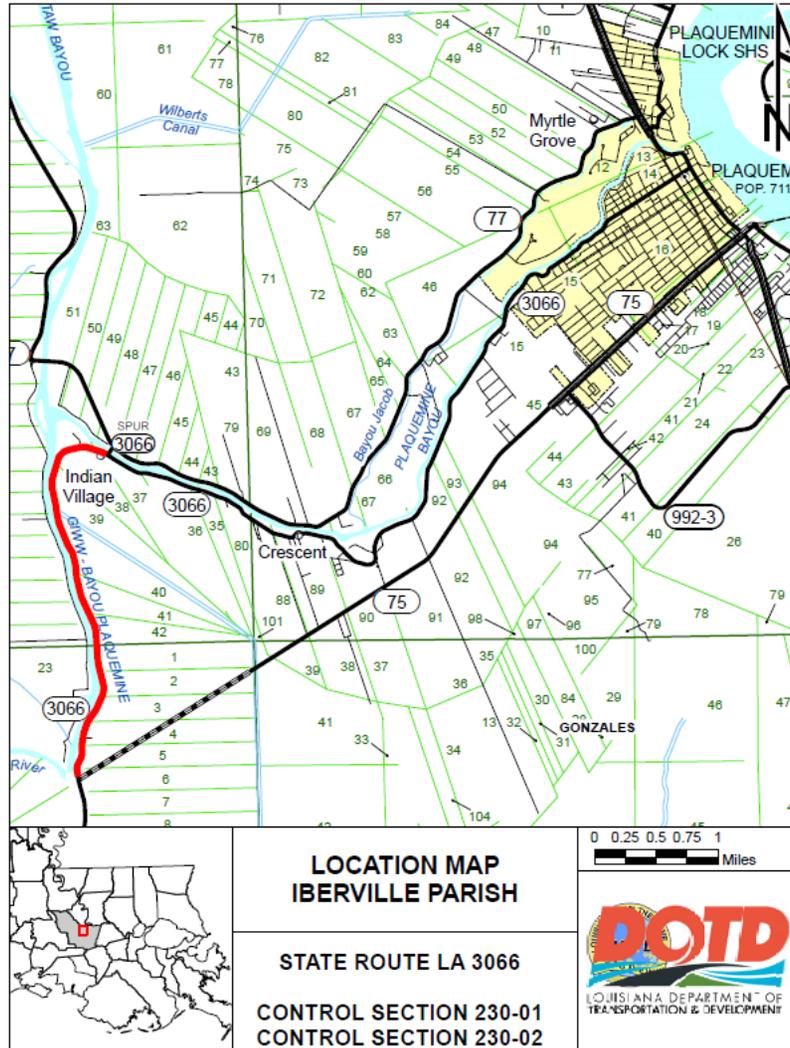


Project Maps



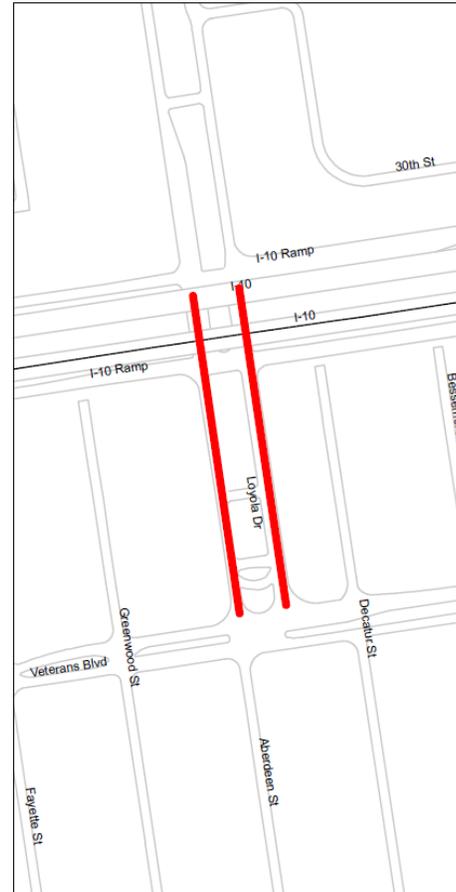
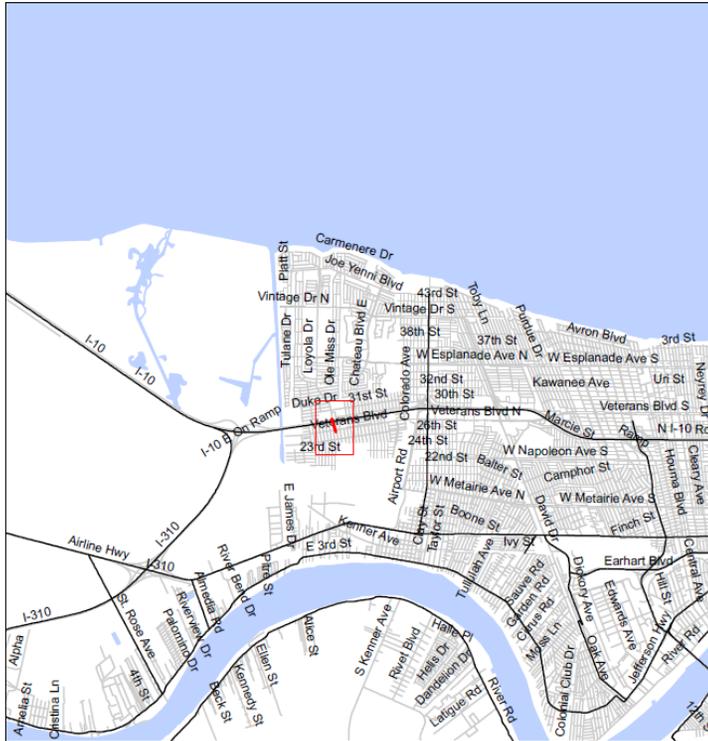


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What happens next?

Once Stage 0 is complete:

- The Stage 0 study will be transmitted to the appropriate program manager to be considered for programming.
- If the project is selected, the program manager is responsible for sending a memorandum to the Environmental Section indicating that the project was selected and approved for further processing through Stage 1.





What happens next?

- It is the program manager's responsibility to gain approval of Stage 1 funding and obtain a project number if one has not already been assigned.
- A formal notification of the decision regarding the proposed project should be sent to the project sponsor. In cases of rejection the notification should include the reasons for the decision.





Benefits of Stage 0

- Allows for more informed decisions before any promises are made
- Makes it easier to determine type of environmental document needed (CE, EA, EIS) in Stage 1
- Can reduce time required for Stage 1
- Allows better financial planning and a better public image





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