

Evaluating Transportation Projects Based on Performance

What we are doing

WSDOT continues to improve ways to compare transportation projects to see which ones best meet the needs for all of the people in Washington. The comparison method we are looking at is performance -based evaluation. This method evaluates projects based on how much they help your transportation system meet goals. This helps inform decision-makers in the selection of transportation investments.

Performance-based project evaluation

Performance-based evaluation is a method to maintain infrastructure, reduce unwanted impacts, and meet future needs by:

- Setting goals.
- Estimating performance.
- Recommending projects and programs to decision makers to fund.

ESHB 1125 Sec 219 (3) directs WSDOT to continue implementing the performance evaluation model and provide a report by September 1, 2024.

What we've already done

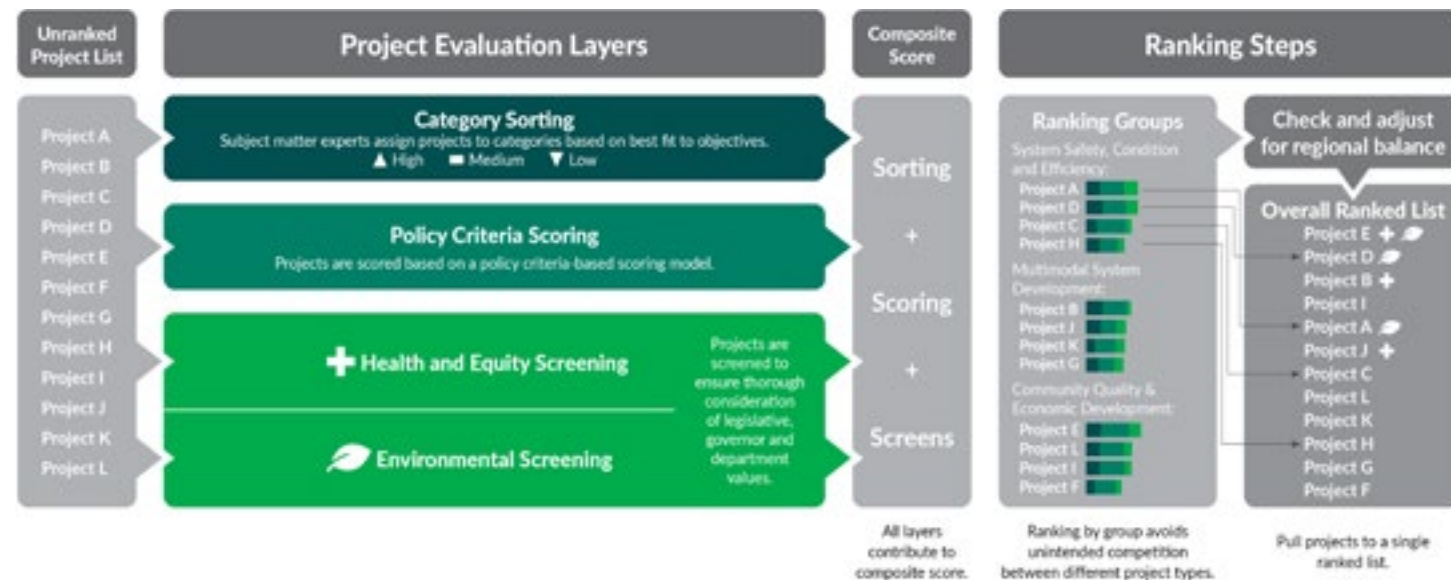
WSDOT made a draft model in 2022. This model takes a list of projects and evaluates them through three steps:

- Expert staff prioritize each project in meeting the needs of transportation system.
- Scoring each project on meeting Washington's six transportation policy goals.
- Improving the health and equity of overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.

Once the evaluations are done, the model provides ranked project recommendations that the legislature review for funding.

See the links below on two previous reports for more info:

- [Performance-based Project Evaluation Feasibility Report](#)
- [Performance-based Project Evaluation Model Summary Report](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit the [Performance-based project evaluation model webpage](#).

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Schedule

Phase 1: Assessment		Phase 2: Engage & Modify			Final Reporting	
Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June

The next steps

First, WSDOT needs data to allow experts and the model to compare projects consistently and effectively. We do this by:

- Choosing the best data sets to inform how we measure performance.
- Setting ways to consistently compare measures between projects.
- Knowing any gaps in available data and ways to overcome them.
- Looking at how data and methods remain current over time.

Opportunities for engagement

WSDOT wants to work with interested partners and the community to explain how the model works and get your ideas to make it better. We'll begin in early 2024 and events may include:

- Facilitated virtual workshops with stakeholders.
- An online open house.
- Data interviews with external partners.

If you want to be contacted about upcoming events, please provide your contact information by clicking the link below.

[Sign up to get notifications of events.](#)

Your Washington state transportation system goals.

The state legislature set six policy goals for the Washington Transportation Commission and WSDOT to use in planning and developing performance measures (RCW 47.04.280).

- PRESERVATION
- ENVIRONMENT
- STEWARDSHIP
- SAFETY
- MOBILITY
- ECONOMIC VITALITY

Additionally, the 2021 Health Equity for All (HEAL) Act requires WSDOT to use health and equity considerations in making decisions about projects*.

Note: Safety and preservation are priority goals

*E2SSB 5141 sets requirements for transportation projects above \$15 million.

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