



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**

# What is *PlanWorks*?

- ***PlanWorks*** is a web resource that supports collaborative decision making in transportation planning and project development.
- ***PlanWorks*** is built around key decisions in long-range planning, programming, corridor planning, and environmental review.
- ***PlanWorks*** suggests when and how to engage cross-disciplinary partners and stakeholder groups.
- ***PlanWorks*** is your partner every step of the way as you build consensus through these important community processes.

## Benefits of PlanWorks

- Identify and overcome barriers, when plans and projects hit delays
- Access to information about decisions in planning and project development
- Diagnose and provide strategies for better collaboration
- Integrate emerging topics into decision making





# PlanWorks Components



The image shows a screenshot of the PlanWorks website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a green background and white text. The navigation items are: Home, Decision, Assessments, Port, Application, Library, and Glossary. Below the navigation bar, the website is divided into three main content columns. The first column is titled 'Decision Guide' and contains four items: 'Long Range Transportation Planning' (with a magnifying glass icon), 'Programming' (with a blue square icon containing 'LSI'), 'Corridor Planning' (with a road icon), and 'Environmental Review/NEPA Merged with Permitting' (with a green leaf icon). The second column is titled 'Applications' and features a photograph of a person riding a bicycle on a city street. Below the photo is the text 'Bicycles and Pedestrians'. The third column is titled 'How do I get started?' and contains two sections. The first section says 'Please answer a few questions to help us guide you to the information most applicable to your needs.' and includes an illustration of a checklist with a pencil and a green 'Go »' button. The second section says 'New to PlanWorks? Checkout the PlanWorks training videos and modules.' and includes an illustration of a laptop displaying a video player and a green 'Go »' button.

# Decision Guide






1.

## Decision Guide

A troubleshooting guide that identifies and describes common decision points and opportunities for cooperation in the transportation planning and environmental review processes.

For each of the key decisions, *PlanWorks* provides questions to consider, data needs, case studies and examples, as well as links tools and other resources that can help support that decision.

Decision Guide	
	Long Range Transportation Planning
	Programming
	Corridor Planning
	Environmental Review/NEPA Merged with Permitting



# Applications

## 2.

### Applications

Approach to using the Decision Guide that provides specific information on addressing emerging and complex topics collaboratively with partners and stakeholders.

Applications include performance measures, visioning, freight, health, and many other topics.

Home Decision Guide Assessments User Portals **Applications** Library Glossary

Home / Applications

### Applications

New applications are a way to use the Decision Guide focused on an individual topic that is of interest to the transportation agency and/or partners and stakeholders. Each application highlights the Key Decisions relevant for that topic and provides a description of this relationship as you roll over the Key Decisions. Viewing the Decision Guide through the lens of a single topic helps practitioners understand:

- Where additional stakeholders may need to be engaged
- The relationship of this topic to other required planning activities, and
- How consideration of the topic evolves across the phases of decision making.

Click on any individual Key Decision for the full detailed information in the Decision Guide.

<i>Bicycles and Pedestrians</i>	<i>Natural Environment and Implementing Eco-Logical</i>
<i>Capital Improvement</i>	<i>Performance Measures</i>
<i>Economic Development</i>	<i>Planning and Environment Linkages</i>
<i>Freight</i>	<i>Public-Private Partnerships</i>
<i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i>	<i>Safety</i>
<i>Health in Transportation</i>	<i>Stakeholder Collaboration</i>
<i>Human Environment and Communities</i>	<i>Transportation Conformity</i>
<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Visioning and Transportation</i>
<i>Linking Planning and Operations</i>	



# Assessments



## 3.

### Assessments

Interactive self-assessment tools that enable project leaders to identify opportunities to work together, improve interagency cooperation, and expedite project delivery.

Assessments can be taken online, or downloaded and used offline collaboratively.

Home / Decision Guide / **Assessments** / User Portals / Applications / Library / Glossary

Home / Assessments

### Assessments

PlanWorks Assessments help identify barriers to successful project and plan development - and strategies for overcoming them. Use the descriptions of **Expediting Project Delivery**, **Partner Collaboration**, or **Stakeholder Collaboration** to select one that meets your need. Respond to the series of statements about potential barriers and view your results.

PlanWorks assigns a score of **Weak**, **Average**, or **Strong** to each assessment category. **Things You Can Do** provides strategies that can help you address areas of weakness or improve your current process.

You may also take the assessment offline as an individual or as a group.

Partner Collaboration	Stakeholder Collaboration	Expediting Project Delivery
<p><b>When to use this assessment:</b></p> <p>Transportation plans and projects are at risk when collaboration is missing or ineffective, but specific barriers are often hard to identify. It is easy to misdiagnose the problem and spend valuable resources on the wrong solution. This assessment is intended to pinpoint where process or team dynamics are not supportive of collaboration.</p>	<p><b>When to use this assessment:</b></p> <p>This assessment reflects the viewpoint of those who do not have decision making authority, but clearly have an interest in the outcome. It is useful for a transportation practitioner hoping to improve stakeholder collaboration or as a self-assessment by stakeholders who want to increase their understanding and improve their ability to communicate effectively.</p>	<p><b>When to use this assessment:</b></p> <p>The goal of transportation agencies is to conduct an efficient planning and project development process without sacrificing broad-based support for the outcome. There are many constraints to streamlined project delivery, and this assessment helps identify those that are present or may be anticipated. Corresponding strategies are provided to help overcome these constraints.</p>
<p><b>Before using this assessment consider:</b></p> <p><b>Who makes up the team?</b> Individuals from your agency or partner agencies who participate in decision making.</p> <p><b>What are the roles of individual team members?</b> Each team member will participate in the process as an advisor, observer or decision maker.</p> <p><b>What is the process?</b> The steps that lead toward a final decision and approval. The steps are usually controlled by requirements or common practice.</p> <p><b>What is the existing situation?</b> The current planning process which includes past experiences or pre-existing relationships that may affect how team members engage.</p>	<p><b>Before using this assessment consider:</b></p> <p><b>Who is a stakeholder?</b> Anyone with an interest in the outcome of the transportation decision including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups and private citizens.</p> <p><b>Who is already at the table? Who needs to be at the table? Who is missing?</b> Ensuring that those stakeholders who want to be at the table and those that need to be at the table are identified and engaged.</p> <p><b>What is the process?</b> Stakeholders may have different contributions in the development of transportation plans or improvement projects.</p> <p><b>What is the existing situation?</b> Past experiences or pre-existing relationships that may affect how stakeholders engage and participate.</p>	<p><b>Before using this assessment consider:</b></p> <p><b>When should the assessment be taken?</b> This assessment is useful before a project begins to identify potential challenges or during an active project to diagnose issues.</p> <p><b>Who makes up the team?</b> These are individuals from your agency or partner agencies who participate in decision making.</p> <p><b>What are the roles of individual team members?</b> Each team member will participate in the process as an advisor, observer or decision maker.</p> <p><b>What is the existing situation?</b> Past experiences or pre-existing relationships that may affect how team members and stakeholders engage.</p>
<a href="#">Go to Assessment</a>	<a href="#">Go to Assessment</a>	<a href="#">Go to Assessment</a>



# Library

## 4.

### Library

A resource library containing relevant case studies and reports of successful interagency collaboration in the transportation planning and environmental review processes.

Includes tools menu that identifies potential data and analysis support for specific topics.

**Planning Process Bundle Case Study**  
 Downtown Multi-modal Vision Plan  
 High Point Metropolitan Planning Organization

*The SHRP2 Planning Process Bundle (PPB) is a collection of techniques and resources for increased collaboration in transportation planning, programming, project development, and decision making. For more information on all bundle products, visit the [Planning Process Bundle website](#).*

**Product: Transportation Visioning for Communities (COB)**

**PlanWorks Case Study**  
 Route 29 Corridor Assessment, Campbell County  
 Virginia Department of Transportation

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**Transportation decision-making phase(s):** Corridor Planning

**Executive Summary**

Route 29 (Wards Road) in Campbell County, Virginia is a 6.6 mile corridor serving two sets of users: through travelers who value the corridor's contribution to statewide mobility and the business community which values local access. The corridor has been well examined, with five separate studies conducted during the past two decades, however, a lack of funds for major capacity investments has forced the community to look toward lower-cost solutions, such as establishment of a transportation corridor overlay district and consolidation of access points—but such solutions have not been identified, in a detailed manner, on a systematic basis. The single-most greatest challenge, therefore, has been the lack of an authorizing environment in which to make progress toward improving this corridor which functions as both a VDOT route of statewide significance and a local main street. A key outcome includes the development of a \$19.43 million set of improvements that collectively improve local vehicular access (e.g., the addition of turn lanes), local nonmotorized access (e.g., construction of a shared use path), and through mobility (e.g., the closure of medians). This outcome is supported by a public involvement process (supported by the local Board of Supervisors [BOIS]) that demonstrated interest in specific corridor-preservation techniques and the preparation of these projects for candidate funding sources available in Virginia: Smart Scale, the Highway Safety Improvement Program, and the MPO's Constrained Long Range Plan.

**Project Snapshot**

- A 6.6 mile corridor with ADT equal to about 28,378 (2013) and 365 crashes over a 5 year period (2011-2015).
- The corridor is on Virginia's Corridors of Statewide Significance (CSSS), emphasizing its mobility function.
- VCU users must increase expected commuting time by about 45% if they cannot afford to be late more than twice per month.
- The corridor is the site of the county's 2006 Transportation Corridor Overlay District.
- The corridor has been studied several times outside the traditional planning process: 1997, 2003, 2005, 2009, and 2011.
- Funds for large scale capacity improvements are not available; a 2014 planning level cost estimate for a bypass is \$100 million.
- A new programming environment in Virginia (Smart Scale) emphasizes non-traffic projects, where benefits must be quantified as much as possible.
- County BOIS strongly emphasized the need for an open process allowing all to participate.

**Project Snapshot**

- Vision Plan recommends priority bike and pedestrian improvements, as well as opportunities for greenway trails, public art, placemaking projects, and redevelopment opportunities.
- Study area encompasses approximately 140 acres in the Core City.
- Epicenter is the historic Southern Railway Depot, High Point Transit System terminal is adjacent to the depot which also serves as a hub to the regional transit system.
- Includes the Showroom District which hosts the International Furniture Market, including 75,000 visitors twice a year.
- The City recently approved funding for a minor league baseball stadium. Adjacent development plans to include retail and residential (with a children's museum, event center, and park).

versity, sidewalks, adding no-street accommodations, redevelopment of vacant lots and





# Public-Private Partnerships



The Public-Private Partnership (P3) Application covers three areas:

- Specific key decisions where P3 should be considered
- Available mechanisms for additional sources of project funding
- Innovative sources of financing to leverage future revenues



# P3 and the Decision Guide

*The Decision Guide describes when and how to include P3 considerations in each of the four planning phases.*

Long Range Transportation Planning ▾

Evaluate whether regional goals are related to the use of innovative sources of financing and revenue as well as innovative procurement models.

LRP-1 <u>Approve Scope of LRTP Process</u>	LRP-2 <u>Approve Vision and Goals</u>	LRP-3 <u>Approve Evaluation Criteria, Methods and Measures</u>	LRP-4 <u>Approve Transportation Deficiencies</u>	LRP-5 <u>Approve Financial Assumptions</u>	LRP-6 <u>Approve Strategies</u>	LRP-7 <u>Approve Plan Scenarios</u>	LRP-8 <u>Adopt Preferred Plan Scenario</u>	LRP-9 <u>Make Conformity Determination by MPO</u>
LRP-10 <u>Adopt LRTP by MPO</u>	LRP-11 <u>Make Conformity Determination</u>							

Trainings

COMING

SOON!



## Training

*PlanWorks* provides online opportunities and resources to help transportation practitioners, at every level, identify barriers to plans and projects — and overcome them — through improved understanding and collaboration.



### Videos

- Purpose and Benefits of PlanWorks
- How PlanWorks Benefits Collaboration
- Using the Stakeholder Collaboration Application
- Using the Bicycle and Pedestrian Application
- Using the Freight Application
- Using the PEL Application

### Modules

- Using PlanWorks
- Navigating PlanWorks
- Voices of Experience
- Leveraging PlanWorks Applications





**<https://fhwaapps.fhwa.dot.gov/planworks/>**

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