

APPENDIX A: WisDOT's Pre-Screening Worksheet for EA and ER Projects For Determining the Need to Conduct a *Detailed Indirect Effects Analysis*

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NEPA requires the assessment of indirect effects of all projects under CEQ regulations. **All EIS documents require a detailed indirect effects analysis.** However, not all, non-EIS environmental reviews for transportation projects will warrant a *detailed analysis* of indirect effects. This pre-screening guidance will assist the Study Team in determining whether a more detailed analysis is necessary in order to comply with NEPA requirements. Refer to the complete indirect effects analysis guidance document and FDM (chapter 25-5-17) for further information.

This prescreening worksheet may be helpful in scoping for the analysis. If the Study Team is uncertain what level of analysis the project will need, do not make an assumption that the project doesn't require the analysis. Contact the Region Environmental Coordinator for more assistance.

The factors listed below are not in any order of importance. Each EA and ER project needs to be examined individually to understand whether a particular factor or combination factors requires detailed analysis for indirect effects.

Factors to Consider

1. Project Design Concepts and Scope
2. Project Purpose and Need
3. Project Type (Categorical Exclusions, etc.)
4. Facility Function (Current and Planned—principal arterial, rural arterial, etc.)
5. Project Location
6. Improved Travel Times to an Area
7. Local Land Use and Planning Considerations
8. Population and Demographic Considerations
9. Rate of Urbanization
10. Public Concerns

1. Project Design Concepts and Scope

Do the project design concepts include any one of the following?

- Additional thru travel lanes (expansion)
- New alignment
- New and/or improved interchanges and access
- Bypass alternatives

2. Project Purpose and Need

Does the project purpose and need include:

- Economic development –in part or full (i.e. improved access to a planned industrial park, new interchange for a new warehouse operation).

3. Project Type

- What is the project document “type”?
- EIS project—a detailed indirect effects analysis is warranted.
- Many EAs will require a detailed indirect effects analysis however, it also depends on the project design concepts and other factors noted here.
- If a Categorical Exclusion applies, a detailed assessment is not generally warranted, however documentation must be provided that addresses this determination including basic sheet information.

4. Facility Function

What is the primary function of the existing facility? What is the proposed facility?

- Urban arterial
- Rural arterial

5. Project Location (Location can be a combination.)

- Urban (within an Metropolitan Planning Area)
- Suburban (part of larger metropolitan/regional area, may or may not be part of a metropolitan planning area)
- Small community (population under 5000)
- Rural with scattered development
- Rural, primarily farming/agricultural area

6. Improved travel times to an area or region

- Will the proposed project provide an improvement of 5 or more minutes? (Based on research, improvements in travel time can impact the attractiveness of an area for new development.)

7. Land Use and Planning

- What are the existing land use types in project area?
- What do the local plans, neighborhood plans, and regional plans, indicate for future changes in land use?
- What types of permitted uses are indicated in the local zoning?
- Would the project potentially conflict with plans in the project area? (e.g., capacity expansion in areas in which agricultural preservation is important to local government(s)?)

8. Population/Demographic Changes

- Have the population changes over past 5, 10 and 20 years been high, medium, low growth rate vs. state average over same period? (i.e. USDA defines high growth in rural areas as greater than annual population growth of 1.4 %.)
- What are the projections for the future for population? (Use Wisconsin DOA projections.)
- Have there been considerable changes for population demographics and employment over the past 10 – 20 or more years?

9. Rate of Urbanization

- Does the project study area contain proposed new developments?

- What are the main changes in developed area vs. undeveloped areas over the past 5, 10 and 20 years?
- Have there been significant conversions of agricultural land uses to other land use types, such as residential or industrial?

10. Public, State and/or Federal Agency Concerns

- Have local officials, federal and/or state agencies, property owners, stakeholders or others raised concerns related to potential indirect effects from the project? (e.g., land use changes, “sprawl”, increase traffic, loss of farmland, etc.)

11. Conclusion

Identify whether or not the results of this prescreening of potential indirect effects indicates a detailed indirect effects analysis is required.

- a. No – Through screening analysis using WisDOT’s pre-screening for indirect effects procedure and FDM guidance on indirect effects, it is concluded that the factors of the project, its location and other conditions do not warrant further detailed analysis of the potential for indirect effects. The project will not have the likelihood to result in *significant* indirect effects as defined by NEPA. This conclusion was based on the evaluation of [the preceding](#) 10 pre-screening factors including project design concepts and scope; project purpose and need; project type; facility function (current and planned); project location; improved travel times to an area; local land use and planning considerations; population and demographic considerations; rate of urbanization; and public/agency concerns. Therefore, further evaluation of indirect effects in a detailed analysis is not warranted. If changes are made to the project design and alternatives, this screening will be re-examined for sufficiency.
- b. Yes – Through screening analysis using WisDOT’s pre-screening for indirect effects procedure and FDM guidance on indirect effects, it is concluded that the factors of the project, its location and other conditions warrant further detailed analysis of the potential for indirect effects.

Documenting Prescreening

The results of prescreening require documentation both in the project file and within the document itself. In the documentation, it is important to include various data sources used and summarize the rationale for determining level of analysis required.

Some projects, especially EAs may need additional analysis, but will not reach the level required in an EIS project. The analysis should be catered to the level of project indirect impacts anticipated.

If the Study Team is uncertain what level of analysis the project will need or if the results of the screening are appropriate, the Study Team should not make an assumption. Contact the region environmental coordinator for more assistance.