

KEY TIMELINES AND DECISIONS IN THE USACE PLANNING PROCESS

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US Army Corps
of Engineers.



AGENDA

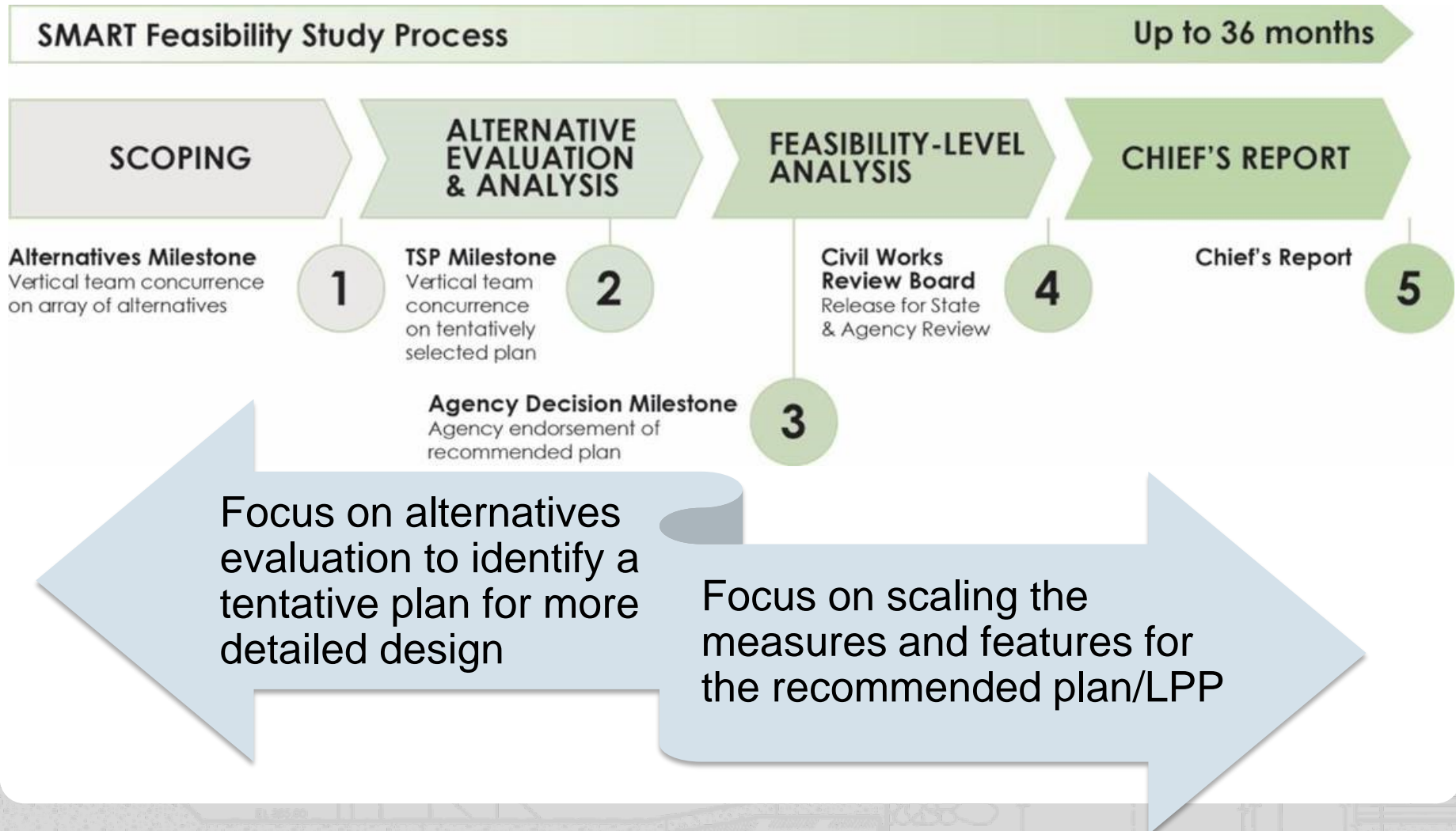
- What is SMART Planning?
- Feasibility Study Planning Process
- Key Decisions and Opportunities for Industry Engagement in the Study Process



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THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS & KEY DECISIONS



STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders: Stakeholders include any member of the public that might be able to affect, are affected by, or are interested in, the results of the USACE planning process.

INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
To provide the public with balanced, objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions.	To obtain feedback on analyses, alternatives, and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.



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SMART Feasibility Study Process

Up to 36 months

Duration: 90-120 days



Goal: Define problems and opportunities; Corps will develop preliminary alternatives and screening criteria, concluding the phase with a final array / reasonable array of alternatives to be carried forward for a rigorous evaluation.

EXAMPLES OF STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT DURING SCOPING PHASE

Input Opportunities	Feedback Opportunities
Participate in public scoping meetings	Evaluate and bring available data to the table
Help identify problems and opportunities	Confirm problems and opportunities
Help identify planning objectives and constraints	Vet planning objectives and constraints
Help identify decision criteria	Vet decision criteria
Provide input to “without project” scenario	Vet “without project” scenario
Source of community needs, concerns, and values	Vet public involvement process plan and stakeholder roles
Source of solution ideas – measures and plans	React to proposed solutions





Goal: Narrow scope from reasonable array of alternatives to a tentatively selected plan (TSP); Corps confirms TSP (agency's preferred alternative); Corps draft integrated feasibility/NEPA report is released for public / agency review.

EXAMPLES OF STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT DURING ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION & ANALYSIS PHASE

Input Opportunities	Feedback Opportunities
Identify candidate evaluation criteria	React to likely effects – beneficial and adverse
	React to solutions eliminated and retained
May provide insight into important trade-offs	React to differences and trade-offs among solutions
	Comment on draft report during public comment period



SMART Feasibility Study Process

Up to 36 months

SCOPING

ALTERNATIVE
EVALUATION
& ANALYSIS

FEASIBILITY-LEVEL
ANALYSIS

CHIEF'S REPORT

Alternatives Milestone
Vertical team concurrence
on array of alternatives

1

TSP Milestone
Vertical team
concurrence
on tentatively
selected plan

2

Agency Decision Milestone
Agency endorsement of
recommended plan

3

**Civil Works
Review Board**
Release for State
& Agency Review

4

Chief's Report

5

Duration: +/- 1
year

Goal: After public / agency review, Corps holds senior level meeting to endorse recommended plan (preferred alternative); finish feasibility level analysis / design on the preferred alternative; complete final feasibility report and NEPA report and ALL compliance requirements.



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EXAMPLES OF STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT DURING FEASIBILITY-LEVEL ANALYSIS PHASE

Input Opportunities	Feedback Opportunities
May provide weights for decision criteria trade-offs	Keep informed about study progress
May identify preferred solution	React to decision



SMART Feasibility Study Process

up to 36 months

SCOPING

ALTERNATIVE
EVALUATION
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FEASIBILITY-LEVEL
ANALYSIS

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**Civil Works
Review Board**
Release for State
& Agency Review

4

Chief's Report

5

Duration: 3-4
months

Goal: To release final feasibility / NEPA report /draft Chief's Report for State & Agency review. Chief of Engineers signs report and submits to Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) for review / coordination with Office of Management & Budget (OMB) and formally submits reports to Congress. END OF FEASIBILITY



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AFTER THE CHIEF'S REPORT...

- Pre-Construction Engineering & Design (PED)
- Congressional Project Authorization
- Appropriations for Project Construction
- Construction
- OMRR&R ...





FOR MORE INFORMATION

Inland Navigation Planning Center of Expertise

<http://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Navigation/Inland-Waterways/Planning-Community-Toolbox>

Planning Community Toolbox

www.corpsplanning.us

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