



### Alternatives Analysis



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A key focus of environmental studies prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act is to determine how best to meet the purpose and need for a Federal Action. NEPA does not require consideration of all possible alternatives but instead a range of reasonable alternatives.

Potential alternatives to meet a transportation need might include a new road, other modes such as bus or rail, carpooling, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transportation system management (TSM), or combinations of these.

Road alternatives often include roadway type, number of lanes, and location.

Federal regulations also require consideration of a no-action alternative as a benchmark against which the impacts of the “action” alternatives are compared.

Law: 40 CFR 1502.13

Guidance: July 23, 2003 FHWA/FTA

Joint Guidance



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