

Life Cycle of a Road

HOW DO WE DECIDE?

Have you ever wondered why one road is being worked on when other roads...

Have a major safety concerns?

Are in serious disrepair?

Are located in a faster growing area?

The **transportation decision-making process** involves plans and studies, persistence with regulations and requirements, as well as a robust public participation process. As the government, the Borough works hard to make decisions addressing the needs of over 95,000 citizens.



Factors in Transportation Decision Making

- ✓ **Plans & Studies** are used to document the need for each project, prioritize which projects will be funded, and plan when the projects will be built.
- ✓ **Regulations & Requirements** related to funding, safety, design, and legislation help guide decision-making that is equitable, safe and compliant. These requirements may impact when and how a project is prioritized and implemented.
- ✓ **Public Participation** is included at all levels of the decision making process. From developing plans to the adoption of the CIP, citizen participation is essential to the transportation decision making process.

What's the Big Deal with Transportation?

- ❖ The transportation system (roads, trails, rail, sidewalks, transit, airports, ports) is one of the few government-funded systems that *all* citizens use regularly, regardless of age or ability.
- ❖ The transportation system provides services to some of our most vulnerable populations.
- ❖ The transportation system is very expensive to build and to maintain. Check out our Bogard/Seldon example to learn more!



MAKING DECISIONS

Step 1. Document the Need for a Project

This step includes making note of the project's significance in the Borough's overall transportation system as well as the community's support. This documentation is often found in more than one plan or study.

Identify importance of...

Make a Note Here...

- Project Need
- Level(s) of Support
- Scale of Impact
- Project Longevity
- Initial Request
- State or Federal Requirement(s)
- Safety Issues

- ✓ Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
- ✓ Official Streets & Highways Plan (OSHP)
- ✓ Comprehensive Plans
- ✓ Corridor Studies & Plans
- ✓ Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- ✓ Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Step 2. Prioritize Projects - MSB

Once the project need has been identified, the project is ready to be nominated in the **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)** process. Projects can be nominated yearly by communities, staff, and policy makers.



The CIP Process begins taking nominations in the January!

Example: Bogard/Seldon Road

The need was first identified in the 2005 CIP and then in the 2007 LRTP. Both the Core Area and Meadow Lakes Comprehensive Plans identify the road as a community need. The Cities of Wasilla and Palmer have also identified this project for many years through their own plans and CIP. The Bogard/Seldon project was first placed on the STIP in 2005 and the project has received funding three separate times to complete the total project cost. Funding for ROW acquisition and Design was part of a 2006 State DOT congestion management program. Later through two separate legislative appropriations construction was funded and is now being completed. As you can see, major projects like this can take many years to fund and complete. Clearly making the case for need and prioritizing the project is necessary for long term support and implementation.

Step 3. Prioritize - State & Federal

Transportation projects funded with state or federal dollars are generally included in the **Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**. The STIP considers transportation projects in CIPs and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) from around the state to create a statewide, prioritized projects list. Agencies, governments, and the general public are invited to comments on the STIP during the public review period. Once a project is on the STIP it begins to move forward towards funding, design, and construction.

