



## How will improvements be evaluated?

Below is an explanation of the criteria and measures that will be used to evaluate the short- and long-term improvement projects proposed for the SR 169 Route Development Plan (RDP). The criteria are based on the Goals and Objectives identified by the Corridor Working Group (CWG) partners, stakeholders and the WSDOT team. During the course of the study, there will be two levels of project screening: (1) initial screening to look at project costs and benefits and remove projects that do not address key issues, are too expensive or have unreasonable impacts; and, (2) detailed screening to evaluate the remaining projects and alternatives for each corridor segment. The detailed screening will use all of the evaluation criteria.

### Safety

The safety criterion looks at project effects on accident rates, pedestrian safety (especially for school children getting on and off school buses), and WSDOT design standards.

### Mobility

The mobility criterion compares the changes in the efficiency and reliability of travel along the corridor with each of the proposed improvements. Specific mobility issues include: person and vehicle travel time, emergency vehicle access, and special event mobility.

### Transit/HOV Use and Functionality

This criterion will evaluate the existing and future performance of bus transit and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) use and functionality along the corridor.

### Pedestrian and Bicycle Access

This criterion evaluates pedestrian and bicycle access across and parallel to the corridor, according to WSDOT design standards.

### Environmental Effects

The environmental criterion will measure the effect of each improvement on issues such as: community and business disturbance during construction, need for additional right-of-way, impacts on low-income and minority populations, and effects on natural features like salmon streams, wetlands, and endangered or threatened species habitat.

### Land Use and Policy Consistency

This criterion will measure whether the proposed improvements comply with local jurisdictional transportation and land use policies.

### Project Costs and Benefits

This criterion will evaluate the financial costs and benefits to construct and maintain improvements along the corridor. It includes comparing capital and maintenance costs against travel time or safety improvements.

### Public Support

Public input for each alternative will be gathered by active participation of stakeholders, interests groups, and elected officials. Public support will be used as a tool to establish consensus for identifying a preferred alternative.

