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Chapter 457	457-1 – 457-2	1	457-1 – 457-2	1

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 Web site.*

457.01 Introduction

This chapter includes information needed for projects that will use or otherwise impact any “Section 4(f) property”, as defined in the glossary in this section. The procedures for identifying such impacts and any potential mitigation for such impacts are described in **Chapter 450** and **Chapter 456**. In particular, this chapter describes the requirements, guidance, and procedures for determining if a Section 4(f) evaluation is needed, and for preparing one when needed (i.e., to document the lack of a feasible and prudent avoidance alternative to using the Section 4(f) property and demonstrate that the project includes “all possible planning” to minimize harm to the Section 4(f) property resulting from the use). See also **Section 411.12** for guidance on preparing Section 4(f) evaluations along with NEPA documents.

(1) *Summary of Requirements*

As shown in **Figure 457-1**, whenever a transportation program or project requires the use of Section 4(f) property, as well as funding or approval from a USDOT agency (such as the FHWA or FTA), and the USDOT agency determines that the program or project will have more than a de minimis impact on the Section 4(f) property, then the USDOT agency must determine if there is a feasible and prudent avoidance alternative to using the Section 4(f) property. (A feasible and prudent avoidance alternative avoids using Section 4(f) property and does not cause other severe problems of a magnitude that outweighs the importance of protecting the Section 4(f) property.)

*Web sites and navigation referenced in this chapter are subject to change. For the most current links, please refer to the online version of the EPM, available through the WSDOT Environmental Services Office (ESO) home page: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/>

Figure 457-1: Process for Analyzing Any Transportation Program or Project (or Alternative Program or Project) for Compliance With Section 4(f)

