

What is a Purpose and Need Statement

A Purpose and Need Statement is, ideally, a one-page document that provides an overview of the study rationale and intent. The statement is developed with significant input from study committees and the public. A good Purpose and Need Statement also implies a clear set of measures with which to evaluate and select a set of final study recommendations.

Template: Purpose and Need Statement

- STUDY NAME
- Purpose and Need Statement: Draft X
- Date

BACKGROUND

- Provide a brief (100+/- words) overview of the region and its current transportation system. If there is any pertinent information regarding specific study funding (such as an act of the Legislature), note it here.

EVIDENCE

- Provide a brief summary (100+/- words) of key trends, data or issues that are behind and will support the P&N statement.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- Provide information about what the Study should achieve. This section should not include problems. For example: "The purpose of the XYZ Study is to identify and evaluate feasible, long term (insert study period) transportation (and land use if applicable) strategies that will facilitate..."

STATEMENT OF NEED

- This is a statement of the present and future transportation (including multi-modal) deficiencies that have been identified in the study area. It may be appropriate to note how these deficiencies affect the study area's ability to grow or prosper. While study recommendations will strive to meet the needs stated here, it is understood that it is sometimes not feasible to meet all of them. Sometimes needs can be organized by primary and secondary needs.

GOALS

- This section should include bulleted information that will clarify the overall vision for the study area. The bullets should not be prioritized. They can include topics such as personal or governmental cost management, the environment, recreation, multi-modal, economic needs, and/or protection of neighborhoods. It is understood that the study will strive to achieve these

goals, but it may not be feasible to achieve all goals. Sometimes goals can be organized by primary and secondary goals.