

1.1 Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to document the development of the alternatives recommended for detailed study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The selection of alternatives to be carried forward for analysis in the DEIS was an iterative process that began with project scoping. First, the project study team assembled previous ideas or “concepts from the past” that might be viable alternatives. The public, as well as state and federal agencies, were then asked to suggest alternatives. From these efforts, approximately 100 concepts were presented. These concepts were screened on the basis of the project’s “purpose and need,” goals and objectives, and reasonability. Based on the screening, nine potential alternatives were selected for presentation to the public and agencies, along with a recommendation to go forward with six of them for additional study. Each potential “build” alternative included three roadway design standards and four road types.

As a result of the input received, the recommendation was modified to eliminate one of the roadway design standards and one of the road types, to add an optional alignment for consideration at one location, and to include a modification of a portion of one of the alternatives that had been suggested for elimination. Therefore, five alternatives, with two design standards, two road types, and optional alignments at three locations, will be carried forward for detailed analysis in the DEIS. Any one of these alternatives, or a combination of them, may ultimately be selected as the preferred alternative. Descriptions of the alternatives evaluated throughout the alternatives development process follow.