



BILLINGS BYPASS EIS
NCPD 56(55)CN 4199

Alternatives Screening and Evaluation Process

INITIAL ALIGNMENTS

**LEVEL 1
SCREENING**

Does the alignment meet the project purpose and need and/or design objectives?

Based on input from the advisory committee and the community, the project team considered a range of alignments that were evaluated for fatal flaws based on the purpose and need and design objectives for the project.

CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVES

**LEVEL 2
SCREENING**

Do other alternatives provide the same benefits with fewer impacts or lower cost?

Using the alignments remaining after the Level 1 Screening, the project team developed a set of conceptual alternatives. These alternatives were compared to each other based on criteria including projected traffic, private property impacts, cost, natural resource impacts, and impacts to cultural resources.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

**EIS
EVALUATION**

What are the beneficial and adverse impacts of each alternative?

The alternatives remaining after the Level 2 Screening will be carried forward for detailed evaluation in the EIS. The alternative is made up of an alignment, a cross section, and specific interchange designs. Based on the results of the detailed evaluation in the EIS, MDT and FHWA will select a preferred alternative.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE