

Purpose and Need

Every project has a documented purpose and need that may be as simple as reducing accidents, eliminating hydroplaning, replacing a deficient bridge, roadway resurfacing, etc. or as complex as congestion relief and capacity relief, just to name a few. The purpose and need is also the fundamental component of environmental studies. Refer to Subsection 2-02.3 in the PDM. During project scoping and significantly before any plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E) are submitted to the Central Office, the Project Manager and the core team should review the purpose and need of the project. In so doing, any items that do not directly support the purpose and need can be re-evaluated, redesigned or eliminated altogether. In other words, revisit the purpose and need often.

Practical Design helps a project achieve its purpose and need so that funds are saved instead of being spent on over designed items. These savings allow other projects that may have remained unfunded to be accomplished. By making each project just good enough, more of the MoDOT system can be improved.