

## Purpose and Need Statements Guidance

A well-supported purpose and need section justifies the allocation of funds by explaining why they are essential and worthwhile. Please review the guidance and illustrative examples below to assist you with crafting effective purpose and need statements.

- **The Purpose**

Your project purpose should be stated as the positive transportation outcomes and objectives that the project aims to achieve. It should be noted that the purpose is not a solution but the reason why an agency is proposing a certain project. For example, “The purpose of this project is to develop an active transportation plan for the City of Somewhere” is incorrect. It should state something like “The purpose of this project is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation by achieving the following goals: Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking and improve safety and mobility for non-motorized users.”

- **The Need**

Your need statement should describe the key problem or problems that are being addressed and the cause of those problems. Overall, the need provides factual and quantifiable evidence that a problem exists.

Describe how the project supports workforce development, economic development, and addresses the unique circumstances affecting community members’ mobility needs and enables the transportation network to effectively serve all community members by removing barriers and challenges the community has in receiving benefits.

The following is a list of items that may assist in the explanation of the need and purpose of a proposed project. These are by no means all-inclusive or applicable in every situation. They are intended as a guide.

1. System Linkage - Is the proposed project a "connecting link?" How does it fit in the transportation system?
2. Level of Service - What is the level(s) of service for existing and proposed facilities?
3. Transportation Demand - Including relationship to any statewide plan or adopted urban transportation plan together with an explanation of the project's expected demand for a non-highway mode.
4. Legislation - Is there a Federal, State, or local governmental mandate for the action?
5. Social Demands or Economic Development - New employment, schools, land use plans, recreation, etc. What projected economic development/land use changes indicate the need for the project?
6. Modal Interrelationships - How will the proposed facility interface with and serve to complement intermodal connections?
7. Safety - Is the proposed project necessary to correct an existing or potential safety hazard? Is the existing accident rate excessively high? Why? How will the proposed project improve it?
8. Infrastructure Deficiencies - Is the proposed project necessary to correct existing deficiencies (e.g., substandard geometrics or high maintenance costs)? How will the proposed project improve it?

**Example 1: System Linkage**

**Project Description**

The proposed project consists of approximately 4,600 feet of 10-foot wide shared-use path to be constructed of 2" thick asphalt concrete over 6" of aggregate base course. The project is divided into two path segments:

- The first section is planned for 12th Avenue, then turning north on 14th Avenue and continuing to existing sidewalks located ~ at the intersection of 14th Ave. and 20th Street.
- The second segment, Township, is planned to extend the existing Graveyard Wash Path beginning just east of 8th Avenue and continuing East 191.

**Purpose Statement**

The proposed path segments will help complete a 4.5-mile pathway system of the City of Anywhere, AZ while providing safe, non-motorized access to parks, schools, and homes along existing roadways and the canal, the path complements the existing transportation infrastructure of roadways. The project also meets goals specifically identified during project meetings with the public to "increase the quality of life by providing access to quality parks, recreation, trails and open space" as stated in the 2021 City's General Plan.

**Need Statement**

The public uses the existing sections of the pathway to access parks, and public facilities and to commute to and from work. There are currently no paths or sidewalks existing along the proposed alignments for the estimated 3,500 average daily pedestrians. Therefore, these segments will create an increase in use of the paths because of the interconnection they will provide.

**Example 2: Safety**

**Project Description**

Install pavement striping, pavement markings, and signage at East Street, the 6-mile corridor starting at AZ "X" and ending at U.S. "Y" in Anytown, AZ. The roadway consists of a 2-lane roadway with 8' wide paved shoulders, which has seen a tremendous increase in use by both recreational and competitive bicyclists and runners alike in the past few years.

**Purpose Statement**

The purpose of this project is to improve and enhance the safe usage of biking/running in the East Street corridor. In addition, it is Anytown's plan to continue to encourage & promote the use of these paved shoulders by the bicycling and jogging community.

**Need Statement**

Due to a 30% increase in bikers and runners in the 6-mile corridor from 2010 to 2020, there is an increase in conflicts with vehicles. There have been 5 serious injury crashes in the past 3 years. The Anytown Police Department has also identified locations where "near misses" have been observed on a regular basis.