

Variations in the Structure of the Plan for Before-and-After Studies

The draft plan provided [here](#) as a starting-point for project sponsors is structured for a New Starts or Core Capacity project developed under MAP-21 procedures. Table 1 summarizes its task structure. Tables 2 through 4 summarize the task structures appropriate for studies of other types of projects. In all four tables, the last four tasks – in gray – are the same: collection of the before data, collection of the after data, documentation of outcomes and assessment of predictions, and preparation of the final report. Consequently, the starting-point draft applies to all types of project for these four tasks, in both their structure and their contents.

Table 1. MAP-21 Procedures: Studies for New Starts and Core Capacity Projects

Task		Assessment of Previous?
1.	Archive predictions at entry into engineering	No
2.	Archive predictions at the FFGA	Yes
3.	Collect data before project opening	
4.	Collect data after project opening	
5.	Document actual outcomes and accuracy of predictions	
6.	Prepare final report	

Table 2. MAP-21 Procedures: Optional Studies for Small Starts Projects

Task		Assessment of Previous?
1.	Archive predictions at the EGA	No
2.	Collect data before project opening	
3.	Collect data after project opening	
4.	Document actual outcomes and accuracy of predictions	
5.	Prepare final report	

Table 3. SAFETEA-LU Procedures: Studies for New Starts Projects

Task		Assessment of Previous?
1.	Archive predictions at entry into preliminary engineering	No
2.	Archive predictions at entry into final design	Yes
3.	Archive predictions at the FFGA	Yes
4.	Collect data before project opening	
5.	Collect data after project opening	
6.	Document actual outcomes and accuracy of predictions	
7.	Prepare final report	

Table 4. SAFETEA-LU Procedures: Studies for Small Starts Projects

Task		Assessment of Previous?
1.	Archive predictions at entry into project development	No
2.	Archive predictions at the PCGA	Yes
3.	Collect data before project opening	
4.	Collect data after project opening	
5.	Document actual outcomes and accuracy of predictions	
6.	Prepare final report	

The plans vary, however, in the tasks that archive the predictions at decision milestones during the development of the project – simply because these milestones are different depending on the

nature of the project and the procedures followed in its development. Consequently, sponsors of projects that are not MAP-21 New Starts or Core Capacity in nature must adapt the starting-point draft in two ways:

- first, by choosing from Tables 2 through 4 the task structure appropriate to their individual projects; and
- second, by ensuring that the subtasks at the prediction milestones reflect the timing of each milestone.

The timing of each prediction milestone is important because it determines whether or not the task needs to include the evaluation of the apparent accuracy of predictions at a previous milestone with respect to the new predictions now available at the current milestone. For initial prediction milestones, no such evaluation is possible. For subsequent milestones, the evaluation is a necessary element of the task. In the starting-point draft, the first two tasks deal with the standard prediction milestones for MAP-21 New Starts and Core Capacity projects: entry into engineering and the FFGA. Task 2 – at the FFGA – includes subtask 2.3 that examines and documents the apparent accuracy of the predictions at the previous milestone – entry into engineering. Task 1 does not include an analogous subtask because it occurs at the first prediction milestone. Sponsors need to ensure that a subtask parallel to subtask 2.3 in the starting-point draft is absent from initial prediction milestones and is included in subsequent prediction milestones.