



PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee

(Pathways to Homes, Hamlets and Healthy Hearts)



Accomplishments, Recommendations, Next Steps Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment

Town Staff

Robert Leslie, AICP
Jason Gallo
Erik Deyoe, P.E.

Committee Members

Ann Benware
Stephen Downs
Mark Jordan
Scott Lewendon
Daniel Lewis
Mark Lewis

Katherine McCarthy
Henry Peyrebrune
Julie Sasso
John Schonberg
Caleb Wistar



August 25, 2010

Planning Process

- Comprehensive Plan (2005)
 - Maintain and enhance pedestrian connections
 - Provide adequate bicycle facilities
 - Maintain and improve walkability
- CACC Report on Open Space (2009)
 - PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee (March 2009)
(Pathways to Homes, Hamlets and Healthy Hearts)

Accomplishments

- Drafted Complete Streets Resolution
Town Board adoption – August of 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 30

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
RESOLUTION
COMPLETE STREETS

WHEREAS, a goal of the Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan is to improve mobility – the ability of people, regardless of age and status, to engage in desired activities throughout the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan recommends maintaining and enhancing bicycle and pedestrian connections within neighborhoods, and between neighborhoods and hamlet centers;

WHEREAS, the Town of Bethlehem has established a pathways committee (PaTHs 4 Bethlehem) to explore bicycle and pedestrian facility connections and address issues; and

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking are important forms of transportation and recreation in our community; and

WHEREAS, bicycling and walking contribute to health, fitness, neighborhood vitality, social interaction, and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the full integration of all modes in the design of streets and highways will increase the capacity and efficiency of the road network, reduce traffic congestion by improving mobility options, limit greenhouse gas emissions, and improve the general quality of life; and

WHEREAS, educating the public about safety, health and mobility are part of being a quality community; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are defined as facilities that are designed and operated to enable safe and efficient access for all users. Persons with disabilities, pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders are able to safely and efficiently move along and across a complete street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the intent of the Town of Bethlehem Complete Streets Policy is to recognize bicyclists and pedestrians as equally important as motorists in the planning and design of all new street construction and street reconstruction undertaken by the Town.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, it is also the intent of the Town of Bethlehem Complete Streets Policy to recognize that local Town streets with low vehicle volumes and slow travel speeds safely and efficiently accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. However, principal Town roads that are characterized as having high vehicle volumes and high travel speeds, and are important for bicycle and pedestrian travel to access and connect to destinations in and adjacent to the Town, shall be considered for Complete Streets treatment.



Accomplishments

- Supported Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Applications
 - ✓ CDTC 2010-2015 TIP application –
Feura Bush Road Bicycle and
Pedestrian Improvements
 - ✓ CDTC/CDTA 2010 Bike Rack Program

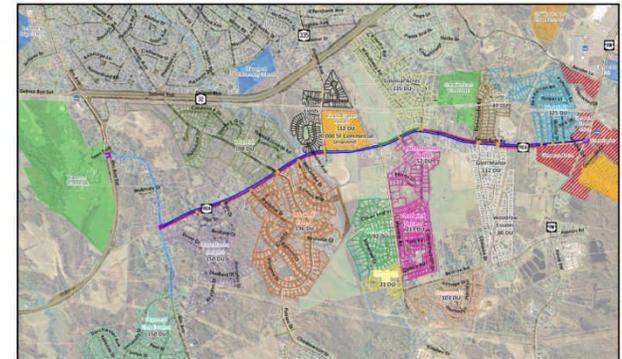


Feura Bush Road (NYS Route 910A) Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements

Elm Avenue to US Route 9W

Capital District Transportation Committee

Transportation Improvement Program
2010 – 2015 Application



Town of Bethlehem
Albany County
New York



Prepared By:
Department of Economic Development & Planning
Department of Public Works: Engineering Division

November 2009

Accomplishments

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Education Awareness
 - ✓ Reviewed National, State, Local bicycle and pedestrian characteristics and trends
 - ✓ Received bicycle safety training to conduct Bicycle Skills Exercises at Town's Bike Expo event
 - ✓ Received presentation by :
 - Clifton Park's Trails Subcommittee
 - Bethlehem High School student (SR2S project)



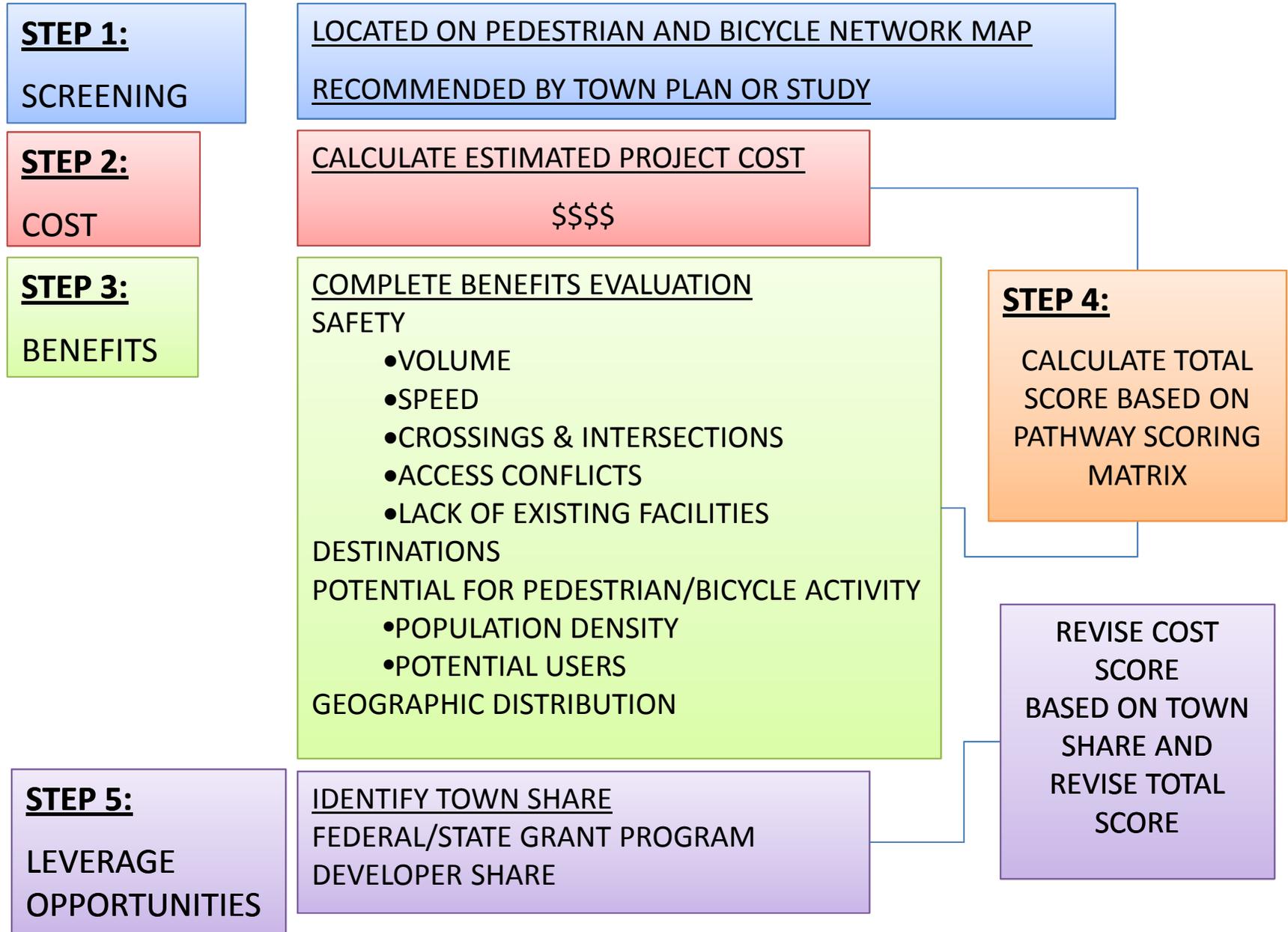
Town of Bethlehem Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment *Procedures /Users Guide*



Purpose

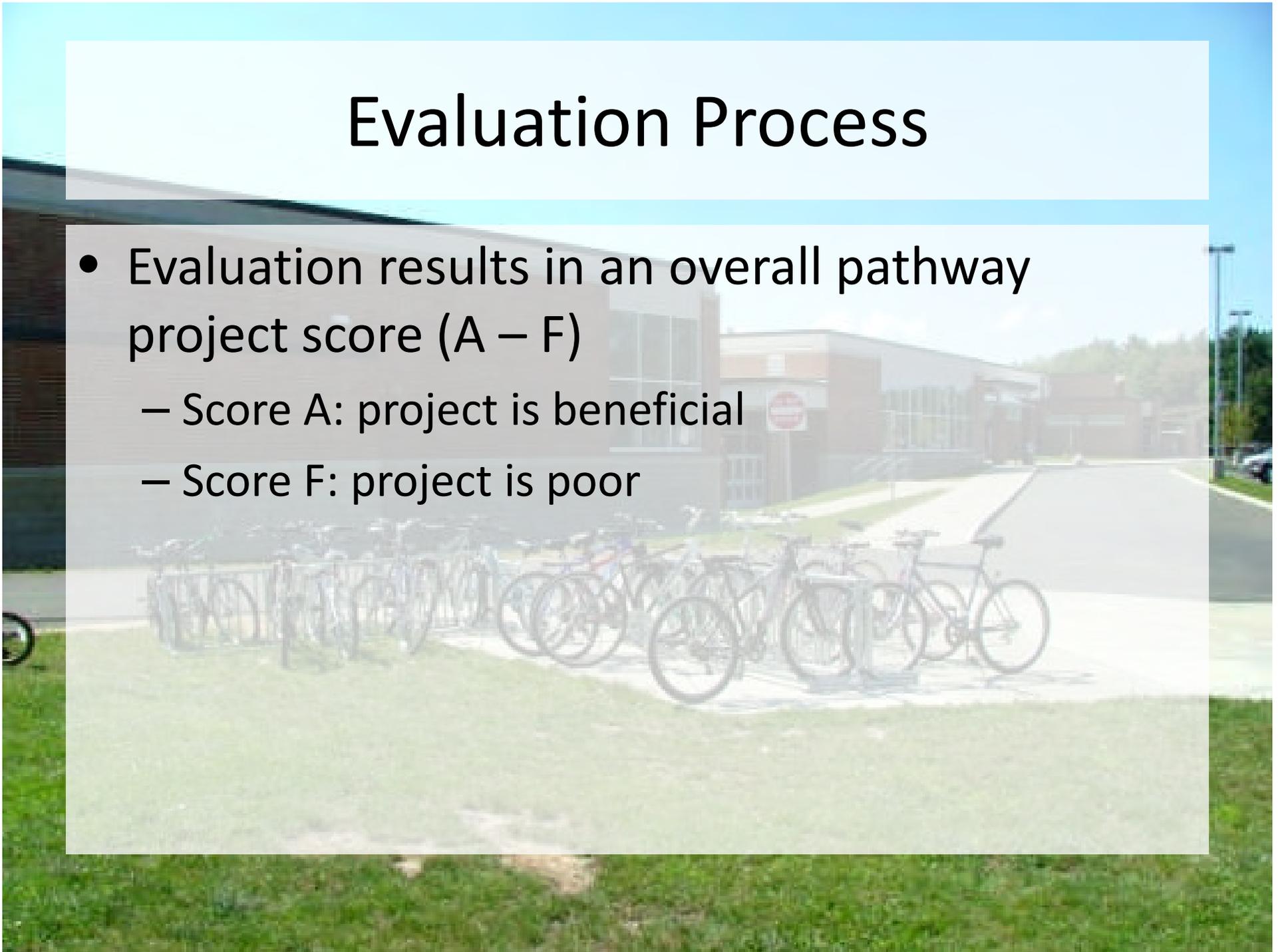
- Tool to assist the Town in prioritizing pathway investment projects
- Provides a formal evaluation that quantifies the merits of proposed pathway projects
- A first step...not ultimate decision maker
- Evaluation process to be used on proposed projects within public right-of-way
- Improve a roadway's safety and efficiency for pedestrian and bicycle users

Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment



Evaluation Process

- Evaluation results in an overall pathway project score (A – F)
 - Score A: project is beneficial
 - Score F: project is poor



Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment

STEP 1:

SCREENING

LOCATED ON PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE NETWORK MAP

RECOMMENDED BY TOWN PLAN OR STUDY

STEP 2:

COST

CALCULATE ESTIMATED PROJECT COST

\$\$\$\$

STEP 3:

BENEFITS

COMPLETE BENEFITS EVALUATION

SAFETY

- VOLUME
- SPEED
- CROSSINGS & INTERSECTIONS
- ACCESS CONFLICTS
- LACK OF EXISTING FACILITIES

DESTINATIONS

POTENTIAL FOR PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE ACTIVITY

- POPULATION DENSITY
- POTENTIAL USERS

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

STEP 4:

CALCULATE TOTAL
SCORE BASED ON
PATHWAY SCORING
MATRIX

STEP 5:

LEVERAGE
OPPORTUNITIES

IDENTIFY TOWN SHARE

FEDERAL/STATE GRANT PROGRAM

DEVELOPER SHARE

REVISE COST
SCORE
BASED ON TOWN
SHARE AND
REVISE TOTAL
SCORE

STEP 1: SCREENING

- Bicycle Pedestrian Priority Network Map
- Town Plan or Study

Delaware Avenue Hamlet Enhancement Study
Transportation Improvement Plan

US 9W Corridor Transportation Planning Assessment
Advancing the Town of Bethlehem's Comprehensive Plan and Economic Development Goals
December 2008

Prepared for:
The Town of Bethlehem & The Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC)

Draft Report
May 19, 2010

Prepared for the Town of Bethlehem
By the Capital District Transportation Development, Nelson\Akyard & Associates

SARATOGA ASSOCIATES

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

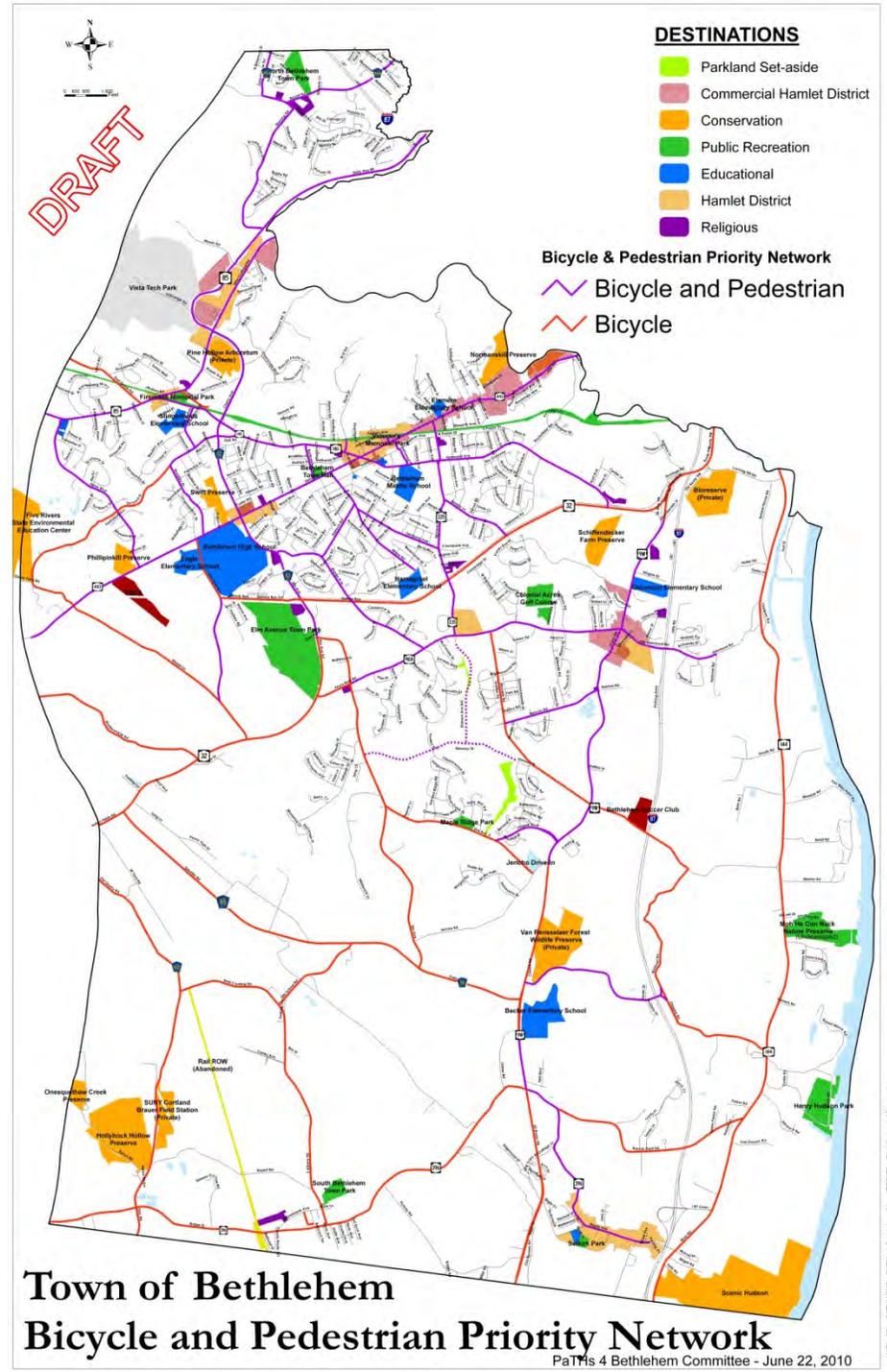
Bethlehem, New York
August 2005

Adopted by the Bethlehem Town Board
August 24, 2005

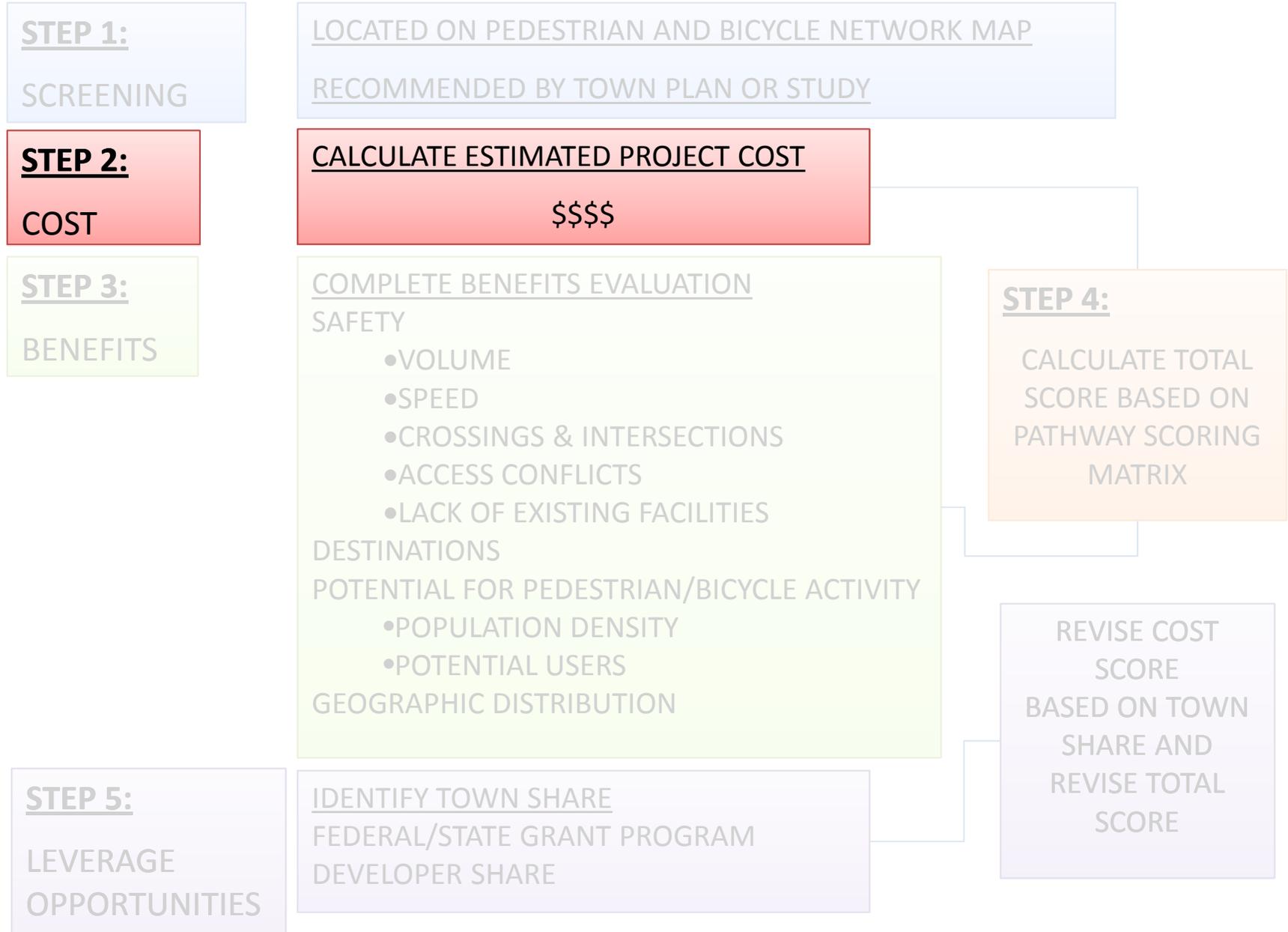
Slingerlands Pedestrian Network
A Pedestrian Mobility Plan for the Slingerlands Hamlet

Final Draft
December 2006

Submitted by:



Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment



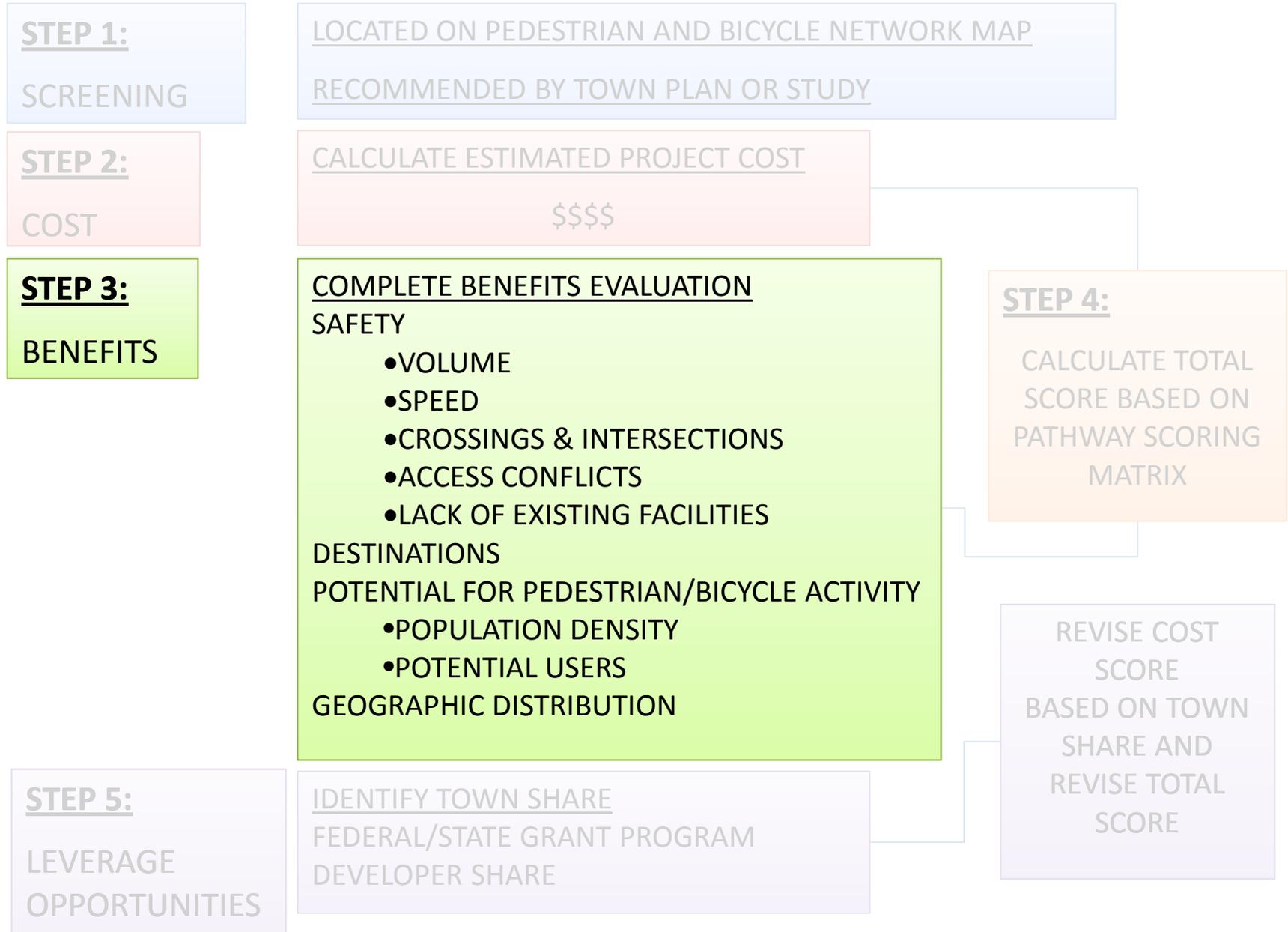
STEP 2:

CALCULATE ESTIMATED PROJECT COST

- Department of Public Works
 - NYSDOT/RS Means average unit costs
 - Town bidding experience



Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment



STEP 3: COMPLETE BENEFITS EVALUATION TABLE

- Safety
- Destinations
- Potential for Pedestrian/Bicycle Activity
- Geographic Distribution

Town of Bethlehem Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment						
BENEFITS EVALUATION TABLE						
PROJECT NAME:		DRAFT				
As of 6/21/2020	Weight	Criteria	Measure	Rating	Response	Points
		Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network Map or Town Plan/Study	Review map to determine if proposed project is located on the bicycle and pedestrian network and/or if project is recommended in Town Plan/Study. If either is yes, proceed to additional evaluation criteria listed below.	Yes No		
		Safety This element looks at several factors that contribute to roadway safety (potential for accidents between vehicles and bicyclists/pedestrians). Four roadway characteristics contribute to the potential number and severity of bicycle and pedestrian accidents. They include vehicular volume, speed, crossings and intersections, and access conflicts. The lack of existing pedestrian and bicycle accommodations contributes to safety, as well. If project boundaries incorporate multiple roadway speeds and functional classifications, utilize higher speed and functional classification to apply points.	Volume Roadway volume directly relates to the users exposure, and affects the quality of the roadway environment for pedestrian and bicyclists, especially when proper accommodations for these users are absent. Review Town of Bethlehem Roadway Functional Classification Map to determine the functional classification of the roadway proposed for a bicycle and pedestrian improvement project. (If evaluator perceives that roadway function does not reflect typical AADT, review AADT to apply points).	Arterial (principal and minor) – AADT >= 8000 (7 points) Urban Collector – AADT 2000 – 7999 (5 points) Rural Collector – AADT 500 – 1999 (3 points) Local Residential – AADT <= 1999 (0 point)		
			Speed Speed is directly related to severity of the accident. Review the posted speed of the roadway proposed for a bicycle and pedestrian improvement project. (If evaluator perceives that operating speed does not reflect posted speed, review operating speed to apply points).	Speed 50+mph (5 points) Speed 41 – 49 mph (3 points) Speed 31 – 40 mph (1 points) Speed 25 – 30 mph (0 point)	___ MPH	
			Crossings and Intersections The quantity and complexity of a roadway crossing directly relates to exposure for potential accidents. Review the number, and complexity of the roadway crossing(s) in the project area. (Complex crossings may include major principal arterials, such as Delmar Bypass, Route 9W, active at-grade railroad). Do not include intersections at the project boundaries. Commercial driveways that are accessed by traffic signals are treated as intersections.	9+ Intersections (9 points) 6 – 8 Intersections (6 points) 3 – 5 Intersections (3 points) 0 – 2 Intersections (0 points) Add 1 point for each complex intersection crossed. Max 9 points + complex intersections	___ INTERSECTIONS	
			Access Conflicts High volume, multiple driveways create a greater exposure and risk for accidents to the pedestrian and bicyclist. Review the access conflict locations within the project area. If the project is located in a commercial Zoning District (General Commercial, Heavy Industrial, Rural Light Industrial, MED) only account for commercial driveways. If the project is located in a residential Zoning District (Res. A, B, C, Core Residential, Rural, Residential Large Lot, Multifamily, PDD) only account for residential driveways. If the project is located in a mixed use Zoning District (Hamlet, Commercial Hamlet, Rural Hamlet, Rural Riverfront) or traverses several Districts review the predominant land use in the project area; to determine which driveway to consider. Commercial driveways that are accessed by traffic signals are treated as intersections.	Commercial Driveways Crossed 16+ Driveways (6 points) 11 – 15 Driveways (4 points) 6 – 10 Driveways (2 points) 1 – 5 Driveways (1 points) Residential Driveways Crossed 50+ Driveways (6 points) 40 – 49 Driveways (4 points) 30 – 39 Driveways (2 points) 20 – 29 Driveways (1 points) >=19 Driveways (0 points)	___ DRIVEWAYS	___ DRIVEWAYS
			Lack of Existing Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations Properly designed pedestrian and bicycle accommodations improve safety and reduce the risk of accidents. Review the project corridor to determine if pedestrian and/or bicycle accommodations exist. Evaluator should utilize AASHTO and NYSOC Guidelines/Standards to determine if accommodations are built to design standards.	No Pedestrian/Bicycle Accommodations (12 points) Some Pedestrian/Bicycle Accommodations not built to design standards (6 points) Some Pedestrian/Bicycle Accommodations built to design standards (3 points) Full Ped/Bike Accommodations built to design standards (0 points)		

39%

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39%

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	Safety This element looks at several factors that contribute to roadway safety (potential for accidents between vehicles and bicyclists/pedestrians). Four roadway characteristics contribute to the potential number and severity of bicycle and pedestrian accidents. They include:	Volume Roadway volume directly relates to the users exposure, and affects the quality of the roadway environment for pedestrian and bicyclists, especially when proper accommodations for these users are absent. Review Town of Bethlehem Roadway Functional Classification Map to determine the functional classification of the	Arterial (principal and minor) - AADT >= 8000 (7 points) Urban Collector - AADT 2000 - 7999 (5 points) Rural Collector - AADT 500 - 1999 (3 points)	

Destinations	WEIGHT: 31%	(max 12 points)		
Destinations include Linkages (connections between existing facilities, not extensions), Hamlet Zoning Districts, Commercial Hamlet Zoning Districts, Recreation Areas (i.e., nature preserves, parks, schools), Schools, Albany County Rail Trail, Community Facilities (e.g., Town Hall, Post Office, Library, Religious Institutions, etc.) and Transit stops. <i>The same type of destination can only be counted once.</i>	7+ Destinations (22 points) 6 Destinations (18 points) 5 Destinations (15 points) 4 Destinations (12 points) 3 Destinations (9 points) 2 Destinations (6 points) 1 Destinations (3 points)	(max 22 points)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linkage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CH District <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transit <input type="checkbox"/> Rail Trail	18 PTS
Population Density Distribution	>= 1750 housing units	(15.5 points)		

Distribution

Weight	Criteria	Measure	Rating	Response Points
15%	Lack of Existing Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations Properly designed pedestrian and bicycle accommodations improve safety and reduce the risk of accidents. Review the project corridor to determine if pedestrian and/or bicycle accommodations exist. <i>Evaluator should utilize AASHTO and NYSOC Guidelines/Standards to determine if accommodations are built to design standards.</i>	Districts review the predominate land use in the project area to determine which driveway to consider. <i>Commercial driveways that are accessed by traffic signals are treated as intersections.</i>	Residential Driveways Crossed: 50+ Driveways (6 points) 40-49 Driveways (4 points) 30-39 Driveways (2 points) 20-29 Driveways (1 point) >=19 Driveways (0 points) (max 6 points)	DRIVEWAYS
		No Pedestrian/Bicycle Accommodations (12 points) Some Pedestrian/Bicycle Accommodations not built to design standards (6 points) Some Pedestrian/Bicycle Accommodations built to design standards (3 points) Full Ped/Bike Accommodations built to design standards (0 points)		

STEP 3: COMPLETE BENEFITS EVALUATION TABLE

- Safety
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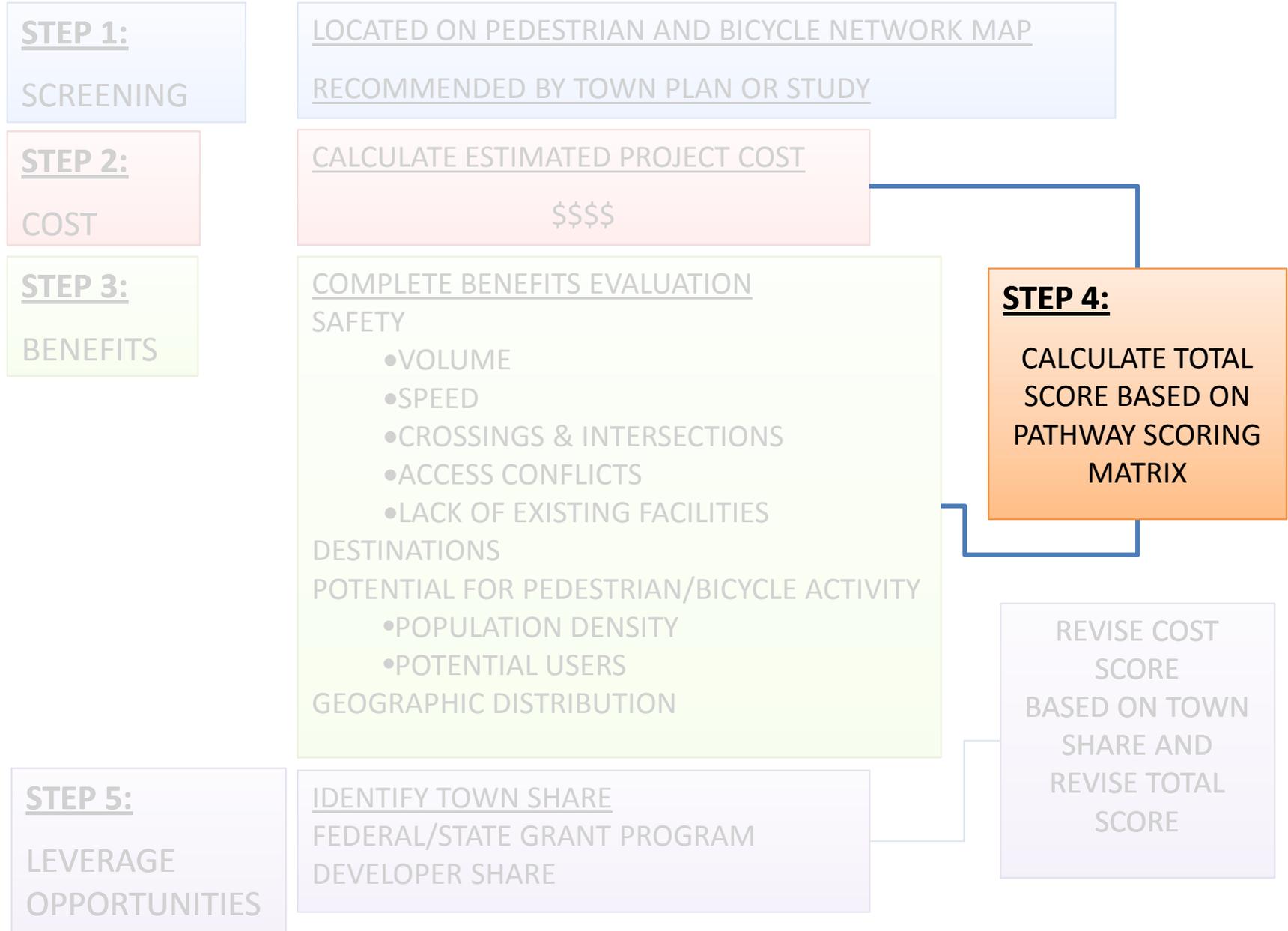
39%

STEP 3: COMPLETE BENEFITS EVALUATION TABLE

		<p>pedestrian and/or bicycle accommodations exist. Evaluator should utilize AASHTO and NYS DOT Guidelines/Standards to determine if accommodations are built to design standards.</p>	<p>Pedestrian/Bicycle Accommodations built to design standards (3 points) Full Ped/Bike Accommodations built to design standards (0 points)</p>		12 PTS
			WEIGHT: 31% (max 12 points)		
22%	<p>Destinations The presence of destinations with a 1/2 mile of the project corridor directly influences the generation of pedestrian and bicycle trips. Typically, areas of diverse/multiple land uses will generate more pedestrian and bicycle trips than areas with single (separated) land uses.</p>	<p>Destinations include Linkages (connections between existing facilities, not extensions), Hamlet Zoning Districts, Commercial Hamlet Zoning Districts, Recreation Areas (i.e., nature preserves, parks, schools), Schools, Albany County Rail Trail, Community Facilities (e.g., Town Hall, Post Office, Library, Religious Institutions, etc.) and Transit stops. <i>The same type of destination can only be counted once.</i></p>	<p>7+ Destinations (22 points) 6 Destinations (18 points) 5 Destinations (15 points) 4 Destinations (12 points) 3 Destinations (9 points) 2 Destinations (6 points) 1 Destinations (3 Points)</p> <p>(max 22 points)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Linkage <input type="checkbox"/> H District <input type="checkbox"/> CH District <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Community <input type="checkbox"/> Transit <input type="checkbox"/> Rail Trail</p>	18 PTS
31%	<p>Potential for Pedestrian and Bicycle Activity Potential pedestrian and bicycle activity can be estimated based upon two factors: population density and potential users.</p>	<p>Population Density The higher the density (housing units per 1/2 mile radius) the greater the likelihood a large number of pedestrians/bicyclists would be attracted to the pedestrian/bicycle facility. Review the housing density residing within 1/2 mile of the proposed project for pedestrian facility improvements.</p>	<p>>= 1750 housing units (15.5 points) 1400 - 1749 housing units (12 points) 1050 - 1399 housing units (9 points) 700 - 1049 housing units (6 points) 350 - 699 housing units (3 points) <= 349 housing units (0 points)</p> <p>(max 15.5 points)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Housing Units</p>	12 PTS
		<p>Potential Users Identify the potential user groups of the pedestrian and bicycle facility based on destinations that are located within or accessed by the project area. (User Groups Include: Students, Recreation - with park or facility, Shoppers, Transit, Community Facility) A school can also be used for recreation.</p>	<p>5 users (15.5 points) 4 users (12 points) 3 users (9 points) 2 users (6 points) 1 user (3 point)</p> <p>(max 15.5 points)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Students <input type="checkbox"/> Shoppers <input type="checkbox"/> Transit <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Community</p>	12 PTS
8%	<p>Geographic Distribution The diversity of land uses and density of hamlets throughout the Town may place some areas of the Town at a competitive disadvantage when evaluating the merits of proposed projects.</p>	<p>Review/identify the recent history of public investment (Federal, State, County, Town) of pedestrian and/or bicycle accommodations within 1-mile radius of the proposed project area within the past 5 years. The purpose is to achieve some balance in the geographic distribution of public pedestrian and bicycle investment in the Town.</p>	<p>Project completed: 5+ years ago (8 points) 4 years ago (6 points) 3 years ago (4 points) 2 years ago (2 points) 1 year ago (0 points) (from actual completion date)</p> <p>(max 8 points)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Years Ago</p>	8 PTS
SCORE LEGEND: =>80: A, 65-79: B, 50-64: C, 35-49: D, <35: F					TOTAL BENEFITS SCORE

75

Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment



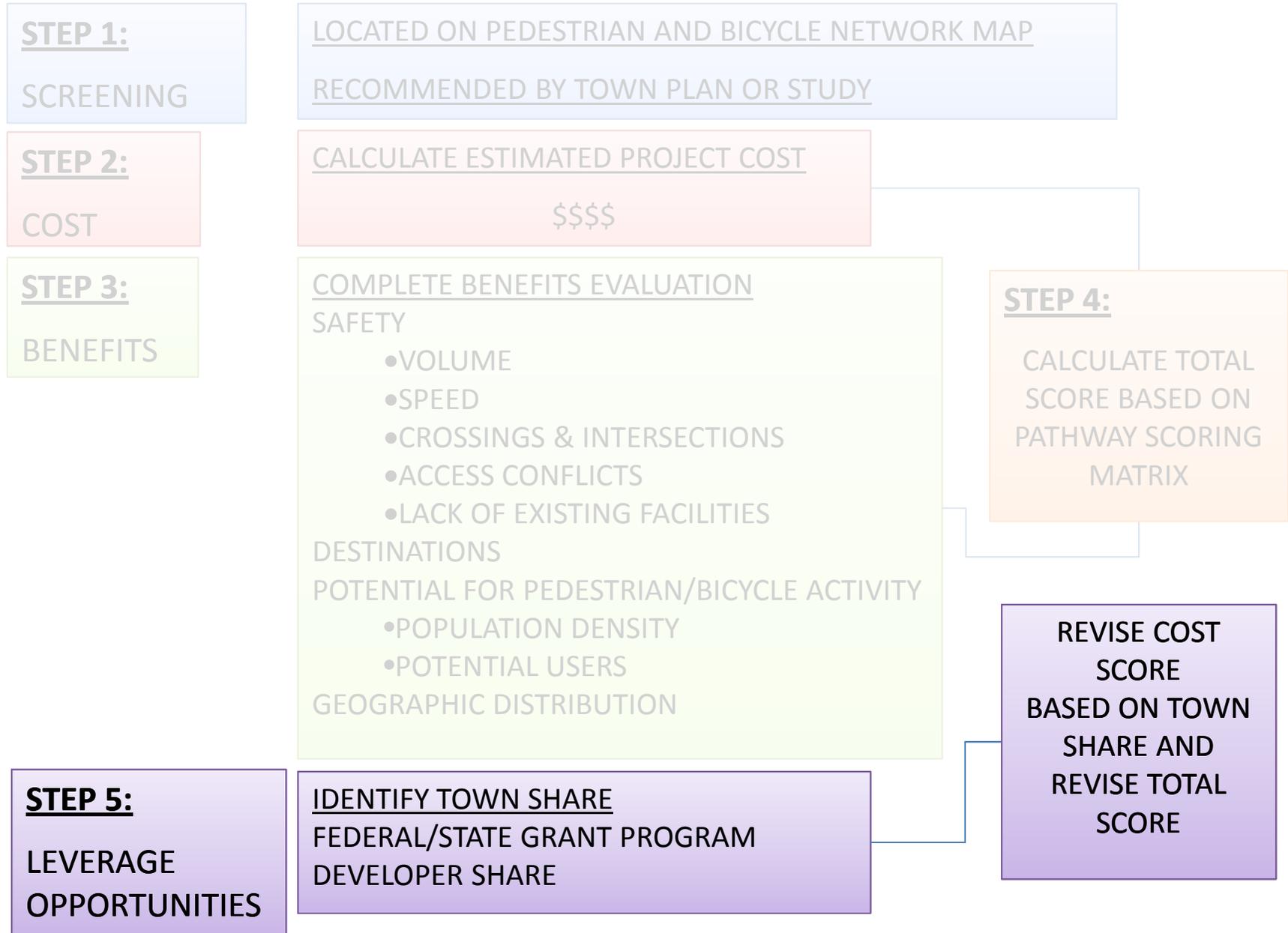
STEP 4:

CALCULATE TOTAL SCORE BASED ON PATHWAY SCORING MATRIX

Pathway Scoring Matrix

Town Share Cost		Benefit Score				
		=> 80	65 - 79	50 - 64	35 - 49	< 35
		A	B	C	D	F
Cost < \$100k	A	A	B+	C+	D	D
\$100k <= Cost < \$400k	B	A-	B-	C+	D	F
\$400k <= Cost < \$700k	C	B+		C	D	F
\$700k <= Cost < \$1M	D	B+		D	D	F
Cost >= \$1M	F	B	C+	D	F	F

Evaluation Process for New Pathway Investment



Recommendations

- Short Term (0 -6 months)
 - Schedule Public Meeting Fall 2010
 - Establish PaTHs 4 Bethlehem as a standing committee
- Long Term
 - Establish Bicycle and Pedestrian Program (3 E's)
 - Engineering
 - Education
 - Enforcement
- Ongoing
 - Revisit Bicycle/Pedestrian Network Annually

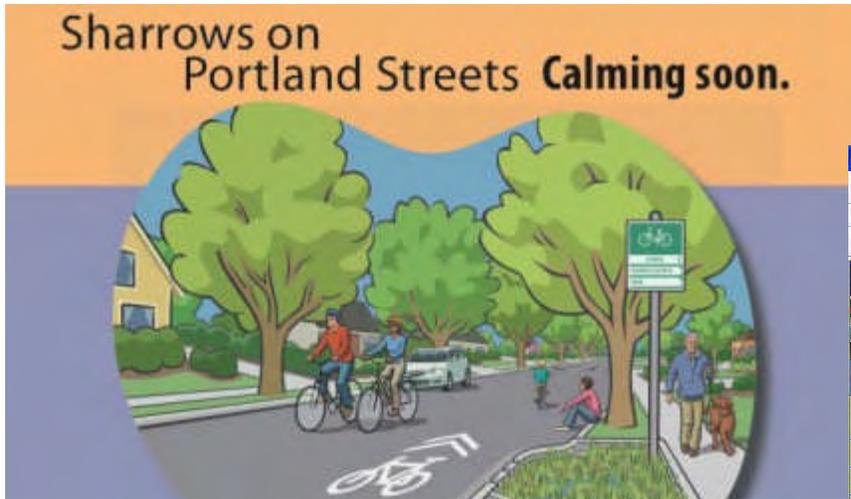
Long Term Recommendations

Engineering

- Develop a tiered (Tier I, II, III) bicycle and pedestrian project list
- Explore the establishment of a process for investment in the maintenance of existing pathways
- Research pathway funding practices/programs of other New York State and national municipalities

Long Term Recommendations

Education and Enforcement



Sharrows show the way

Portland is creating a citywide network of safe, traffic calmed streets where people on foot, on bike and at play are given priority. These "neighborhood greenways" will help improve the health, sustainability and livability of our city. You'll know you're on one of these streets when you see a "sharrow", a white symbol showing two arrows and a bike. Yes, you can still drive and park on these streets. Sharrows do not designate a particular part of the street for the exclusive use of people riding bikes. Instead they highlight the presence of bikes and remind everyone to share the road safely.

When on a street with sharrows:

- Motorists should be alert for people riding bikes
- Motorists should pass bicyclists slowly and carefully
- Bicyclists use the sharrow to guide where to ride
- Don't ride too close to parked cars
- Always follow the rules of the road no matter where you ride or drive

To see a map of Portland's neighborhood greenway routes and learn more, go to neighborhoodgreenway.com. Thank you!

A top-down diagram of a street layout. It shows a central lane with a white sharrow (a bicycle symbol with two arrows) pointing forward. A car is shown driving in the lane. On either side of the lane are green trees and a sidewalk. The diagram illustrates how a sharrow is used to guide bicyclists and alert motorists.

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the FHWA Safety Program website. The browser's address bar shows the URL "http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/tools/crf/resources/#pubs". The website header includes the FHWA logo and the text "FHWA Safety". The main content area is titled "Resources" and lists various safety programs and initiatives. A sidebar on the right contains "Program Contact" information for Karen Yunk and "What's New" updates. The bottom of the page shows a "Return to top" link and a "Publications" section.

Next Steps

- Fall 2010: Public meeting
- October/November 2010:
 - Revise Evaluation Process, and Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network (as necessary) based on public meeting comments.
 - Prepare PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee Resolution to establish the Committee as standing committee..
- November/December 2010: Town Board considers action –
 - Evaluation Process
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network
 - PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee Resolution
 - Directs Committee to implement Long Term Recommendations
- January 2011: Committee begins work on Long Term Recommendations

A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, a black lamppost stands on the right. A paved path leads through the park, lined with red and white benches and a black trash can. In the background, there is a stone monument topped with a bird sculpture, surrounded by lush green trees and a clear blue sky. The text "QUESTIONS/COMMENTS" is overlaid in the center of the image.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS