Most transportation projects are very expensive. But money is not the only cost to consider. We need to be careful about how much open land we consume, what our transportation habits are doing to the environment, and how our communities are being shaped by the transportation facilities we build.

To ensure these issues are properly considered and money is well spent, federal and state governments have numerous requirements that must be met and formal processes that must be followed depending on the type and size of a project.
THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The development process varies according to mode, funding source, location, and myriad other variables. For a major federally-funded project, the typical development process looks like this.

Candidate Project Identified

They should do something about all this traffic and that bad curve...

Initial Scoping

Should the highway be widened, straightened, or both?

RTAC Evaluation

Is this a worthwhile project?

Listed in LRTP

Yes, this project aligns with our regional goals. Add it to the to-do list!

Based on available funding, we should be able to start construction within the next 12 years.

Added to TIP/TYP

How can we develop this project in the most beneficial, economical, and environmentally responsible way?

Environmental Studies, Preliminary Design

What are the engineering details of the design? Do we need to purchase land?

Detailed Design & ROW Acquisition

Construction Begins

Start the bulldozers!

Ribbon Cutting

It’s finished!

LRTP - Long-Range Transportation Plan
ROW - Right-of-Way
RTAC - Rural Transportation Advisory Committee
TIP - Transportation Improvement Plan
TYP - Twelve-Year Plan