

Developing Corridor Planning Guidance at Caltrans

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Caltrans' Corridor Planning Guidebook Overview

- Now called Caltrans Corridor Planning Guidebook
- Outlines Caltrans expectations on the corridor planning process.
- Outcomes include recommended projects and strategies documented in Corridor Plans and advanced in the planning and programming process.
- The Guidebook is intended for Caltrans System Planning staff assigned to lead or participate in corridor planning efforts.
- Should also help inform broader Caltrans staff participation in corridor planning efforts led by partner agencies.

Corridor Planning Guidebook vs. Transportation Concept Report Guidelines

- This Guidebook is meant to replace the Transportation Concept Report (TCR) Guidelines.
- TCR Guidelines prescriptively outlined an expected product.
- Guidebook outlines an expected process leading to a product AND a partnership/performance-based set of multimodal project recommendations.
- The process is meant to be flexible and scalable based on the varying characteristics of the corridor and staff capabilities/resources.

Caltrans' Corridor Planning Guidebook: Development Schedule

- July 2018 - Interim Guidance to provide initial direction to Caltrans districts. Draft Guidebook released for public review.
- July 16 and 20, 2018 - Joint California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans Workshops
- August through October 2018 – Develop Caltrans Corridor Planning Guidebook
- Early-Mid-September – Joint CTC and Caltrans Workshop
- November 2018 – Internal and External Review of Draft Complete Corridor Planning Guidebook
- January 2019 – Finalize Complete Corridor Planning Guidebook

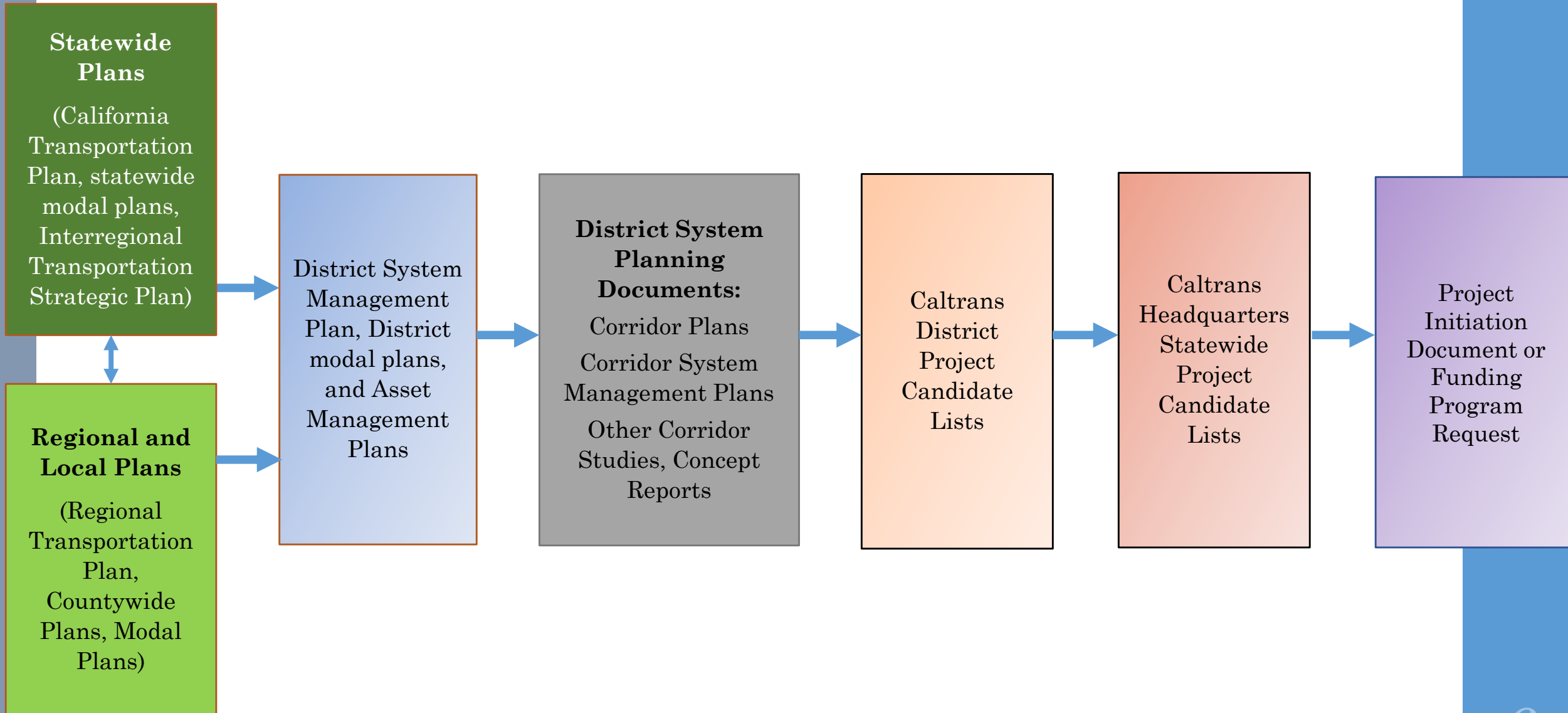
What is System Planning?

- Purpose of System Planning at Caltrans is to identify and recommend projects and strategies that achieve Caltrans goals and objectives in a collaborative manner

What is a Corridor?

- Corridor ≠ State Highway Only
- Geographic area defined by existing and forecasted travel patterns for people and goods (origin/destination, travel-shed)
- Multimodal, context specific, relative in scale to the region
- Limits defined by travel or modal decision points
- Provides access to jobs, education, services, housing

System Planning to Programming

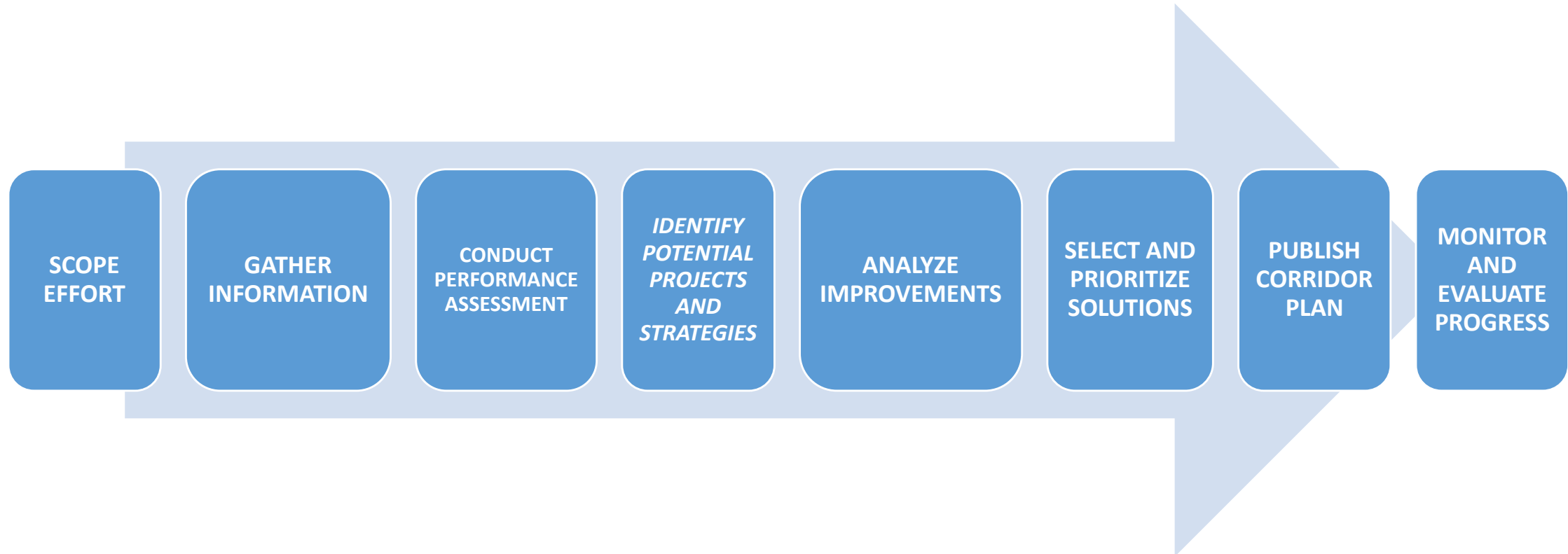


Issues to Address in Guidebook Development

- Caltrans System Planning documents should be flexible in approach. Guidance, not a manual. But how flexible?
- Collaboration with local and regional partners early and often; mutual goals, data sharing, expertise, etc. What are best opportunities in corridor planning?
- Incorporate local planning efforts and areas of interest (including freight, active transportation, transit, climate action ... what else?).
- Clearly identify objectives; utilize performance measures to inform recommendations (including mobility, accessibility, sustainability).
- Provide examples of best practices; methodologies, resources, tools, performance measures, etc.

Caltrans Corridor Planning Guidebook

Purpose - Clearly state Caltrans expectations on conducting a corridor planning process:



Result: **Corridor partnership / Performance-based project recommendations / Corridor Plan**

Three Corridor Plan Types

Update

- Existing corridor study
- Refresh -update
- model if necessary
- Corridor team review

Hybrid

- Combine existing studies
- TCR, CSMP, corridor study, etc.
- Results of travel demand model or other analysis tools
- Include supplemental documentation
- Corridor Team participation and review

New

- Identify corridor team
- Prepare new document

Key Corridor Plan Elements

- ✓ Demonstrate Caltrans and Regional/Local partnership
- ✓ Short, medium and long-term planning horizon (up to 25 years)
- ✓ Identifies specific corridor objectives
- ✓ Considers multimodal approaches to address system deficiencies
- ✓ Evaluates performance impacts of recommended projects and strategies
- ✓ Considers a range of performance metrics
- ✓ Recommends and prioritizes improvements that feed into Caltrans System Planning processes, transportation funding programs and the regional transportation planning process
- ✓ Consistent with the principles of the federal Congestion Management Process
- ✓ Informed by the principles of the California Transportation Plan (CTP) and Caltrans' Smart Mobility Framework



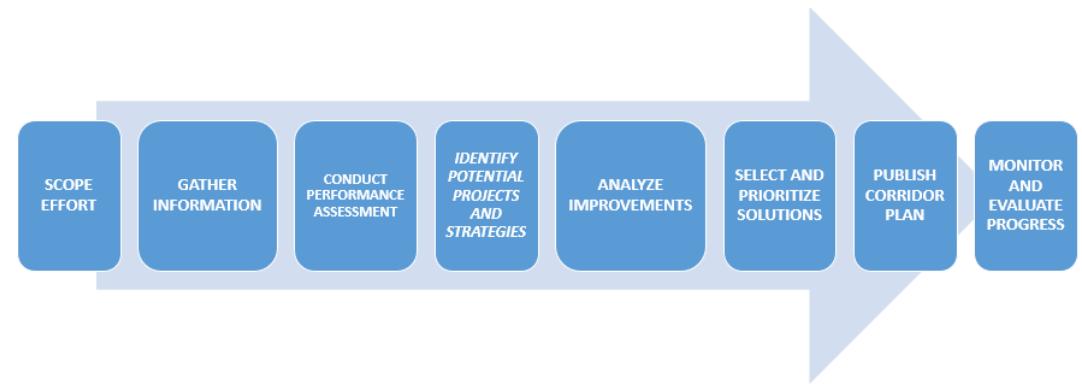
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SCOPE EFFORT

- The Corridor Plan's scope frames the overall corridor planning effort, defines the corridor partnership and helps determine appropriate analysis tools. This phase will result in a defined corridor team, agreement on the deficiencies and potential opportunities that will be considered, and a comprehensive set of goals, objectives and performance measures for the corridor.

Discussion points:

- Corridor team membership
- Identifying corridor objectives



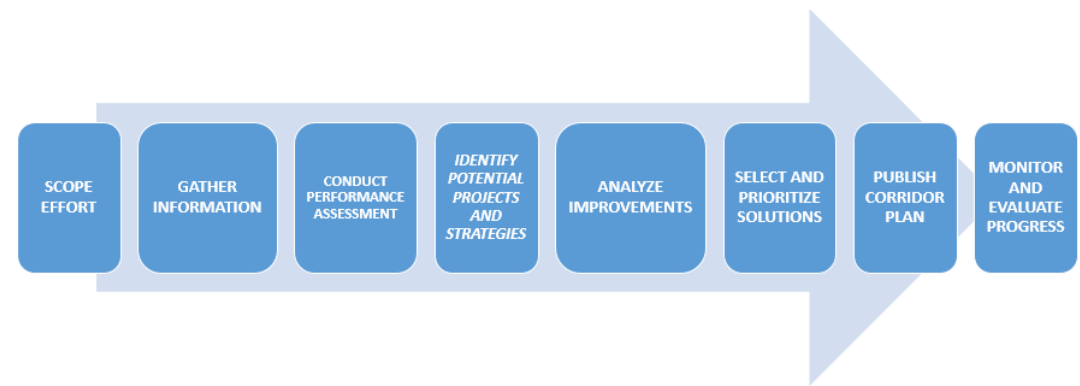
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GATHER INFORMATION

- Corridor information is collected and organized to inform an understanding of the corridor context, as well as current and future conditions. This information outlines the corridor description, basic system characteristics of the corridor and its unique elements within a larger regional, state and national context.

Discussion points:

- Data needs and availability



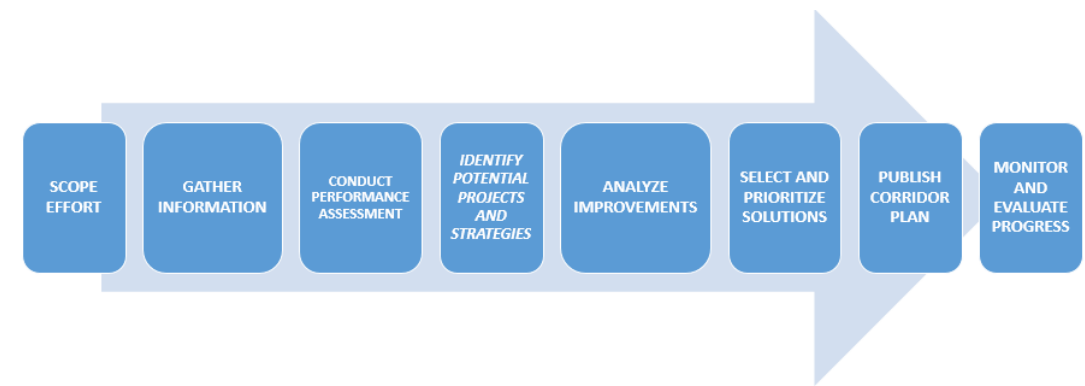
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CONDUCT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

- A performance assessment is conducted to clearly outline system performance and trends, and the results interpreted to highlight the relationship between identified problems and their causes.

Discussion Points:

Require a few key performance measures? (e.g: Person Throughput / VMT / Delay / Travel Time Reliability / Accessibility ?)



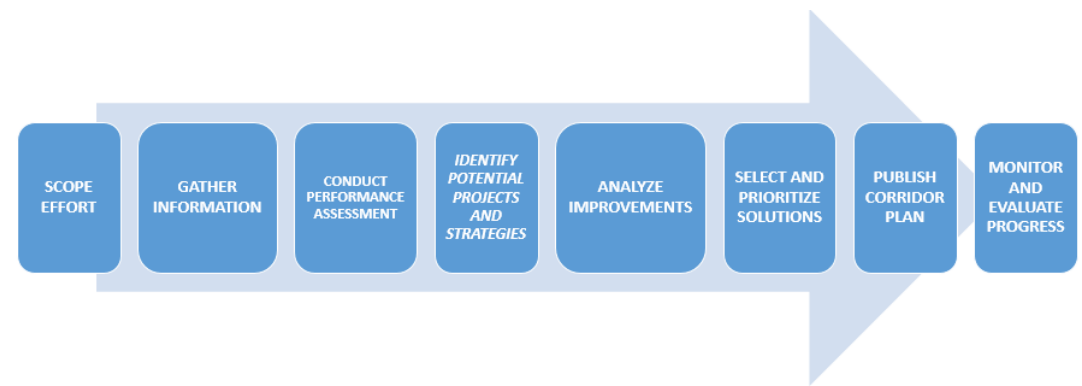
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IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND STRATEGIES

- Potential projects and strategies are identified for analysis and evaluation.

Discussion points:

- Defining improvement projects (minimum info)
- Considering integration needs



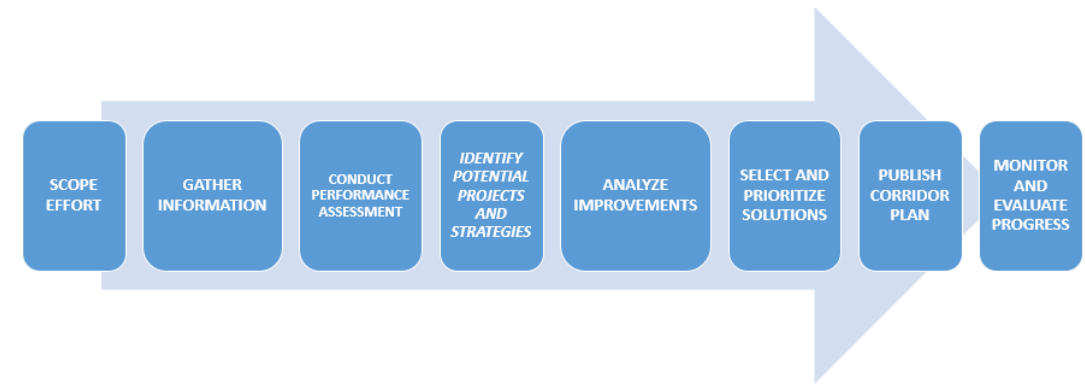
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ANALYZE IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

- Possible improvement projects and strategies are grouped into scenarios to be evaluated. A corridor analysis is then conducted to evaluate the impact of potential investments on corridor performance.

Discussion points:

- Qualitative vs. Quantitative
- Available tools and expertise



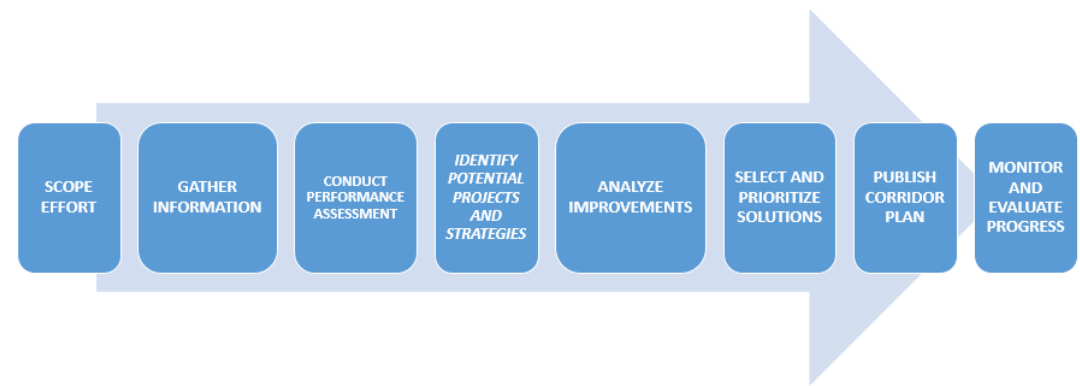
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SELECT AND PRIORITIZE SOLUTIONS

- Decisions are made on which corridor projects and strategies to recommend; those recommended are given an expected implementation timeframe. The outcome is a recommended set of solutions for the corridor that address the identified problems and opportunities.

Discussion points:

- Evaluation and selection factors



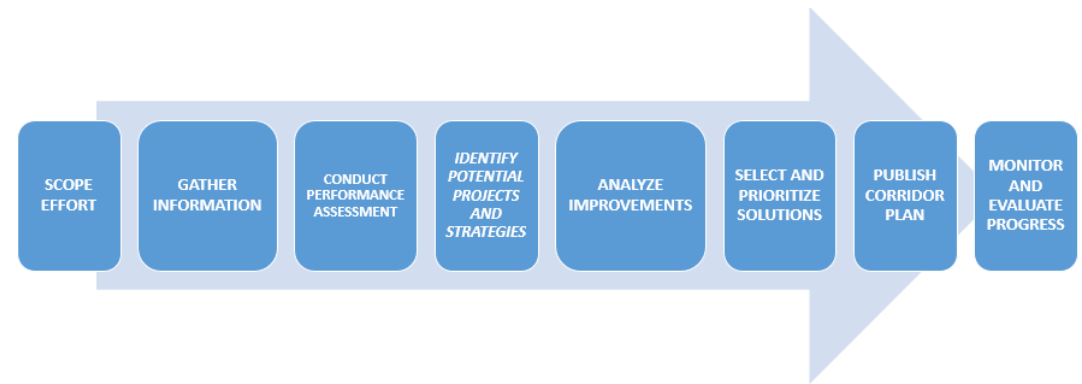
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PUBLISH CORRIDOR PLAN

- The corridor planning process is documented with the publication of the Corridor Plan. The adopted corridor plan documents how a corridor is performing, why it is performing that way, and recommends projects and strategies that achieve the corridor goals and objectives agreed upon by its partners.

Discussion points:

- Publication format
- Content outline
- Approval expectations



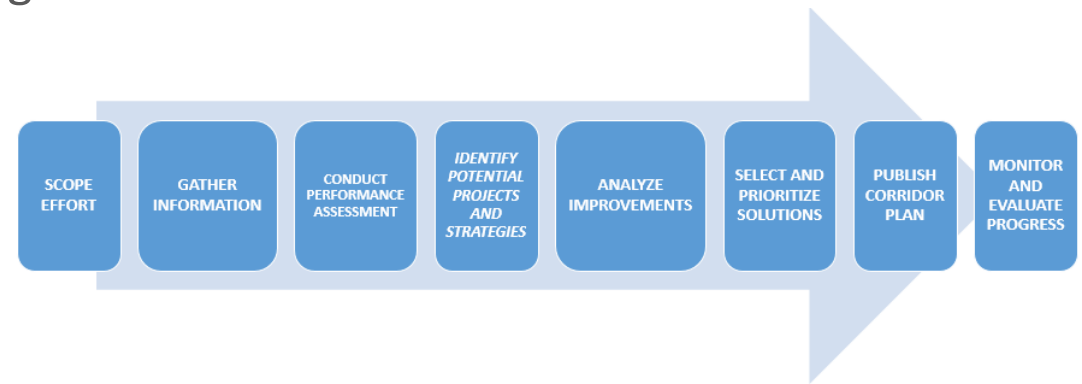
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MONITOR AND EVALUATE PROGRESS

- Ongoing reporting on corridor performance is conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of recommended projects and strategies on corridor performance over time. Corridor objectives may also be re-assessed and refined by the corridor team.

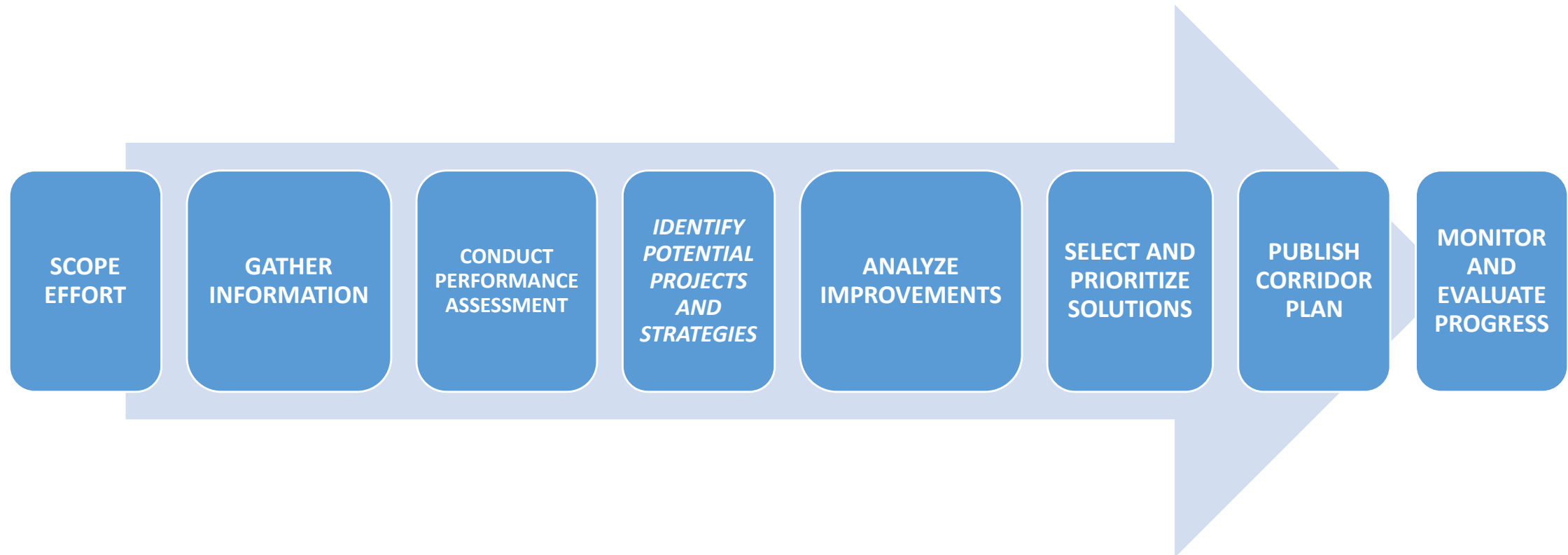
Discussion points:

- Before/after studies and evaluations
- Post-programming delivery
- Monitoring performance measures over long term



Caltrans Corridor Planning Guidebook

- **Definitions of key terms**
- **Relevant Policies / Regulations**



Developing Caltrans Corridor Planning Guidebook: Comments and Questions



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