



Planning Environmental Linkage (PEL)?

A **PEL Study** is the interim step of evaluation for a transportation need or project that has been identified in the regional transportation plan, yet has not entered a formal NEPA-level analysis. The purpose of a PEL Study is to **perform preliminary analysis** and **make decisions** not completed as a part of traditional regional level planning that will make NEPA level evaluation and decision-making more transparent to resource agencies and the public.

PEL represents an approach to transportation decision-making that **considers environmental, community, and economic goals** early in the planning stage and carries them through project development, design, and construction. This can lead to a seamless decision-making process that **minimizes duplication of effort, promotes efficient and cost-effective solutions and environmental stewardship, and reduces delays in project implementation.**

Who is Involved?

- Transportation planners
- NEPA practitioners
- Resource agency staff
- Public

