

12-Step Social and Community Effects Analysis Process

The study area should be the same as selected for the Economic and Environmental Justice analysis.

You will also need at least preliminary results from the Noise, Air Quality, Section 4(f), Hazardous Materials, Public Services and Utilities, Transportation and Visual Impact analyses. Cultural Resources may also be important if tribal lands or gathering and fishing sites are found within the study area.

The Social Analysis attempts to describe the aggregate effect of the project on the quality of life within the study area. Quality of life includes:

- The ability to move about easily and safely
- Choices about how to travel to important destinations
- Living in pleasant, cohesive community with robust economy

Scale the level of effort to reflect the size and complexity the project and the severity of the impacts. [NCHRP Report 456](#) describes eleven factors that may affect the social network in various ways. The report offers 4 analysis methods for each element, depending on the complexity of the problem and available data. Focus your efforts on the issues of greatest local interest based on the public scoping meetings, feed-back from Public Involvement and interviews with local officials. Be careful to avoid double counting effects when selecting elements for analysis.

The analysis for each element must be conducted separately and results combined to provide a qualitative measure of effectiveness because the units of measurement are not consistent or directly comparable across all elements. An evaluation of the positive and negative effects of the project for all alternatives, including the no-build, is required.

The NCHRP report suggests methods for communicating results of the analysis. FHWA recommends the use of Graphic or tabular displays that allow easy comparison between the alternatives to support the text.





