

▶ Assess the Sustainability of Your Transportation Plans, Projects or Programs

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) developed INVEST, to help make the nation's transportation systems more sustainable – economically, socially and environmentally. INVEST was created specifically for transportation agencies to evaluate the sustainability of the full lifecycle of their highway and transportation projects and plans.

▶ A Free, Web-based Self-Evaluation Tool

INVEST provides a collection of criteria and practices that allow transportation agencies to gauge their level of sustainability and systematically integrate sustainable practices into their actions. Using the INVEST tool is completely voluntary and free. The name INVEST came from Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool.

▶ Quantify, Balance, and Communicate Sustainability Benefits and Trade-offs

INVEST helps State Departments of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), local transportation agencies and others to identify, prioritize and communicate balanced choices between the different and sometimes competing goals of highway infrastructure programs.

With INVEST, users can balance the economic, social and environmental factors that define sustainability; identify and share sustainability best practices; and provide decision-makers with the information they need by systematically capturing criteria that affect a project's sustainability performance over time.

INVEST provides a numeric means for measuring sustainability, assessing improvement options, and tracking continuous progress. INVEST's approach unites internal groups and stakeholders around shared goals and needs and provides a collaborative platform to communicate performance.



▶ Sustainability in Transportation: Evaluate – Score – Improve

- **Evaluate** – The collaborative process can be a very important outcome.
- **Score** – The score provides recognition for implementing sustainability best practices and helps identify gaps.
- **Improve** – The process can lead to improvements in practice and identification of cost effective measures.

“We used INVEST to measure the project’s sustainability and evaluate the planning, design and construction of the Innerbelt project from the beginning. INVEST told us that we went far beyond our projected sustainability goals.”

– Jocelynn Clemings, Public Information Officer, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)

▶ Created with Extensive Feedback from Transportation Experts and Projects Nationwide

FHWA partnered with 19 organizations across the country to pilot test INVEST. Based on feedback from numerous experts in the transportation community on the pilot test version of the tool, FHWA included significant enhancements in INVEST 1.0 when it launched in October 2012. INVEST will continue to evolve as FHWA receives feedback on the tool and sustainability standards of practice change.

▶ Where INVEST Can Help

INVEST includes three modules: system planning, project development, and operations and maintenance. Examples of how these can be used include:

SYSTEM PLANNING:

- Inform the update of an MPO's long range transportation plan.
- Improve the statewide transportation planning process.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT:

- Assess and improve the sustainability of specific transportation projects under development, or learn from projects already completed.
- Conduct a programmatic evaluation of agency construction practices and opportunities for sustainability improvements.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:

- Review operations and maintenance programs at the district or statewide level.

▶ Why Use INVEST?

- Evaluate your level of sustainability and pinpoint ways to improve.
- Demonstrate to the public and stakeholders a commitment to sustainability and self-improvement.
- Save your agency money by identifying practices that both reduce costs and improve outcomes.
- Use INVEST as an objective and comprehensive framework for communicating internally and with stakeholders about sustainability.
- Use as a benchmark for continuous improvement.



“INVEST showed us where we were already sustainable and it also provided inexpensive ways to promote sustainability, to help us save money and the environment.”

– Rukhsana Lindsey, P.E., Deputy Maintenance Engineer,
Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)

To try the INVEST tool for yourself, visit
www.sustainablehighways.org

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