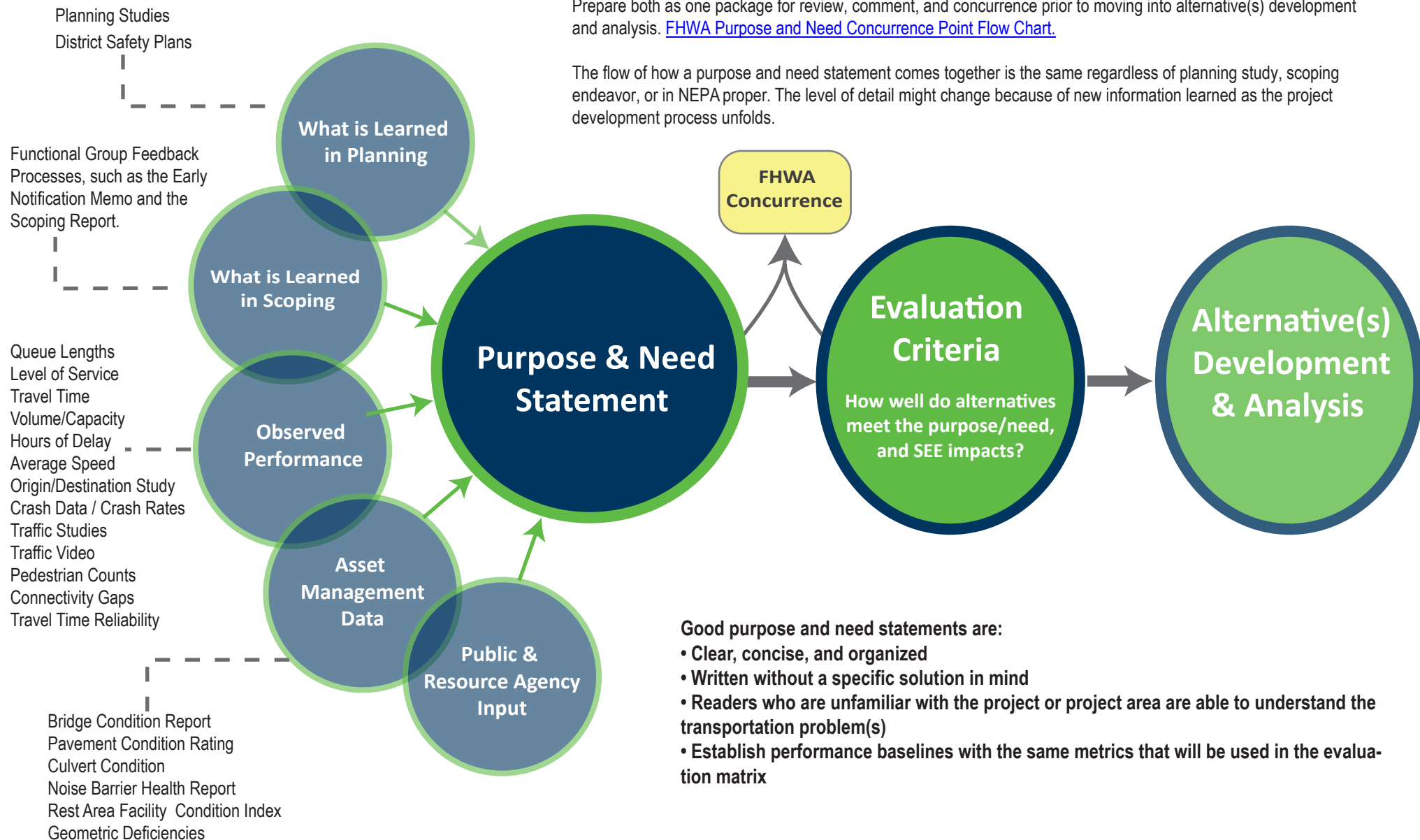


Crafting a Purpose and Need Statement

For an EA or EIS the FHWA Division Office has concurrence points on the purpose and need and evaluation criteria. Prepare both as one package for review, comment, and concurrence prior to moving into alternative(s) development and analysis. [FHWA Purpose and Need Concurrence Point Flow Chart](#).

The flow of how a purpose and need statement comes together is the same regardless of planning study, scoping endeavor, or in NEPA proper. The level of detail might change because of new information learned as the project development process unfolds.



Good purpose and need statements are:

- Clear, concise, and organized
- Written without a specific solution in mind
- Readers who are unfamiliar with the project or project area are able to understand the transportation problem(s)
- Establish performance baselines with the same metrics that will be used in the evaluation matrix