

STARS-Project

STARS is an integrated planning framework for transportation plans, projects, and employer programs. Based on sustainability principles, STARS evaluates the full life cycle of transportation projects. Since the operations of a transportation project (e.g., the vehicles moving along it) often have more lasting consequences on a community than the construction phase, the decision of what to build in the first place is just as important (if not more) than how it is constructed. This “upstream” approach to transportation projects distinguishes STARS from other rating systems that are centered on the design and construction phases.



Additionally, STARS is performance-based, encouraging users to set and achieve clearly stated goals and objectives. Rather than comply with a list of standards, STARS asks users to evaluate strategies to help them achieve their goals – goals that have been set through an integrated process. Furthermore, STARS promotes improved “access” rather than improved transportation mobility. That is, STARS encourages a mix of transportation and land use strategies to meet the needs of residents and businesses for access to goods, services, and information. This shift in focus enables users to conceive of solutions to transportation problems that might otherwise be overlooked with a traditional transportation approach.

STARS-Project is a planning and evaluation tool for transportation projects. Subsequent versions of STARS will include credit weighting, scoring, and certification for all projects that enter the STARS program. At that point, STARS will serve as both a planning tool and as a rating system for transportation projects, plans, and employer commute trip reduction incentive programs, individually or together.

State DOTs, regional agencies, cities, and counties are wrestling with how to improve transportation within seriously constrained budgets, and to help achieve energy and climate goals. They need practical tools to compare their transportation projects, programs, and plans using a national best practices standard, which STARS is designed to provide.

STARS Project Credit Summary

Integrated Process	
IP1	Establish Project Framework and Goals <i>(Required)</i>
IP2	Multi-Discipline Project Team
IP3	Public Stakeholder Engagement
Access	
A1	Establish Access Goals and Objectives <i>(Required)</i>
A2	Evaluate Expanded Transportation Demand Management Strategies
A3	Evaluate Expanded Transportation System Management Strategies
A4	Evaluate Expanded Land Use Strategies
A5	Evaluate Expanded Transportation Supply and Service
A6	Select Preferred Strategies from A2 – A5
A7	Implement Selected Strategies
A8	Assess Performance Over Time
Climate and Energy	
CE1	Establish Climate and Energy Goals and Objectives <i>(Required)</i>
CE2	Evaluate Vehicle Mile Reduction Strategies
CE3	Evaluate Improving Vehicle Flow
CE4	Evaluate Construction Materials and Methods
CE5	Evaluate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
CE6	Cleaner Vehicles and Fuels Goal and Evaluation
CE7	Maintenance and Preservation Goal and Evaluation
CE8	Carbon Offset Evaluation
CE9	Implement Climate and Energy Strategies
CE10	Climate and Energy Performance
Ecological Function	
EF1	Identify & Quantify Ecological Resources <i>(Required)</i>
EF2	Protect and Restore Ecological Functions
EF3	Stormwater Quantity and Quality Management
EF4	Integrated Stormwater Management
Cost Effectiveness Analysis	
CEA1	Cost Estimation and Cost-Effective Calculations
CEA2	Selecting Cost-Effective Projects and Programs
Innovation	
IV1	Additional Actions Resulting in More Access and/or GHG Reductions
IV2	Actions Improving STARS Effectiveness

Credits in orange have been developed.