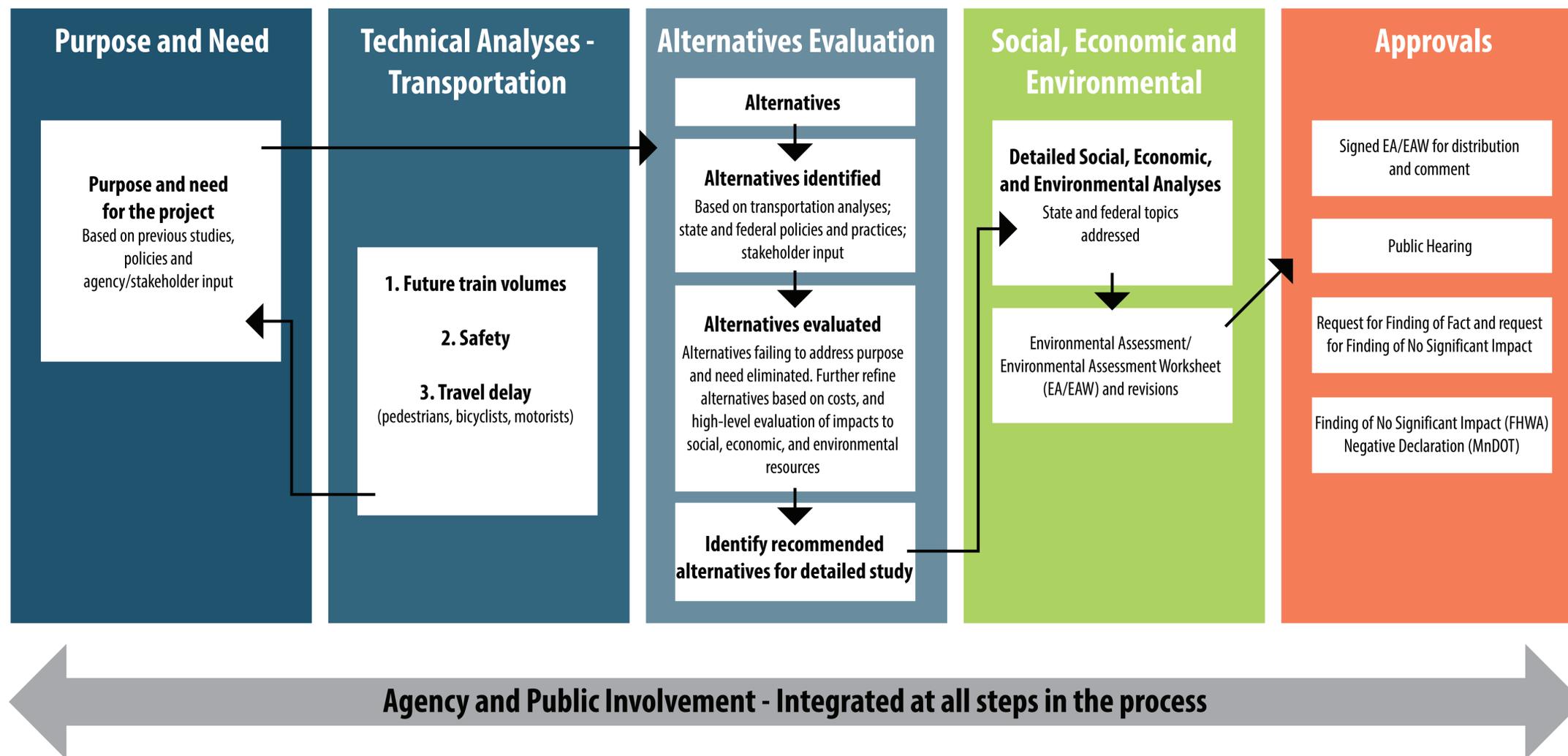


Environmental review process



Purpose and need

The draft purpose and need for the project is as follows:

Purpose

- Improve local and regional rail system operational efficiency and connectivity within Willmar
- Reduce the number of train trips that cause traffic delays at at-grade rail crossings in Willmar
- Facilitate future rail-served development in the Willmar Industrial Park to promote economic development as outlined in the City of Willmar's long-term plans
- Improve quality of life within the City of Willmar

Need

- Railroad efficiencies in the Willmar Yard
- Motorized and non-motorized user delay at existing at-grade railroad and roadway crossings in the Willmar Yard due to train switching operations
- Motorized vehicle safety at railroad and roadway crossings
- Economic development and quality of life within the City of Willmar