
3.0 Evaluation Objectives

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The goals and objectives for conducting the evaluation of opening the HOV lanes to all traffic were designed to meet the objectives of the legislature’s bill. These goals included:

- Assessing whether the benefits of opening the HOV lanes on I-394 and I-35W to all traffic outweigh their drawbacks and associated costs; and
- Identifying how the Twin Cities HOV system compares with other HOV systems across the country.

Based upon these evaluation goals, several evaluation objectives were identified. These evaluation objectives provided the framework for conducting the evaluation. Table 3.1 presents the evaluation objectives as they relate to each of the evaluation goals.

Table 3.1 Evaluation Measures

Evaluation Goal	Measures of Effectiveness
Assess whether the benefits of opening the HOV lanes on I-394 and I-35W to all traffic outweigh their drawbacks and associated costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate traffic flow impacts (positive and negative) of the HOV facilities for both HOV corridors • Estimate impacts (positive and negative) of HOV facilities on transit and carpooling for both HOV corridors • Estimate safety impacts (positive and negative) of the HOV facilities for both HOV corridors • Quantify HOV violation rates and enforcement issues associated with the HOV facilities for both corridors • Estimate the air quality and energy consumption impacts (positive and negative) of the HOV facilities for both HOV corridors • Identify the HOV facility impacts (positive and negative) on the entire region • Identify public attitudes towards the HOV facilities
Identify how the Twin Cities HOV system compares with other HOV systems across the country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare Mn/DOT’s HOV system to other HOV systems across the country • Identify national trends regarding the HOV strategies and use • Identify benefits, impacts, and costs of HOV use documented in studies done across the country

The following sections describe in greater detail the tasks required to fulfill the evaluation’s goals and objectives.