**Section 3040.60 Project Evaluation Priorities**

The following factors are used by the Department in evaluating and recommending project applications for funding assistance consideration (see Appendix A):

a) projects providing land acquisition or long-term/permanent easements;

b) projects providing the development of a bicycle trail system, especially well-developed long distance trails or connector trails linking several exisiting trails;

c) projects located in areas of high demand or readily accessible to major population centers;

d) projects proposing initial development of bicycling facilities at the project site;

e) projects where long-term operations and maintenance capability is clearly demonstrated by local Sponsor;

f) projects specifically identified or supported by State, Regional or local bicycle trail planning initiatives/documents developed through broad-based public input; and

g) project site physical characteristics/attributes including scenic quality; associated natural and cultural resources; environmental suitability; safety factors; adjacent land use compatibility and available trail user amenities such as adequate parking, restrooms, drinking water, etc.