

3.20 SHORT-TERM USE VERSUS LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Short-term use of the environment versus preserving its long-term productivity relates to converting the natural productivity of the land, viewed as a renewable use, to a developed use that has a relatively short economic life. For this project, lands acquired for the Midvalley Highway's right-of-way would be converted from their existing land use to a transportation related use. This conversion would occur during the construction of the facility. The current productivity of the land under the Midvalley Highway footprint for agricultural (i.e. rangeland, irrigated cropland), residential, wetland areas, industrial or commercial use would be unavailable for as long as the Midvalley Highway is in operation. However, the Midvalley Highway is anticipated to be a long-term use and benefit to Tooele County and the long term benefits of the facility are anticipated to outweigh the productivity loss of the parcels that will potentially be acquired.

Long-term impacts would be beneficial to the Tooele Valley as documented in Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need of this document. Traffic congestion would be reduced on SR-36 and at the Lake Point interchange. Safety would be improved as a result of reduced traffic congestion. More efficient energy use and a decrease in vehicle emissions would result.

The Midvalley Highway is based on state, county and local land use and transportation plans that have identified a need for a new transportation facility. These planning activities have considered the present and future need for transportation service within the context of present and future land use development. Thus, the short-term impacts and use of resources is consistent with the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.



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