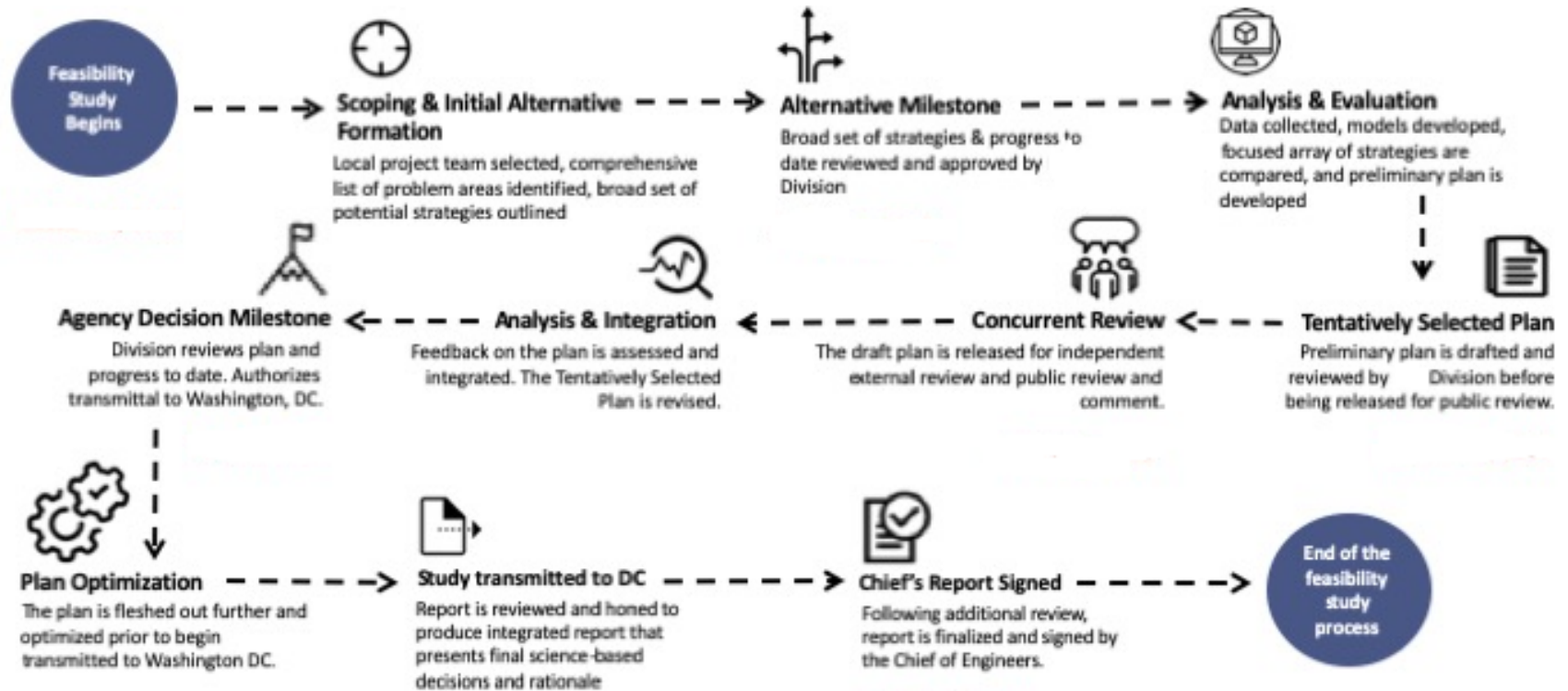


FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS



AUTHORIZATION, APPROPRIATIONS, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

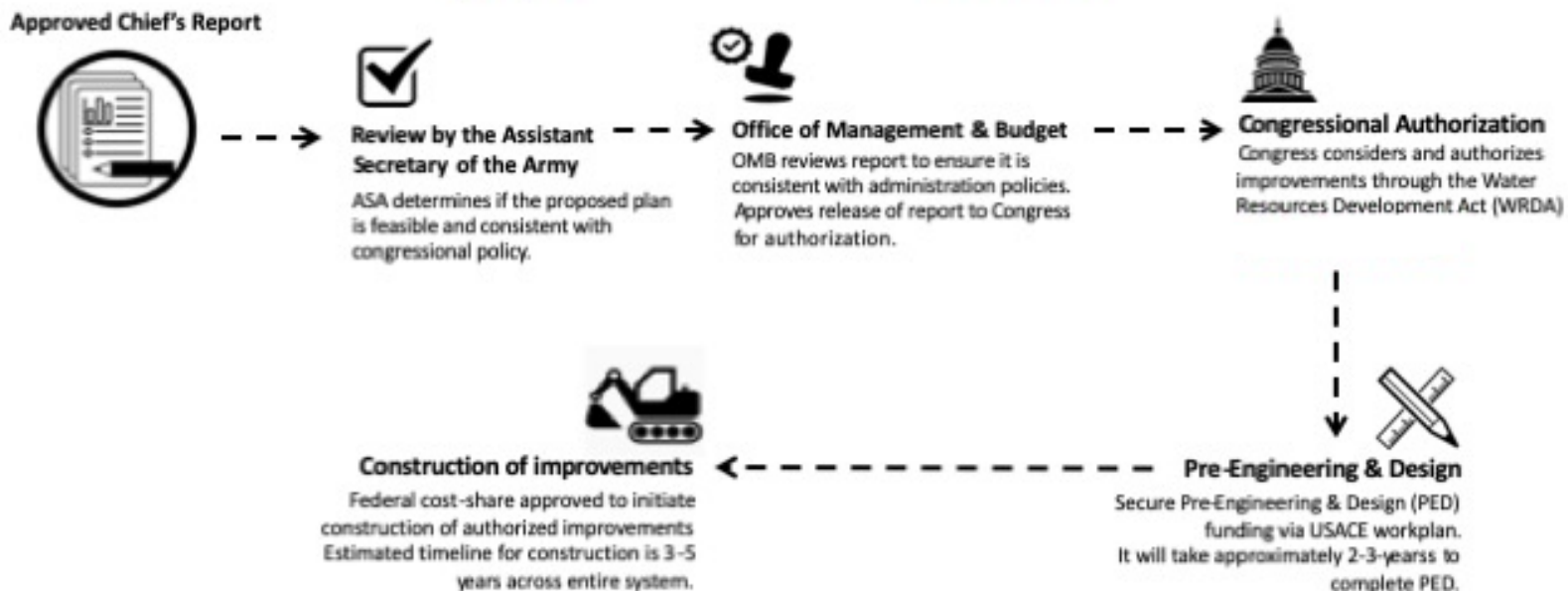


Table 1. USACE Project Phases, Average Phase Duration If Fully Funded, and Federal Cost Share

	Feasibility Study	Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED)	Construction	Operation & Maintenance
Avg. Duration, Once Congressionally Authorized and Funded ^a	3 years ^b	Approx. 2 years	Varies	Authorized project duration
Federal Share of Costs	50% ^c (except 100% for inland waterways)	Varies by project purpose ^d	Varies, see Table 2	Varies, see Table 2

Source: CRS.

- a. Generally, projects take longer than the duration of the individual steps. Some steps require congressional authorization before they can begin, and action on each step is subject to availability of appropriations.
- b. The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014; P.L. 113-121) requires most feasibility studies to be completed within three years of initiation and to have a maximum federal cost of \$3 million. It also deauthorizes any feasibility study not completed seven years after initiation (see "Deauthorization of Studies").
- c. Prior to WRRDA 2014, the preliminary analysis was included within a reconnaissance study that was produced at 100% federal expense.
- d. Generally, PED cost shares are the same as construction cost shares shown in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Cost Shares for USACE Construction and Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

Project Purpose	Maximum Federal Share of Construction	Maximum Federal Share of O&M
Navigation		
Harbors and Coastal Channels		
improvements less than 20 ft. deep	80% ^a	100% ^b
improvements between 20 ft. and 50 ft. deep	65% ^a	100% ^b
improvements greater than 50 ft. deep	40% ^a	50% ^b
Inland Waterways	100% ^c	100%
Flood and Storm Damage Reduction		
Inland Flood Control	65%	0%
Coastal Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction (except Periodic Beach Renourishment) ^d	65% (50%)	0% (0%)
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration	65%	0%
Multipurpose Project Components		
Hydroelectric Power	0% ^e	0%
Municipal and Industrial Water Supply Storage	0%	0%
Agricultural Water Supply Storage (typically irrigation water storage)	65% ^f	0%
Recreation at USACE Facilities	50%	0%
Aquatic Plant Control	Not Applicable	50%

Source: CRS, using 33 U.S.C. §§2211-2215, unless otherwise specified below.

- a. Percentages reflect that nonfederal sponsors pay the following: 10%, 25%, or 50% during construction, and an additional 10% over a period not to exceed 30 years.
- b. For maintaining improvements up to 50 feet in depth, the maximum federal share is 100%; for maintaining the improvements that are at a depth over 50 feet, the costs are split 50% federal and 50% nonfederal. The majority of federal support for harbor maintenance is derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, which receives the collections from a harbor maintenance tax principally applied to commercial cargo imports at federally maintained ports.
- c. Appropriations from the Inland Waterway Trust Fund, which is funded by a fuel tax on vessels engaged in commercial transport on designated waterways, are used for 50% of these costs. For more on this trust fund, see CRS In Focus IF10020, *Inland Waterways Trust Fund*, by Charles V. Stern and Nicole T. Carter.
- d. Congressionally authorized beach nourishment components of coastal storm damage reduction projects consist of periodic placement of sand on beaches and dunes; most nourishment activities remain in the construction phase for 50 years.
- e. Capital costs initially are federally funded and are to be 100% repaid by fees collected from power customers.
- f. Unlike most other USACE project components, nonfederal agricultural water supply construction costs are initially federally funded if the USACE project is in the 17 western states where reclamation law applies. Repayment by nonfederal water users for agricultural water supply storage costs is subject to various conditions under the federal reclamation laws.