



Framework for this Process

The foundation of our team’s prioritization was set by criteria identified in Tollgate I and II. The Tollgate I process affirmed our team indicators, which guides us to focus on activities that:

- **Reduce preventable loss** of life, injury, or property due to criminal activities, accidents, and natural or man-made disasters
- **Increase emergency response readiness**
- **Increase citizen confidence** of their safety within their communities

This focus is consistent with the priorities recommended by participants in the Governor’s Citizen Workshops. Property and violent crime rates continued to be an important measure, however, citizens are also concerned about offenders returning to the community after incarceration as well as the impact that education, job skills and social services have on reducing the rate of recidivism.

The Tollgate II process emphasized and evaluated the performance of each activity. We tested the activity’s performance and relationship to the result by using four criteria:

- **Alignment:** To what extent does the activity contribute to achieving the indicated strategy?

- **Core State Function:** Is state government the correct entity to deliver this activity?
- **Performance:** Is there enough data or information to present a compelling case that investment in this activity is likely to yield a desirable result?
- **Return on Investment:** Are the past and likely future results worth the investment?

Priority Highlights

Our team places an emphasis on providing the basic infrastructure of public safety: disaster preparedness and response, responding to and preventing crime and accidents, traffic safety, and the incarceration and rehabilitation of adult and juvenile offenders.

Incarceration and Rehabilitation

The incarceration and rehabilitation of adult and juvenile offenders continues to require a significant investment, consuming over \$2 billion in state resources. As a strategy to address this increasing burden, our team maintains programming designed to improve outcomes for offenders and reduce the rate of recidivism. This approach is validated by the fact that both the state violent and property crime rates are at their lowest point in the last 15 years.



Immediate Safety Needs

Priority is given to activities that address immediate safety concerns, such as responding to 911 calls, disaster response and recovery, and fire suppression. It is critical to ensure that citizens have access to emergency assistance, as well as an efficient coordinated response to disasters. A high priority was also placed on activities that provide infrastructure repairs, individual and housing assistance, and mitigation efforts to minimize the effect of future disasters.

Traffic Safety

Our team believes it is important to support and enhance highway safety. Roadways are made safer for people by enforcing traffic laws, investigating collisions, and assisting motorists. Enforcement emphasis has been placed on drinking drivers, aggressive driving and speed, and people not wearing seat belts. As a result of enforcement and education efforts, the seatbelt compliance rate is currently over 96 percent. Additionally, the overall trend for vehicle fatalities continues to decline with the 2007 vehicle fatality rate the lowest we have ever recorded.

Response to Crime and Administer Justice

An important component of the basic infrastructure of public safety is the administration of the state court system; including the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Supreme Court, and the Court of Appeals.

The team also recognizes the importance of maintaining the life line of service that help victims of crime heal. We place a priority on activities that provide direct services to victims as well as financial assistance to victims who have suffered physical or mental trauma

Lower Priority Items

Consistent with our team's approach to ensuring that the basic infrastructure of public safety is maintained, our lower priorities include items that are preventative in nature, or are items that may not be core functions of state government. An example of a preventative activity is Department of Natural Resources' Geology activity which identifies potential natural hazards. This type of activity is important as a means of developing practices to minimize impacts in the future. However, the team believes current critical activities are more important than preventative measures.

Examples of activities that may not be core functions of state government include The Department of Community and Economic Development's Project Safe Neighborhoods and the Criminal Justice Safety Commission's Prosecuting Attorney Training activities. These are activities that could be considered functions of the local governments receiving the direct benefits.