

## MAJOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT LIFE CYCLE

This memorandum provides a summary of the project management life cycle processes, executive and legislative branch activities, and statutory provisions relating to planning and executing major information technology projects.

Project Management Life Cycle Processes	Executive and Legislative Branch Activities	Related Statutory Provisions
<p><b>Project origination</b> - Evaluate projects proposed for the next planning cycle and reach a consensus on the projects to be selected</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agencies identify projects to create a product or develop a service that can solve a problem or address a need within the agency.</li> <li>2. Agencies develop a project proposal, including a business case and proposed solution, for each proposed project. The business case should include information on project description, project objectives, business need or problem, proposed solution, consistency and fit with the organization's mission, cost-benefit analysis, and project risks.</li> <li>3. Agencies prioritize information technology projects, submit their information technology plan, including project information, to the Information Technology Department (ITD), and submit their information technology budgets into the budget analysis and reporting system. In most cases, the budget for a project is the initial cost estimate. The most accurate project budget is not available until the completion of the project planning process.</li> <li>4. The State Information Technology Advisory Committee, a committee created by North Dakota Century Code Section 54-59-07, reviews information regarding proposed major information technology projects for executive branch state agencies, excluding institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education and the judicial and legislative branches, and ranks those projects that receive the committee's affirmative recommendation. The following is a summary of the steps involved in the prioritization:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. ITD sorts proposed information technology projects over \$500,000 into the following three categories:                                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Projects requesting funds from the general fund for the investment or the ongoing maintenance costs.</li> <li>(2) Projects requesting funds from federal fund sources for the investment or the ongoing maintenance costs.</li> <li>(3) Projects requesting funds from other special fund sources for the investment or the ongoing maintenance costs.</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. State agencies self-score projects over \$500,000 based on return on investment, customer service benefits, internal efficiency benefits, operational necessity, and project risk.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>Section 54-59-02.1 provides ITD shall submit information regarding proposed major information technology projects for executive branch state agencies, departments, and institutions, excluding institutions under the control of the State Board of Higher Education and the judicial and legislative branches, to the State Information Technology Advisory Committee. The State Information Technology Advisory Committee shall review the projects and rank those projects that receive the committee's affirmative recommendation. The Chief Information Officer shall submit recommendations of the State Information Technology Advisory Committee regarding the prioritizations of major information technology projects to the Information Technology Committee, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the Appropriations Committees of the Legislative Assembly.</p>

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<p><b>Project initiation</b> - Define the overall parameters of a project and establish the appropriate project management and quality environment required to complete the project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. ITD presents a preliminary report, including information regarding agencies' self-scoring, to the State Information Technology Advisory Committee. In addition, agencies present a short summary of each project to the committee.</li> <li>d. The State Information Technology Advisory Committee prioritizes projects for each of the categories.</li> <li>e. ITD forwards the prioritized listings for each of the categories to the Information Technology Committee and OMB for consideration in the development of the Governor's budget recommendation.</li> <li>5. The Governor selects projects to be funded in the executive budget recommendation.</li> <li>6. ITD revises the prioritized listings to reflect those projects that are funded in the Governor's budget recommendation and presents the listing to the Appropriations Committees of the Legislative Assembly.</li> <li>7. The Legislative Assembly selects projects to be funded in the legislatively approved budget.</li> <li>8. ITD conducts a preliminary architectural review for projects funded and provides a recommendation to agencies regarding proceeding with the project.</li> <li>9. Agencies refine the business cases as appropriate for those projects funded in the legislatively approved budget.</li> <li>10. Agencies submit a copy of the final business case for a project to ITD.</li> <li>11. Agencies initiate the project by identifying the project sponsor, project manager, and project team; developing a project charter; and conducting a project kickoff meeting. A project charter is developed and executed to initiate a project and to secure commitment for the resources, including human, financial, and equipment, necessary for the project. A project charter should include information on project background, project scope, measurable project objectives, required resources, constraints, assumptions, and project authority.</li> <li>12. Agencies submit a copy of the project charter to ITD prior to any project expenditures or signing of vendor contracts.</li> </ul>	<p>Section 54-59-11.1 provides each executive branch state agency, excluding entities under the control of the State Board of Higher Education, considering the development of an information technology project with an estimated cost of \$100,000 or more is to involve ITD in the planning and study of the project. A state agency must receive a recommendation from ITD prior to proceeding with any study relating to the project.</p> <p>Section 54-59-05 provides ITD is to request and review information, including project startup information summarizing the project description, project objectives, business need or problem, cost-benefit analysis, and project risks, regarding any major information technology project of an executive branch agency.</p>



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<p><b>Project closeout</b> - Assess the project and derive any lessons learned and best practices to be applied to future projects</p>	<p>20. Agencies formally acknowledge all deliverables produced during project execution and control have been completed, tested, accepted, and approved by the project sponsor.</p> <p>21. Agencies complete a postimplementation review for the project in order to assess the success of the project and to capture historical information. The postimplementation review should include information on the measurement and attainment of project objectives, project budget and schedule variances, and lessons learned.</p> <p>22. Agencies notify the State Information Technology Advisory Committee if the actual cost for the project exceeded the original budget by 20 percent or more or if the final project completion date extended beyond the original project scheduled completion date by 20 percent or more.</p> <p>23. Agencies submit a copy of the postimplementation review to ITD.</p> <p>24. Agencies present a project closeout report to the Information Technology Committee. A project closeout report summarizes information from the postimplementation review, including the project objectives achieved, project budget and schedule variances, and lessons learned. A copy of the project closeout report template is attached as <a href="#">Appendix B</a>.</p>	<p>Pursuant to Section 54-59-23, agencies must notify the State Information Technology Advisory Committee if upon the completion of the project, the budget for the project exceeded the original budget by 20 percent or more or if the final project completion date extended beyond the original project scheduled completion date by 20 percent or more.</p> <p>Section 54-59-05 provides ITD is to request and review information, including project closeout information summarizing the project objectives achieved, project budget and schedule variances, and lessons learned, regarding any major information technology project of an executive branch agency.</p> <p>Section 54-35-15.2 provides the Information Technology Committee is to receive and review information, including a project closeout report summarizing the project objectives achieved, project budget and schedule variances, and lessons learned, regarding any major project of an executive, legislative, or judicial branch agency, the State Board of Higher Education, or any institution under the control of the State Board of Higher Education.</p>

ATTACH:2