

761—165.26(312) Evaluation and approval.

165.26(1) The department shall review each application, may verify the contents and may visit the trail site.

165.26(2) The department shall evaluate each complete application primarily on the basis of whether the predicted use of the trail justifies the construction and maintenance costs including, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- a.* Need, in terms of the population to be served and existing trails in the area (25 points).
- b.* Compatibility with local, areawide, regional or statewide plans (15 points).
- c.* Benefits of multiple uses and recreational opportunities (20 points).
- d.* Quality of the site (25 points).
- e.* Economic benefits to the local area (10 points).
- f.* Special facilities for the handicapped (5 points).

165.26(3) Completed applications shall be reviewed by a committee composed of one representative from each of these departments: natural resources, economic development, cultural affairs, and transportation. The committee shall recommend applications to the department by ranking them in order of funding priority.

165.26(4) The department shall prepare a list of applications and funding recommendations and present it to the commission for final approval and funding.