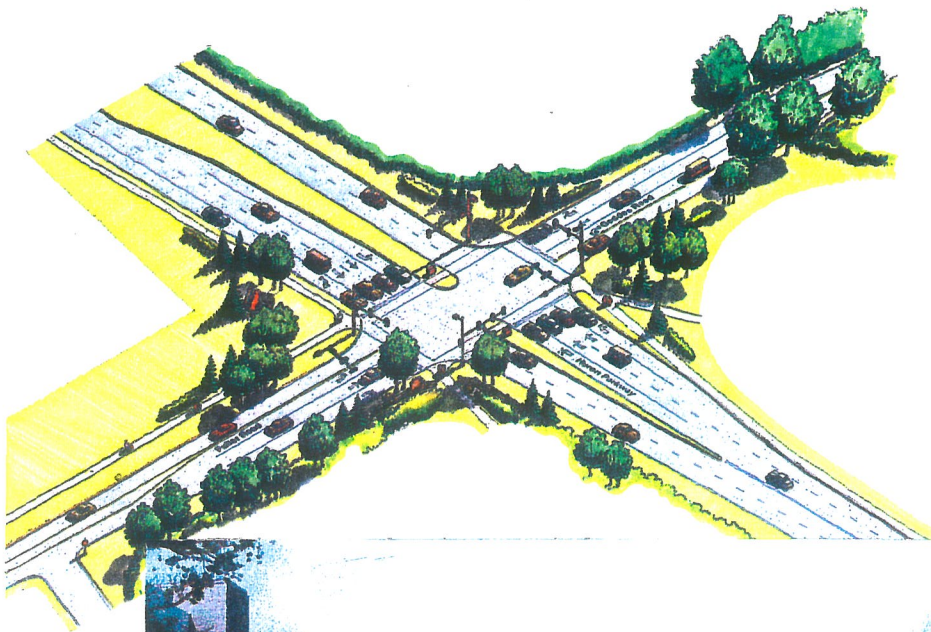


# Geddes/Fuller/Conrail

## Corridor Study



June 1994



### III. EVALUATION OVERVIEW

A three-step procedure was used to evaluate potential alternative strategies for the corridor. This procedure starts with a broad range of alternatives and filters or screens the alternatives through a series of tests to identify alternatives that support the goals and objectives for the corridor. The final result of this evaluation procedure is the recommended alternative (described in the previous section) that best supports the goals and objectives of the corridor and provides an acceptable cost-effective value.

The three steps of the procedure are given the term screens, because they filter alternatives to a finer level for each succeeding step. Screen 1 of this procedure identified and assessed a broad range of possible alternative strategies. This "universe" of strategies was evaluated at a macro-level using a fatal flaw analysis. A set of fatal flaw criteria is applied to the strategies and the strategy can pass or fail the test. Strategies passing the test are advanced to the second screen.

The second screen uses a macro level evaluation to determine successful strategies. The macro categories are use/ridership, environmental impacts, and costs. The strategies are given ratings in each of these categories using a weighted rating structure. At this stage, it is important to identify good and bad elements of each strategy so that these elements might be later combined into more effective strategies. Strategies which have successful overall or individual elements are forwarded or recombined into new strategies for evaluation in the third screening.

The third screen uses a micro level evaluation to finally identify in detail which strategy is the preferred alternative. This screening uses 17 different criteria with specific measures of success. This rigorous evaluation procedure insures that all effective alternatives are identified and provides confidence that the selected alternative best meets the goals and objectives of the corridor.