Session 8:
Design Flexibility in Rural and Developing Settings

The Context Sensitive Solution
for Washington County
State Aid Highway 21

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INTRODUCTION

• When
• Where
• What
• Why
• How and How Different

WHEN

• 1998
• Ten Years After
• New Flexible Standards
• Natural Preservation Route
WHERE

• St. Croix River Valley
• National Wild and Scenic River
• Afton State Park
• Historic Territorial Military Road
• Scenic and Recreational Use
• Rural and Developing
WHAT
• Substandard Highway
• Substandard Bridge
AND/OR
• Sublime Experience
• Threatened Nature

WHY
• Accident Rate
  20.64 vs 6.37 for 2-Lane Rural
• Bridge Rating
  13.8 (from 0-100) Replace
• Responsibility of County
HOW

• CSS as NEPA Process
• Stakeholder Engagement
• Values not Standards
• Informed Consent
• Targeted Improvements

HOW DIFFERENT

Stakeholder Engagement
Stakeholders defined the issues, developed the goals, resolved conflicts, and directed solutions.

Multiple venues

On-site visits critical
Design Options

HOW DIFFERENT
Form criteria suggested by Stakeholders
Form options developed by professionals
Form options evaluated by Stakeholders
Form options rejected by Stakeholders

Design Options

HOW DIFFERENT
Material criteria suggested by Stakeholders
Material options developed by professionals
Material options evaluated by Stakeholders
Material options rejected by Stakeholders
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Design Options

HOW DIFFERENT
Form and Material criteria suggested by Stakeholders
Form and Material options suggested by Stakeholders
Form and Material options evaluated by Stakeholders
Preferred Form and Material selected by Stakeholders

Design Options

HOW DIFFERENT
Innovative Stabilization
Hard or Soft solutions offered
Soft solution selected
HOW DIFFERENT
Understated appearance
Views to park and creek maintained
Wide enough for pedestrians and bicyclists
Enhanced trout stream
Strong support
Financially prudent

HOW DIFFERENT
Commitments were kept
Accidents down dramatically
Support continues
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Multi-Modal

Environmentally Sensitive
Rural Aesthetic

Fun!