Integrating Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) as an Underlying Principle of Excellence

Midwest Region CSS Workshop
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CSS Achieves Principles of Excellence:
Definition of CSS:
• Collaborative & interdisciplinary approach
• Involves all stakeholders
• Develop transportation facilities fitting physical setting & preserves:
  – Scenic;
  – Aesthetic;
  – Historic; &
  – Environmental resources
• Maintains safety & mobility

CSS Facilitates Achieving Excellence:
CSS qualities - developing improvement projects:
• Stakeholders agree on purpose & need
• Enhances safety & mobility
• Harmony - community & environment (human & natural)
• Exceeds expectations of community
• Efficient & effective use of resources
• Minimizes community disruption & inconvenience
• Stakeholders view as adding lasting value to community
CSS Facilitates Achieving Excellence: (Cont.)

Process characteristics:

- Early, collaborative & continuous dialog w/ partners
- Involvement of multi-agency & multi-disciplinary team
- Involvement of stakeholders in scoping & key phase
- Tailor process to meet circumstances
- Sustained commitment by agency to CSS
- Effective & efficient public communication & involvement
- Early understanding of community, environment & values resources

FHWA’s Approach to Achieving Excellence:

- CSS Component of FHWA’s vital few strategic goals
- Advance state-of-practice w/ CSS implementation
- Division Office partner w/ state DOTs & agencies to:
  - Achieve sustained commitment to implement CSS
  - Institutionally integrate CSS
  - Implement CSS w/in planning for & developing surface transportation improvement projects
- Facilitate national CSS dialog w/ national partners, organizations & interest groups

FHWA’s Strategic Direction:

Achieving excellence - laying foundation to advance state-of-the-practice w/ CSS implementation:

- Motivate action by targeting resources on key areas:
  - Raise awareness & capacity building
  - Promote best practices, develop technical guidance & sponsor support services
- Defining & developing guidance on the evolution of implementing CSS (e.g., institutionally, strategically, programmatically, in the planning for & development of improvement projects)
**FHWA’s Focus Areas & Priorities:**

**Current & Near-term Priorities:**
- Target resources to promote CSS implementation
- Emphasis on outreach & training
- Initiate national dialog on advancing CSS

**Mid-term Priorities:** To expand CSS focus:
- To all agencies w/in state
- Beyond roadway improvement projects
- On building agency & industry CSS capacity

**FHWA Activities:**

**Resources & tools to implement CSS:**
- CSS outreach, training & education:
  - Targeted delivery of CSS training course
  - Develop modular training course & web based training
  - CSS graduate-level course development & curriculum
- CSS in Designing Urban Thoroughfares:
- Facilitating the exchange of best practices between practitioners:
  - CSS clearinghouse: [www.contextsensitivecomolutions.org](http://www.contextsensitivecomolutions.org)
  - State-to-State Peer-to-Peer exchanges (AASHTO)
- Initiate national dialog w/ all industry partners on advancing CSS state-of-practice (resource dependent):
  - AASHTO focused national CSS workshop