Understanding Context

Managing Effective Public Participation
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What Is Quality of Life?
Signs of Successful Community

- Active, vital, special uses and activities
- Safe, historic, attractive, environmentally sensitive
- Walkable, accessible, connected
- Neighborliness, socializing

Source: Project for Public Spaces
To Build Quality of Life, You Must:

• Understand the character of the PLACE you are working in and the PEOPLE you are working with.
• Understand the type of COMMUNITY these people want to live in.
• Then design to accomplish that goal.
Transportation

Means (tool) to an end – not the end itself.
Mn/DOT’s SIX PRINCIPLES

- All Modes
- Public Involvement
- Balance
- Aesthetics
- Interdisciplinary Team
- Design Flexibility
1. Balance safety, mobility, community and environmental goals in all projects.
Interstate 35 - Duluth, MN
Principles of CSD/S

2. Involve the public and affected agencies early and continuously.
LISTEN

Public participation is two-way communication.
Understand Different Points of View

“This is an arterial highway with some houses alongside.” – Transportation Professional

• “This is a big busy street that runs through our neighborhood where people drive too fast.” – Resident
Public Participation

BE HONEST

Public participation without integrity is worse than no public participation at all.
Public Participation

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

Believe in involving the public and treat everyone with respect - no matter what.
Public Participation

BUILD OWNERSHIP

“I became a team player because I was on the team.”
Principles of CSD/S

3. Use an interdisciplinary team tailored to project needs.
TH 61 - Gooseberry Falls
TH 61 - Gooseberry Falls
Principles of CSD/S

4. Apply flexibility inherent in design standards.
CSD/S is firmly rooted in good design

(Values change by minute degrees)

CREATE

Produce through imaginative skill; to design something new

DESIGN

Conceive and plan out; create for a specific function or end

ENGINEER

Apply science and mathematics; to plan out with skill and craft

Source: Webster’s Dictionary
Opportunities for Flexibility

• Network

• Alignment

• Roadway Cross Section

• Intersections and Interchanges
Principles of CSD/S

5. Address all modes of travel.
Walk In Their Shoes
Place Characteristics: Land Uses
Principles of CSD/S

6. Incorporate aesthetics as an integral part of good design.
First Step Is Understanding Context

- Identify physical, environmental, social, cultural, aesthetic and transportation elements early
- Understand community values before beginning design – walk in their shoes
- Plan the “experience”
- Try to design from building front IN, not centerline OUT
Environmental Context
Yellowstone National Park - WY
Historic Context
Paris Pike - Kentucky
Architectural Context
Social Context
Little Fork River Bridge – Hwy 65
What Is the Context? Who Are Stakeholders?
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Some Things to Remember

CSD/S Is About Building Better Communities
CSD/S Is About Balance

Regional Needs

Economic

Social Cultural

Environmental

Aesthetic

Transportation Needs

Community Needs

Degree to which one circle is larger or brighter than the other depends on the values of the community.
CSD/S Affects All Steps in Project Development Process

Planning → Scoping → Pre-Design
  • Alternatives
  • NEPA

Final Design → Construction → Maintenance
CSD/S is firmly rooted in good design

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Project Objectives

Must Reflect Community Values
P2 & CSD/S Are Intertwined

You can’t do context sensitive design without good public participation.

You can’t do good public participation without the tools and approach of context sensitive design.
Case Study: TH 8 - Lindstrom
Case Study: Keep in Mind

Real Life Project

• Not yet built
• Some facts may have been changed to simplify the case study
• Limited data provided to keep focus on design process
• Results are for learning purposes only