



## PD&E STUDY

"The CSS approach seeks to balance safety and mobility with local priorities."

*CSS adds lasting value.*

"It is the policy of FDOT to use a CSS approach on transportation projects and activities for all modes appropriate to scale, cost, location, and schedule."

# CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

## WHAT IS CSS?

*A new vision...*

CSS is an approach to resolving transportation challenges by considering a community's unique characteristics, values and goals. Through CSS, transportation decision makers take into account the views of stakeholders and the local area where a project will exist. Attention is paid to enhancing the physical setting in which a project or activity will take place as well as conserving community-defining features and environmental resources.



*"THIS APPROACH SEEKS TO BALANCE SAFETY AND MOBILITY WITH LOCAL PRIORITIES."*

## CSS DURING A PD&E STUDY...

The Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study process is the second phase of the transportation process. During this phase, FDOT evaluates social, economic and environmental impacts associated with a planned transportation improvement project.

Various design options are evaluated during this process. This makes the PD&E study an ideal time to consider CSS features.

Some common techniques include: landscaping, lighting, bicycle lanes, transit facilities, wider sidewalks and much more.



## CORE PRINCIPLES OF CSS...

The CSS approach strives to lead to outcomes that are safe for all users, in harmony with the community and preserve the resource value of the area.

The goal is to solve problems that are agreed upon by a full range of stakeholders including members of the community, residents, business owners and local officials. The solutions should meet or exceed the expectations of the designers and the stakeholders. They should add lasting value to the community, environment and the transportation system.

## CSS APPROACH...

The CSS approach begins with an understanding of the community in which the transportation improvement is located. The community's needs are balanced with the transportation needs of the area. The design team considers these factors and develops an initial conceptual design. Public Involvement is critical throughout the entire process as these steps are repeated to arrive at a solution that is sensitive to the context of the community... **Context Sensitive Solutions**.



*Public Involvement is key...*

## PRESERVING RESOURCES...

### AESTHETICS

Attractive design elements contribute to the visual appeal of a transportation project. These elements should be exciting as stand alone objects and they should complement their surroundings.

*Enhancing nature...*



### HISTORY

The preservation of historic features is important to a community's unique past. These features should be included in ways that highlight their significance.

### SCENIC VIEWS

Striking views appeal to our senses and emotions. Scenic landscapes cause us to develop emotional attachments to distinctive places.



### ENVIRONMENT

Air and water quality, animal habitats, endangered species and landscapes all deserve special consideration. Road projects should respect the natural environment.

### GATEWAYS

Entry monuments greet residents and visitors to a community or jurisdiction. They introduce an area's name without distracting travelers.



# YOUR ROLE

## GET INVOLVED...

- Become part of the transportation planning process
- Contact your local Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Contact your county and city to voice your concerns
- Contact your local representatives to support the project and dedicate funding
- GET INVOLVED during the project!

## CSS CHALLENGES:

- SCHEDULING
- CONSTRUCTION COST
- LONG TERM OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE



*We need  
your input!*



## COORDINATION...

Implementing Context Sensitive Solutions requires close coordination with local stakeholders. This includes involving all members of a community: residents, business owners, local officials and environmental agencies. It is important for these stakeholders to stay involved throughout the entire design process.

Coordination with local officials is critical since some features, such as decorative lighting and landscaping, require local government funding and maintenance agreements.

## CONTACT INFORMATION...

The Florida Department of Transportation is committed to using the CSS approach on transportation projects. For additional information concerning CSS, please contact the Florida Department of Transportation:

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*CSS in action...*

