

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

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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.contextsensitivesolutions.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
