



*Signature on file:*

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Paula J. Hammond, P.E.  
Secretary of Transportation

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Date

## Context Sensitive Solutions

### I. Introduction

#### A. Purpose

This Secretary's Executive Order informs employees how to apply *Context Sensitive Solutions* to projects. *Context Sensitive Solutions* is a model for transportation project development that has recently received much discussion and broad acceptance. Its essence is that a proposed transportation project must be planned not only for its physical aspects as a facility serving specific transportation objectives, but also for its effects on the aesthetic, social, economic, and environmental values, needs, constraints, and opportunities in a larger community setting.

#### B. Supersession

This Secretary's Executive Order supersedes and replaces the prior version with the same title dated March 10, 2006. All references to the superseded E 1028.01 now reference E 1028.02.

#### C. What has Changed

The web address in Section III is updated. Direction to employees remains the same.

### II. Secretary's Executive Order

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) employees are directed to use the *Context Sensitive Solutions* approach for all projects, large and small, from early planning through construction and eventual operation.

This means that WSDOT employees working on projects and facilities should:

- Engage from the project's inception with representatives of affected communities, including elected and appointed officials and a widely representative array of interested citizens.
- Assure that transportation objectives of projects are clearly described and discussed with local communities in a process that encourages reciprocal communication about local views and needs in the overall project setting.
- Pay attention to and address community and citizen concerns.
- Ensure the project is a safe facility for both the user and the community.

*Context Sensitive Solutions* is a process that places a high value on seeking and, if possible, achieving consensus. WSDOT's belief is that consensus is highly advantageous

to all parties and may help avoid delay and other costly obstacles to project implementation.

### **III. Information to Carry Out This Secretary's Executive Order**

Information to carry out this Secretary's Executive Order is available on the Context Sensitive Design website [www.wsdot.wa.gov/design/policy/csdesign.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/design/policy/csdesign.htm).

### **IV. Contact for More Information**

For questions or concerns about this Secretary's Executive Order, please contact one of the following offices.

- Highways and Local Programs Division, 360-705-7258
- Design Office, 360-705-7952

The offices of Highways and Local Programs and the State Design Engineer are charged with developing training, rules, and procedures to carry out this Secretary's Executive Order.

### **V. Executive Review and Update Requirements**

When changes are necessary to update this document, please inform the Assistant Secretary of Engineering and Regional Operations.

The Assistant Secretary of Engineering and Regional Operations periodically reviews this document and proposes updates to the Secretary of Transportation for approval.

#### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information**

Materials can be provided in alternative formats by calling the ADA Compliance Manager at 360-705-7097. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact that number via the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1.