

Number: E 1028.00

/s/ Douglas B. MacDonald
Secretary of Transportation

Date: November 24, 2003

Context Sensitive Solutions

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.

WSDOT endorses 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.

The offices of Highways and Local Programs and the State Design Engineer are charged with developing training, rules, and procedures for WSDOT employees to carry out this Executive Order. Please contact either office for more information.

- Highways and Local Programs Division (360) 705-7258
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/Operations/LocalPlanning/CSS.html>
- Design Office (360) 705-7952
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/eesc/design/Urban/Default.htm>

Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternate formats by calling the Washington State Department of Transportation ADA Accommodation Hotline collect (206) 389-2839. Persons with hearing impairments may access Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service (TTY) at 1-800-833-6388, or Tele-Braille at 1-800-833-6385, or Voice at 1-800-833-6384, and ask to be connected to (360) 705-7097.