

Session 2:

DEFINING CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS



Columbia River Gorge Scenic Byway, OR



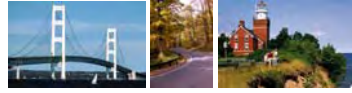
What is CSS?

More than Mitigation . . .

More than Enhancements . . .

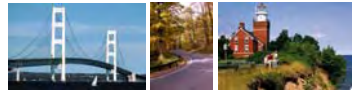
More than a Fad . . .





CSS as defined by FHWA & MDOT:

“A collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources while maintaining safety and mobility.”



What is CSS?

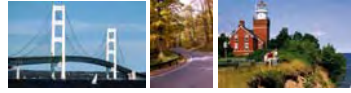
Federal and State CSS Policies

FHWA Administrator Mary Peters in a January 24, 2002 memo challenged her agency . . .

“A transportation facility is an integral part of the community’s fabric and it can help define the character of a community or it can destroy it.”

“We should seek to institutionalize the principles of CSD with the same commitment that drove the implementation of the Interstate Highway System.”

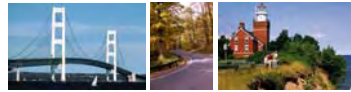




What is CSS?

CSS Methods and Principles

- Engages stakeholders
- Utilizes interdisciplinary teams
- Embraces a multimodal approach
- Serves and respects its environmental and social context
- Provides a safe and efficient transportation system
- Applies to all MDOT activities

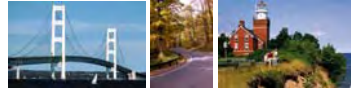


What is CSS?

CSS Methods and Principles

1. Engages stakeholders
Involves stakeholders, builds partnerships, and recognizes community values
2. Utilizes interdisciplinary teams
Uses a wide range of professionals in an integrated approach to get comprehensive results.





What is CSS?

CSS Methods and Principles

3. Embraces a multimodal approach

Integrates all modes of transportation including pedestrians, bicycles, transit, motor vehicles, trains, ferries, ships, and airplanes.

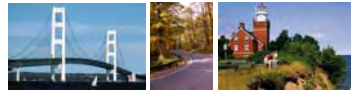


I-43, Milwaukee, WI



4. Serves and respects its larger context

Transportation must serve society and respect the constraints and opportunities provided by the natural and cultural environments that form its context.



What is CSS?

CSS Methods and Principles

5: Provides a safe and efficient system

Safety and efficiency are still not only necessary but a primary goal of transportation projects and CSS.



I-696, Oakland County, MI

6: Applies to all MDOT activities

CSS will be applied to all work done by MDOT from planning and design through construction, traffic operations, and maintenance.





Dispelling Myths About CSS

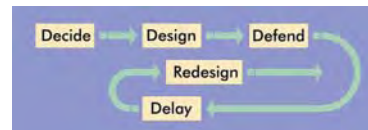
CSS is not about . . .

- Compromising safety and standards
- Listening only to the “squeaky wheel”
- Spending more time and money
- Tacking on enhancements

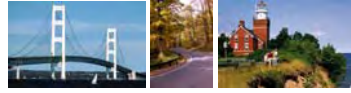


CSS Avoids Rework

- Re-work is common on too many transportation projects and too commonly accepted as inevitable.
- Delays in implementing needed transportation improvements decrease economic productivity and social welfare.
- Typically, delayed projects also increase right-of-way and construction costs.



Good design takes time . . .
Bad design takes longer!



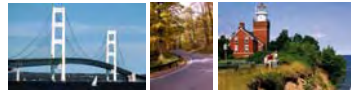
CSS Streamlines Project Delivery

“CSS moves the discussion between MDOT and stakeholders from position-based stances to interest-based solutions.”

- Lynn Lynwood, ASLA
MDOT Landscape Architect



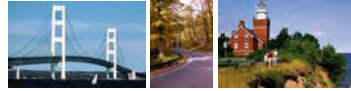
Listen → Design → Build



Embracing CSS in Michigan

- Expanding Current Methods and Practices
- New CSS Policies
- New CSS Training
- Fostering a *Learning Organization*
- Leading by Example





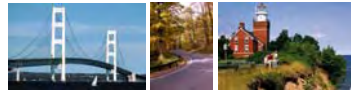
Measurement

Five Measures of Success

- Functional Appropriateness
- Community Support
- Environmental Compliance
- Financial Feasibility
- Social and Economic Progress



I-465, Indianapolis, IN

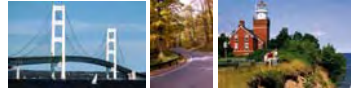


Conclusion: CSS is Beneficial

- Functional Appropriateness: Improved safety, mobility, and access
- Community Support: Better public, regulatory, and political support for projects and transportation
- Environmental Compliance: Enhanced environmental quality
- Financial Feasibility: Superior cost-benefit ratio
- Social and Economic Progress: Increased quality of life indicators



Watkins Memorial Drive, Kansas City



What is CSS?

CSS is an interdisciplinary process for developing, operating, and maintaining a safe, effective, and integrated, multi-modal transportation system that supports a community's vision.



I-35W, Minneapolis, MN