



Session 12:

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS IN TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION



Construction is in the front lines of delivering a transportation program using CSS principles and practices. In particular, planners and designers could learn a lot about how to work with the public from MDOT's construction staff.



CSS and Construction

- Include stakeholders in change orders
- Establish clear communications channels
- Reduce unforeseen adverse impacts
- Inform public
- Sustain community businesses and institutions
- Create positive impressions of community



CSS can be applied to all phases of construction. During pre-construction (the time between contract award and the start of construction), the contractor should initiate dialogue with the public, especially the group of stakeholders most affected by construction activities. Construction timing, detours, road closures, maintenance of traffic, construction noise, dust, vegetation removal and other potential concerns should be reviewed. Methods of communication between the public and contractor should be established at this time. This will be especially important if there is an emergency of any type involving construction or the construction site.



CSS and Delivery Methods

- Design-Bid-Build
- Design-Build



Two primary construction delivery methods are discussed within this section: design-bid-build and design-build. The CSS approach should be considered in both methods to ensure successful completion of the project.



CSS and Delivery Methods Design-Bid-Build

- DOT-led activity
- Continued stakeholder participation
- CSS approach required within specifications
- Recommended CSS training for contractor



I-94, Wayne County, MI

The primary delivery method for construction on MDOT projects is design-bid-build. With this method, guiding and monitoring the construction with the CSS approach may be primarily done by MDOT. Stakeholder participation during construction is important. The CSS approach and requirements of the contractor should be identified and clearly communicated within the RFP and the contractor specifications. CSS training for contractors and their subcontractors is highly recommended.



CSS and Delivery Methods Design-Build

- Design guidelines in place
- Contractor-responsible activity
- Continued stakeholder participation
- CSS applications required within contract
- Required CSS training for contractors



Rochester, MN

The design-build method will require additional tasks for successful application of the CSS approach. To ensure stakeholder input is realized through project completion, guidelines illustrating the design of all project components should be prepared and made part of the RFP and contract. The responsibility for CSS application monitoring should be with the contractor, and, as with design-bid-build, continued stakeholder participation and CSS training of contractor and subcontractors should be mandatory.



Conclusion

To ensure the project is delivered to the satisfaction of the stakeholders, the CSS approach must continue through project implementation.



In conclusion, CSS does not end when MDOT delivers to the public commitments generated during the design phase. Successful project completion is measured when the public and stakeholders participate in the process and realize an outcome that meets or exceeds their expectations.