

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

October 26, 2010



What is CSS?

“... a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders in providing a transportation facility that fits its setting. It is an approach that leads to preserving and enhancing scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and environmental resources, while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions.”

Key Thoughts:

- Collaborative approach with stakeholders
- Preserve and enhance setting
- Improve or maintain safety and mobility

Who are “Stakeholders”?

- Adjacent property owners
- Facility users
- Local government
- MPOs
- State & Federal DOT
- Other State & Federal agencies
- Local transportation providers
- Emergency service providers
- Special interest groups
- Neighborhood associations

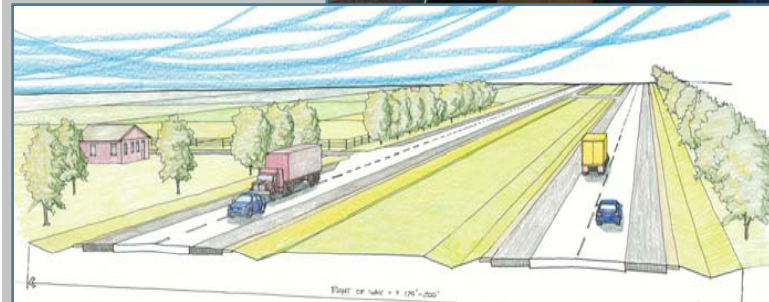
CSS Core Principles

1. Develop a shared vision for the project
2. Understand the context
3. Foster continuing communication and collaboration
4. Use flexibility and creativity to develop effective transportation solutions

And...do all of this while preserving and enhancing the community and natural environment

Principle 1: Develop a Shared Vision

- What transportation issues need to be addressed?
- How will this project impact you?
- Tell me about what is important to your community.
- How involved do you want to be in the process?



Principle 2: Understand the Context

Consider the following during the process:

- Terrain
- Community
- Natural environment
- Facility users
- Surrounding land use



Principle 2: Understand the Context

Lesson Learned on the Proposed Ohio River Bridge Project

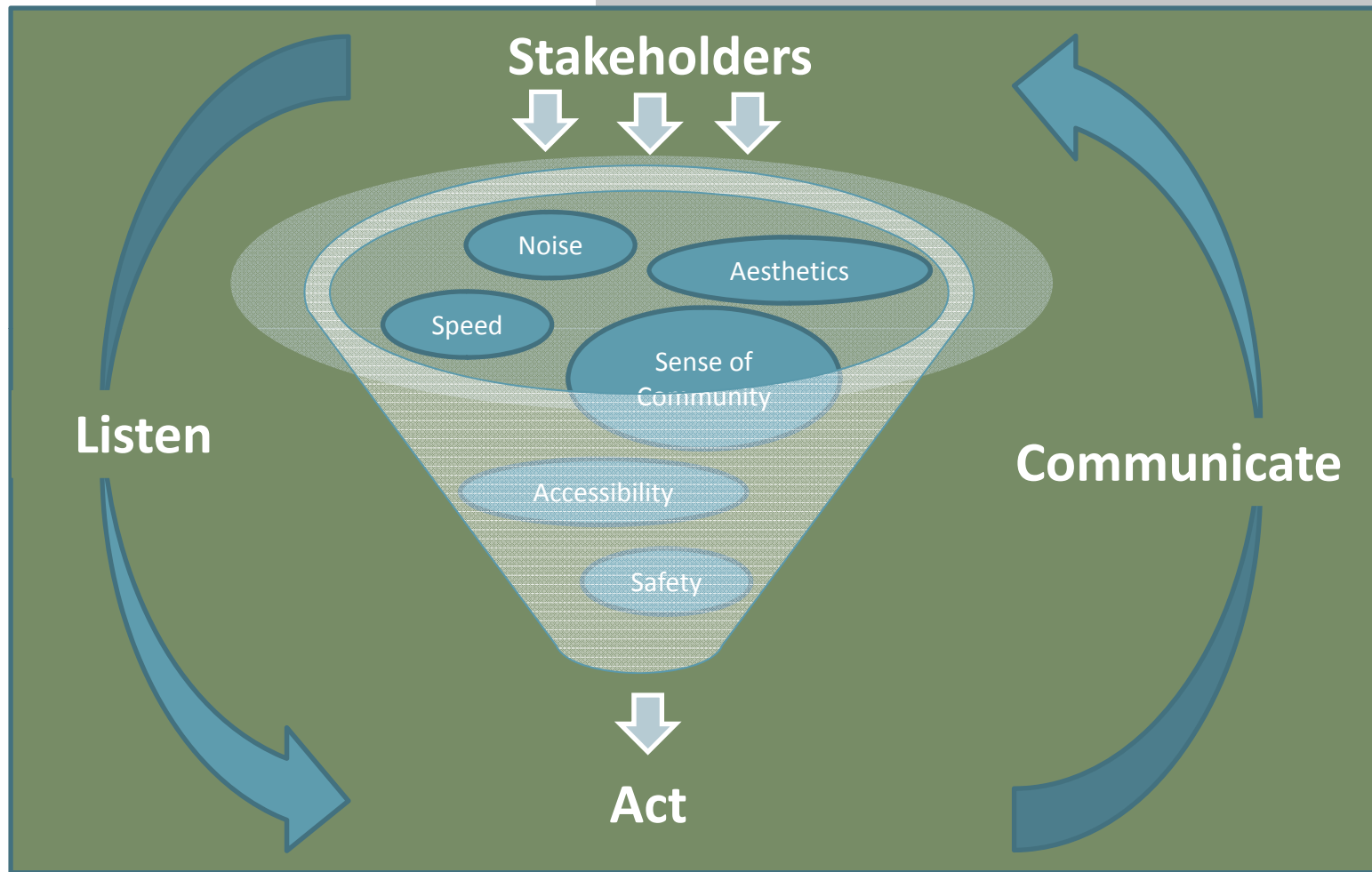
Brooke-Pioneer Rail Trail

- Runs parallel to Ohio River for about 30 miles
- There was an adjacent trolley line
- Has an active citizens group

Lesson Learned:
Seek information from those who know the history of the community



Principle 3: Foster Communications



Principle 4: Use Flexibility & Creativity to Develop Solutions



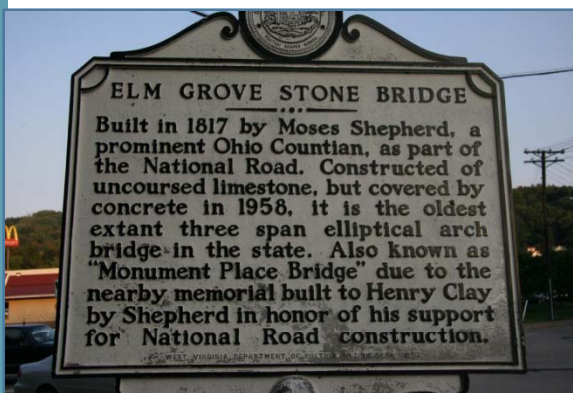
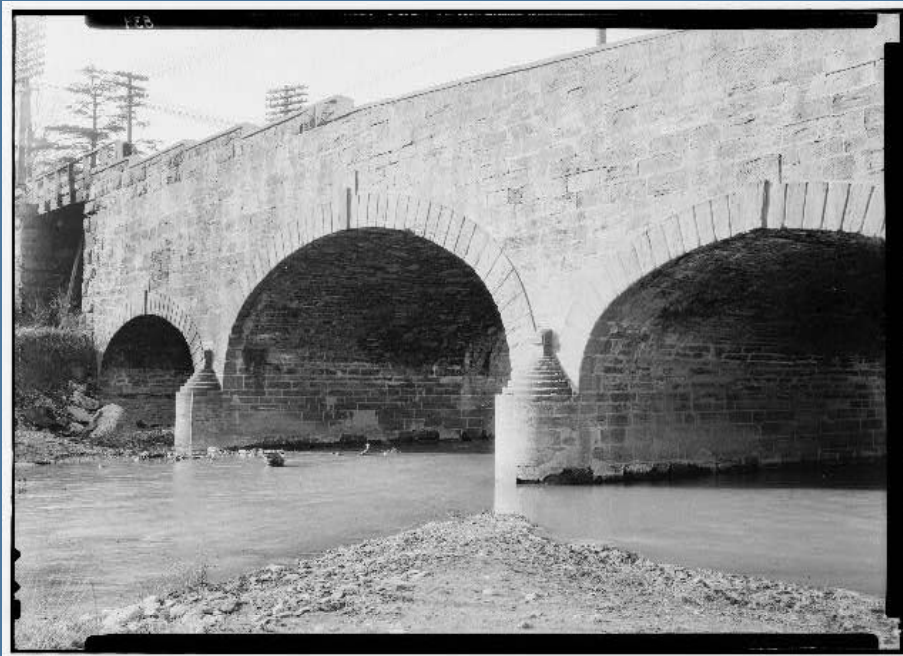
Benefits of Doing CSS

- Improved predictability of project delivery (improved scoping)
- Improved long term decisions and investments
- Improved environmental stewardship
- Increased risk management and liability protection
- Increased stakeholder/public participation, ownership, and trust
- Decreased time & costs for overall project delivery
- Increased partnering opportunities
- Minimized overall impact to human and natural environment
- Improved mobility for users
- Improved walkability and bikeability
- Improved safety (vehicles, pedestrians, and bikes)
- Improved multi-modal options
- Improved community satisfaction & quality of life
- Design features appropriate to context
- Minimized construction related disruption
- Improved opportunities for economic development

Risks of Not Doing CSS:

- Reactive instead of proactive
- Public mistrust
- Duplicative efforts
- Project delays
- Litigation

Monument Place Bridge



Monument Place Bridge Project... *with a CSS Approach*

Ask key questions:

- Who are the stakeholders?
- What is the vision for the project?
- What is the context?

Measuring Project Success

- Satisfies both transportation and community needs as discussed with and agreed to by all stakeholders
- Incorporates safe and innovative technical solutions that add value for both the user and the community
- Shows measurable success in improving the community's environmental, scenic, historic and natural resources
- Designed and built with the community

The vision is realized!

Resources

WV DOT DD-207 “Context Sensitive Solutions” Policy

Flexibility in Highway Design, FHWA

NCHRP Report 480 – A Guide to Best Practices for
Achieving Context Sensitive Solutions

NCHRP 15-3 - Context Sensitive Solutions:
Quantification of the Benefits in Transportation

<http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org/>

Final Thought

“We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us”

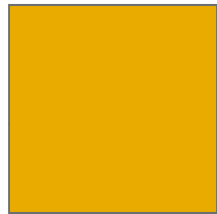
Winston Churchill

Source: Speech to the House of Commons, October 28, 1943

Color Palette



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Optional Message Placement

