



# Illinois Department of Transportation Departmental Policies

D&E-21  
August 1, 2005

## CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

### 1. POLICY

The Department will utilize a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process in the planning, design, construction and operation of all projects involving new construction, reconstruction and major expansion of transportation facilities. This is pursuant to Public Act 093-0545.

### 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidelines for defining the CSS process and its uses.

### 3. GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- a. The CSS process seeks to provide cost-effective transportation facilities which involve:
  1. A balance between mobility, community needs and the environment while keeping safety paramount.
  2. Involving stakeholders in the decision-making process early and continuously throughout the development of the project.
  3. Addressing all modes of transportation in the planning and design of the project.
  4. Using all appropriate disciplines to help plan for and design the project.
  5. Applying the flexibility inherent in our design standards to fit a project into its surroundings and add lasting value to the communities it serves.
  6. Incorporating aesthetics as part of basic design.
- b. At the point where a feasibility study or Phase I study will be placed in a Multi-Year Program, a decision shall be made on whether to implement the CSS process for that project.

- c. The CSS process shall include Stakeholder Involvement Processes that are:
  - 1. Applicable to a wide range of projects.
  - 2. Flexible and modular.
  - 3. Simple enough to avoid adding another layer of process to an already lengthy planning and design schedule.
- d. The Department is ultimately responsible for the safety and integrity of the state transportation system and therefore must make the final decisions regarding any and all aspects of the projects.
- e. The Department will establish an internal training program to educate its staff on CSS policy, approaches, and techniques.
- f. Project elements, developed through the CSS process, may require cost participation from sources outside of the Department.
- g. The Department will encourage local agencies to use CSS as a best practice in the development of local projects.
- h. In order to determine the project's scope, elements and funding, the CSS process should commence at the earliest stages of the project's development.
- i. In urbanized areas, the Department will solicit the assistance of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with the CSS process on eligible state projects within their jurisdictions.
- j. State projects under expedited timeframes may preclude the use of a comprehensive CSS process. However, stakeholders will be involved with such projects to the extent possible under the constrained schedules.
- k. Design elements developed by the CSS process must be constructed and maintained. Changes to the scope of such projects can only be made after additional stakeholder involvement.
- l. The practical aspects of this CSS policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis and revised as a consensus document beginning in July 2006.

4. **RESPONSIBILITIES.**

The Bureau of Design and Environment is responsible for preparing and maintaining this Policy. Each signatory Office or Division is responsible for implementing and assuring compliance with the provisions of this policy affecting operations or policies under their jurisdiction.

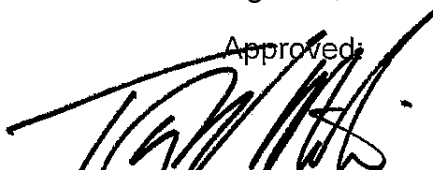
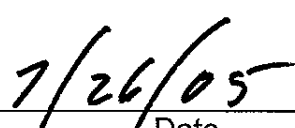
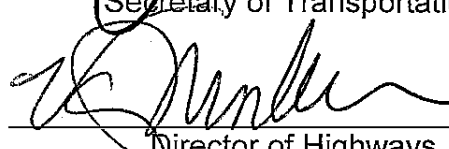
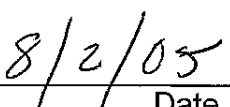

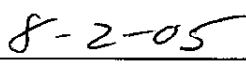
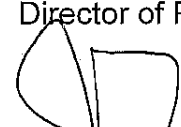



5. **ACCESSIBILITY.**

Copies of this Policy may be obtained from the Bureau of Design and Environment in the Harry R. Hanley Building. This Policy may be examined in the Hanley Building Library and in each of the nine District Highway Offices. It will also be posted on the Department's CSS website.

**CLOSING NOTICE.**

Established: August 1, 2005

Approved:

 _____ Secretary of Transportation	 _____ Date
 _____ Director of Highways	 _____ Date
 _____ Director of Planning & Programming	 _____ Date
 _____ Director of Public and Intermodal Transportation	 _____ Date
 _____ Director of Aeronautics	 _____ Date