




Context Sensitive Solutions: Where we are and looking ahead A Federal Perspective

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FHWA Resource Center
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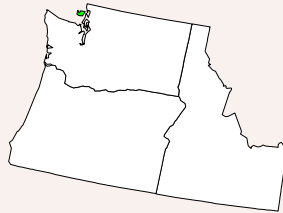


Context Sensitive Solutions

Context Sensitive Solutions:

- is a **collaborative, interdisciplinary, holistic approach** to the development of transportation projects AND involves **all stakeholders**, including community members, elected officials, interest groups, and affected local, state, and federal agencies.
- puts project needs and both **agency and community values** on a level playing field and considers all trade-offs in decision making.
- often associated with design in transportation projects, Context Sensitive Solutions **should be a part of all phases of program delivery** including long range planning, programming, environmental studies, design, construction, operations, and maintenance.

Pacific-Northwest Transportation Projects



Idaho/Oregon/Washington



CSS as related to major transportation legislation

- Federal-Aid Highways Acts (1916-1987)
- National Interstate and Defense Highways Act (1956)
- Surface Transportation/Union Relocation Assistance Act (1987)

ISTEA (1991)

TEA-21 (1998)

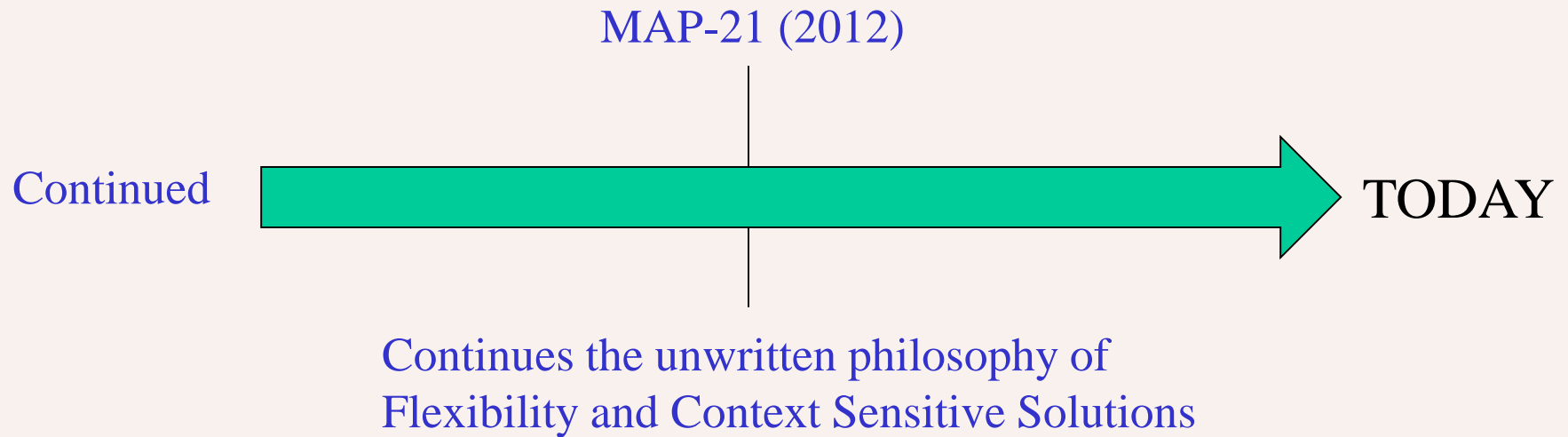
SAFTEA-LU (2005)

Build Roads
& National
Defense

Better Public
Involvement

Flexibility
Including
CSD/S and
Five pilot
states.

Sustainability,
Livability,
and other tools

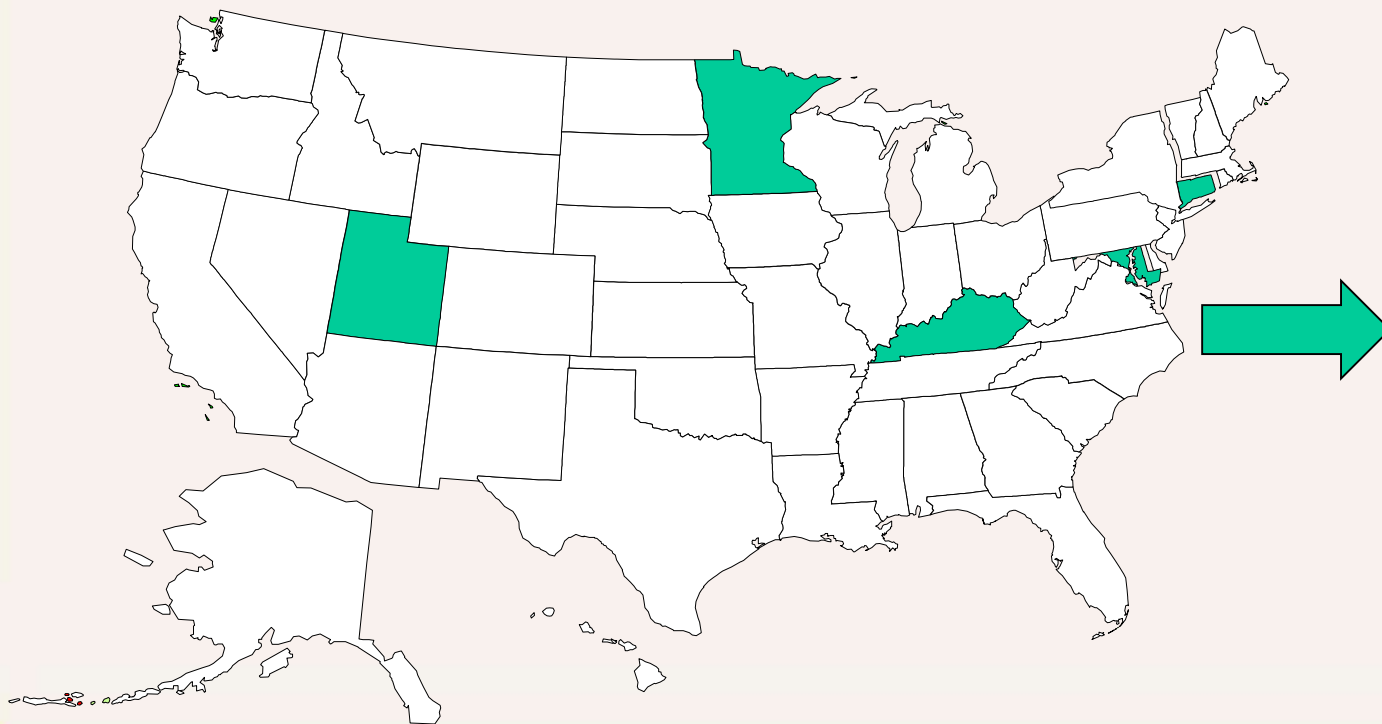


The **Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)** is a funding and authorization bill to govern US federal surface transportation spending. It was passed by Congress on June 29, 2012, and President Barack Obama signed it on July 6



Moving Forward

- Advancing from the five pilot states to a nation-wide effort
- States and communities will continue to blend the CSS philosophy into the way they do business



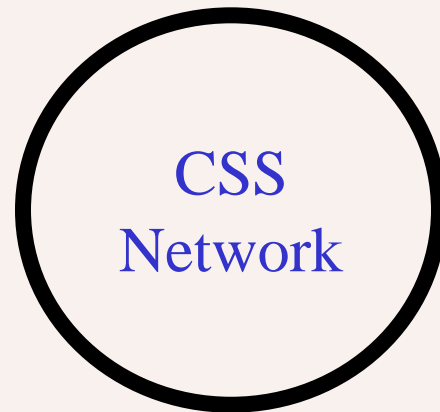
Moving Forward

The Federal agencies are continuing the focus of CSS and similar efforts in the name of good public involvement Including developing and promoting case studies, websites, teams, outreach tools, workshops, etc.



State/Local
Agencies

HEP-Headquarters



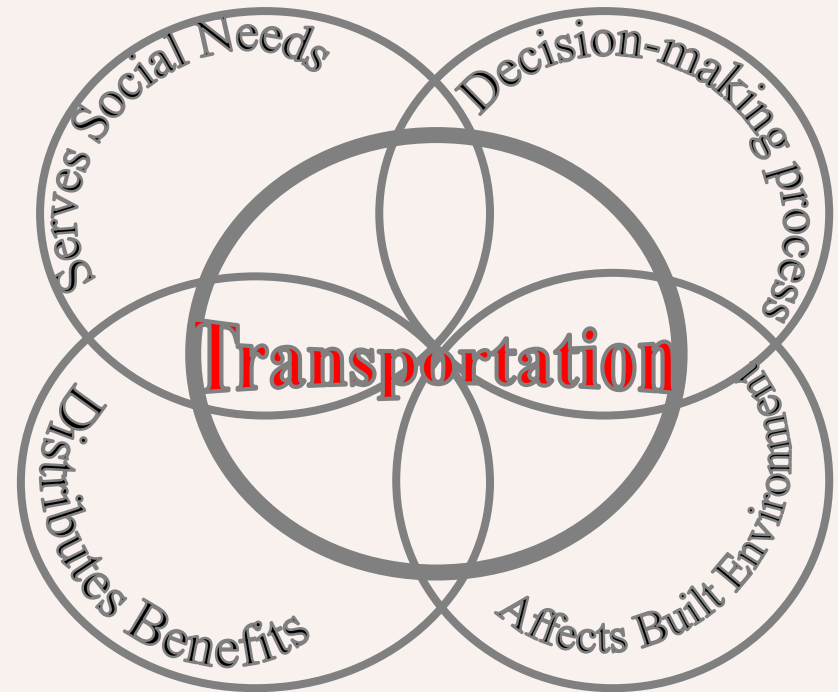
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www.contextsensitivesolutions.org

CSS in the future

CSS will support improving the planning and environmental linkage effort, a streamlined environmental review process, and an improved (faster, more informed) construction, and maintenance effort. In addition, CSS will support health analysis, sustainability, environmental justice, the deployment of performance measures, and other efforts and policies.

CSS as related to transportation **will continue** to fit into our daily needs. CSS is so ingrained into the way we live, it is a “grandfathered” national way we do business.



CSS will continue to include "open, honest, early and continuous" communication and sharing of information and knowledge - not just professional knowledge, but the knowledge that communities and stakeholders bring to a project from their personal experience. CSS will continue to involve structuring a planning, design, and implementation process that is collaborative and creates consensus among stakeholders and the transportation agency.

- Flexibility
- Livability
- Sustainability
- Community impact assessment
- Scenario planning
- Land use and transportation
- Smart growth
- Walkable communities
- Walkable thoroughfares
- Healthy neighborhoods
- Transit-oriented development (TOD)
- Complete Streets
- Context-Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

Maryland and CSS – an example

The Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration were leaders in developing the first implementation of CSS, a policy known as Thinking Beyond the Pavement (TBTP). In TBTP, all stakeholders are involved in developing projects that are functional, safe, fit the physical setting and preserve scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources. The strategy is to align transportation planning with land use, transportation needs, and economic development decisions to make communities functional and vibrant places to work and live.

A Borrowed, yet update Quote

Transportation ~~is~~ will continue to be the Means,
CSS ~~is~~ will continue to be the Process,
Livability and Sustainability ~~are~~ will continue to
be the Outcomes

- contextsensitivesolutions.org
- cssnationaldialog.org
- fhwa.dot.gov
- fhwa.dot.gov/map21/
- fhwatest.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/index.cfm
- fhwatest.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/index.cfm



Thank you

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