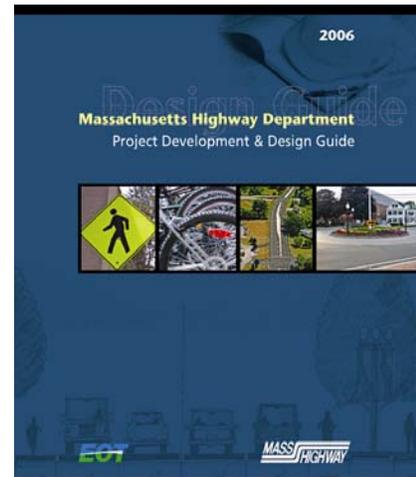


Massachusetts Highway Department

Project Development & Design Guide

In January 2006, the Massachusetts Highway Department issued a new Project Development & Design Guide that dramatically reshaped the way transportation projects are advanced in Massachusetts. The Guide was developed through a unique, collaborative process with a diverse group of constituents who represent a broad array of viewpoints. The group that developed the Guide (the Taskforce) was created in direct response to disputes with communities over various project elements including lane and shoulder widths, designs perceived to be inappropriate for community surroundings, designs perceived to have negative impacts on historic, downtown and environmentally sensitive areas, project delays, high project costs and other similar elements. The Taskforce was a 28-member group that included representatives from MassHighway, municipalities, Regional Planning Agencies, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, WalkBoston, MassBike, the Massachusetts Office on Disability, the American Council of Engineering Companies, the Massachusetts State Legislature, the Federal Highway Administration and others. To address all of the identified problems, Taskforce members worked together to develop a new design guide that fully incorporates the principles of context sensitive design and flexible design into the project development and design process.



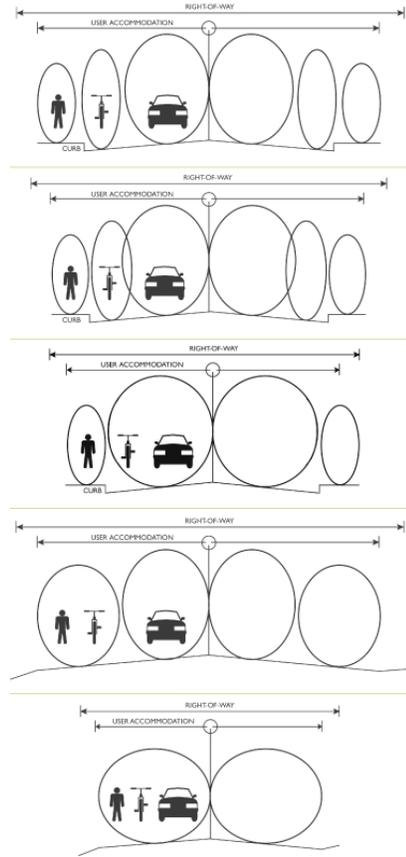
The MassHighway Project Development & Design Guide changed the way that transportation projects are advanced in Massachusetts in four major areas: Project Development Process, Context Sensitive Solutions/Design, Flexible Design, and Multi-Modal Solutions/Design. CSS principles are incorporated throughout the Guide in three

Incorporation of CSS into the Guide

- *Project Development Process*
- *Basic Design Controls*
- *Flexibility*

main ways. First, the project development and design processes were re-written to encourage better problem identification, more public outreach and more early coordination. Next, the basic design controls were revised to allow for consideration of CSS elements. The Guide shifts away from traditional AASHTO design controls for functional classification, design speed and level of service, and more towards design controls that better-reflect the context of the project users and project area. Finally, CSS was incorporated throughout the Guide by providing more flexibility in the design criteria. This is generally accomplished by providing ranges of acceptable choices and options for intersection treatments, including roundabouts.

The Guide is responsive to the unique character of roadways and communities in Massachusetts, reflecting the rich historic, cultural and environmental qualities that are deeply important to residents and visitors alike. The greatest challenge of the Taskforce was to create a guidebook that is appropriate for Massachusetts, but that also retains significant safety standards and other national guidance, and could possibly be a model for other states to follow.



With all the significant changes and refinements contained in the Guidebook, it still reflects the basic AASHTO Green Book philosophy of producing transportation facilities that “are safe and efficient for users, acceptable to non-users, and in harmony with the environment.”

Massachusetts Highway Department Project Development & Design Guide

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