



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

BLRS PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM

NUMBER: PM2007-03
SUBJECT: CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS
ISSUED DATE: May 18, 2007
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 1, 2007

This memorandum adds Section 10-5 and Section 21-7 to the Bureau of Local Roads & Streets Manual.

Public Act 093-0545, which became effective January 1, 2004, provides that the Illinois Department of Transportation "...shall embrace principles of context sensitive design and context sensitive solutions in its policies and procedures for the planning, design, construction, and operation of its projects for new construction, reconstruction, or major expansion of existing transportation facilities." This is to ensure that the Department's projects "...adequately meet the State's transportation needs, exist in harmony with their surroundings, and add lasting value to the communities they serve." Departmental Policy D&E 21, issued on August 1, 2005, formally codified Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) as the official policy of the Department for projects utilizing CSS principles.

If local agencies chose to implement CSS on local highway projects funded with federal, State, or Motor Fuel Tax, the procedures outlined in [BDE Procedure Memorandum 48-06](#) should be used. Under certain circumstances the department may require CSS to be used on local projects in order to comply with PA 093-0545.

For more information about CSS, go to www.dot.il.gov/css/home.html. Please contact Kevin Burke at kevin.burkeiii@illinois.gov with any questions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles J. Dingsoll".

Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

Attachments

KB/kb

BUREAU OF LOCAL ROADS & STREETS

May 2007

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – MFT and State Funds

10-5(1) |

10-5 CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS (CSS)

See Section 21-7 of this Manual for CSS requirements.

21-7 CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS (CSS)

CSS principles place emphasis on the importance of an effective stakeholder involvement process for identifying the transportation and community concerns and values that need to be considered on each project. CSS also highlights the need for appropriate flexibility in the application of design criteria to accommodate the development of innovative solutions that effectively respond to the identified concerns and values. If a local agency decides to use CSS, the procedures outlined in BDE Procedure Memorandum 48-06 should be used.

While CSS is a local agency option on most of their projects, the District may require a local agency to use CSS under certain circumstances. The District should use department CSS eligibility criteria for determining if CSS should apply to local projects meeting the following criteria:

- A local agency project on a highway under department jurisdiction;
- A project initiated by the local agency to be completed by the department; or
- A project initiated by the department to be completed by the local agency.