CSS Peer Exchange

September 6-8, 2006
Baltimore, MD

Sponsored by
AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence and AASHTO
CSS Task Force

In cooperation with
Federal Highway Administration
and
Maryland State Highway Administration
CSS Peer Exchange

• Objectives
  – To exchange information about CSS successes, challenges, perceived risks, lessons learned, and future needs.
  – To consider the evolution of CSS (its definition, guiding principles, and implementation) since the 1998 Thinking Beyond the Pavement conference.
  – To explore next steps for AASHTO and FHWA.
CSS Peer Exchange

• Statistics
  – 262 invited participants
  – 46 states represented, as well as District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Nova Scotia
  – 8 state DOT chief executive officers in attendance, and executive staff from FHWA headquarters and division offices
  – 40+ facilitated peer discussion groups
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• Peer Group Discussion Topics
  – CSS and Project Delivery
  – CSS and Stakeholder Involvement
  – CSS and Multi-Disciplinary Teams
  – CSS Projects & Principles Applications
  – Mainstreaming CSS
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• **Current Commitment to CSS**
  (As expressed by peer exchange participants)
  
  – Although DOTs are at various stages of implementing CSS, the commitment to CSS is strong.
  
  – CSS is becoming perceived as “the” way, not “a” way of doing business. CSS is more than a design concept.
  
  – CSS helps put into proper context the multi-faceted role of transportation in society.
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• Mainstreaming CSS - Conclusions
  - Key barrier to overcome: perpetuation of false myths regarding CSS and safety, costs, liability.
  - Leadership is important, but tagging champions at all levels (particularly middle management) is critical to success.
  - Sharing success stories expedites implementation.
  - Transportation agencies must engage and educate partners at all levels to reinforce importance of CSS and to gain ideas/support for implementing it effectively.
October 26th Strategic Planning Meeting

• Purpose of Meeting
  – Revisit the principles from the 1998 TBTP workshop
  – Develop 4 - 5 high level goals and initiate the action planning process
  – Discuss AASHTO organizational issues
Vision for CSS

By 2011 Context Sensitive Solutions will

- Be the way of doing business throughout the life cycle of a project from pre-planning through maintenance, not just in state DOTs but throughout government agencies responsible for development of transportation projects

- Result in solutions that provide a net improvement to the community and environment
Vision for CSS

By 2011 Context Sensitive Solutions will

• Meet needs and community goals as defined by a full range of stakeholders including safety and mobility goals

• Include the full involvement of stakeholders throughout decision making and be done in a way that is consistent with the broader vision for the community and environment

• Include teams of multi-disciplinary experts who all contribute to developing solutions together with stakeholders
Strategic Goals

- Support Leadership and Coalition Building
- Facilitate Training
- Make the Case for CSS
- Evaluate & modify national standards, policies and guidance to facilitate CSS
CSS Principles

- Preserve and enhance human, natural and built environments
- Foster continuing communication and collaborative decision-making to achieve consensus
- Establish shared stakeholder vision to provide context for decisions
CSS Principles

• Exercise flexibility and creativity to shape solutions

• Work within clearly defined decision making process that honors commitment through life cycle of projects

• Employ a comprehensive understanding of contexts
AASHTO Organizational Proposal

- Resolution to extend the Task Force
- BOD will be asked to make a decision next year regarding how CSS should be institutionalized within AASHTO
- CSS is cross-cutting
- Roles of relevant standing committees and subcommittees are an issue
- Based on the discussion the following proposal was developed for consideration by the Board after vetting by all relevant committees
AASHTO Organizational Proposal

• Joint Subcommittee on CSS of SCOH, SCOE, SCOP
• BOD to provide direction to make CSS a priority of relevant committees and subcommittees
• Committee leadership will make FHWA/AASHTO partnership a priority
• Coordination will take place on action items identified under strategic goals
• Subcommittee will report to SCOH through the Project Delivery Council