



# CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

This project is being developed using the principles of IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) program, per the Department's "Context Sensitive Solutions: Detailed Guidelines for Practice" and Section 19-2 of IDOT's Bureau of Design and Environment (BDE) manual.

"CSS is an interdisciplinary approach that seeks effective transportation solutions by working with stakeholders to develop, build, and maintain cost-effective transportation facilities that fit into and reflect the project's surroundings - its "context." Through early, frequent, and meaningful communication with stakeholders and a flexible and creative approach to design, the resulting projects should improve safety and mobility for the traveling public, while seeking to preserve and enhance the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities of the settings through which they pass."

The CSS approach will provide stakeholders with the tools and information they require to effectively participate in the study process including providing an understanding of the NEPA process, transportation planning guidelines, design guidelines, and the relationship between transportation issues (needs) and project alternatives. In other words, using the CSS process should provide all project stakeholders a mechanism to share comments or concerns about transportation objectives and project alternatives, as well as improve the ability of the project team to understand and address concerns raised. This integrated approach to problem solving and decision-making will help build a general understanding of the project among all interested community members and promote involvement through the study process. As identified in IDOT's CSS policies, stakeholder involvement is critical to project success.

The CSS process strives to achieve the following:

- Understand stakeholder's key issues and concerns.
- Involve stakeholders in the decision making process early and often.
- Establish an understanding of the stakeholder's project role.
- Address all modes of transportation.
- Set a project schedule.
- Apply flexibility in design to address stakeholder's concerns whenever possible.