Highway as Main Street & Context Sensitive Solutions

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Outline

- Competing Interests
- When Main Street is a State Highway (Pictures)
- Context Sensitive Solutions (Pictures)
- Summation

Potential Competing Interests

Community wants

- Slower speeds
- Lower speed limits
- Traffic calming
- Bulb-outs at intersections
- Raised medians

Caltrans *Traditionally* wants

- Less congestion
- Legally supported speed zones
- Efficient movement of traffic
- Consistent facility; consistency with design standards
- Less obstructions on highway,
 Less liability

Potential Competing Interests (cont.)

Community wants

- Roundabouts
- Landscaping/beautification
- Roadside trees
- Median landscaping

Caltrans *Traditionally* wants

- Consistent facilities
 Avoid setting precedent
- Reduced maintenance and worker exposure to traffic
- 30-foot safety clear zone
- Reduced maintenance and exposure; better visibility

Potential Competing Interests (cont.)

Community wants

- Continuity of sidewalks
- More crosswalks in rural communities
- Sandwich Boards on Sidewalks

Caltrans *Traditionally* wants

- Gateway Improvements Avoid setting precedent
 - Local agency responsibility
 - Reduce incidence of false sense of security
 - No advertising in State R/W Avoid bad precedent

When Main Street is a State Highway

- Joint recognition of competing interests.
- Recognition by Caltrans when compromises are appropriate and necessary to support community goals.
- Recognition by the community when compromises are necessary to meet interregional transportation needs.
- Level of community support on projects:
 - ◆ Consensus.
 - Willingness to fund elements of project.
 - ◆ Commitment to the implementation of associated mitigation measures.

When Main Street is a State Highway (Cont.)

- Measurable factors for conventional highway main street projects (Caltrans' perspective):
 - Expected operating speeds and level of service.
 - Congestion levels.
 - Improved pedestrian access and mobility.
 - Effect on school and business access.
 - Collision Data before and after assessment (safety).
 - Improved bicycle accessibility and mobility.
 - Impact on goods movement.



Context Sensitive Solutions on Main Street

Bishop







Mammoth Lakes



Mammoth Lakes

Main Street Promenade

Context Sensitive Solutions

The Approach

- Identify solutions that are innovative and inclusive.
- Integrate and balance community, aesthetic, historic, and environmental values with transportation safety, maintenance, and performance goals.
- Solutions are reached through a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach involving all stakeholders.

Context Sensitive Solutions (cont.)

Considerations

- ◆ It is in Caltrans' interest, as well, to be responsive to the community.
- Funding feasibility, maintenance feasibility, traffic demand, impact on alternate routes, impact on safety, and relevant laws, rules, and regulations must be addressed.
- Caltrans' Context Sensitive Policy and other documents:
 - Guidelines that are not intended to supersede the Department's Manuals.
 - These guidelines are not standards, but advisory in nature and are to be used to compliment established practices.



Utilizing natural features in bridge design

Rush Creek

Sardine Creek

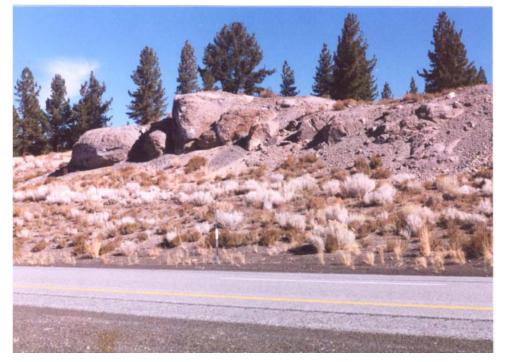






Rock Outcropping

Cut Slope



Considering the compliment of natural features

Summary

- Caltrans shares a philosophy that explicitly allows flexibility in applying design standards and approving exceptions to design standards where validated by applying sound engineering judgement.
- This design philosophy seeks transportation solutions that improve mobility and safety while complementing and enhancing community values and objectives.