



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

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

Caltrans *Traditionally* wants

- 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.



Bishop

Context Sensitive Solutions on Main Street

Lee Vining





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



Mono County



Cut Slope

Rock Outcropping



*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.**