



# Context Sensitive Solutions

## *A Better Way!*

NCDOT has embarked on a major change in its approach in dealing with human and natural environment issues during the planning, designing, building, and maintaining the State's transportation systems. The concept, called "Context Sensitive Solutions" (CSS) is currently being presented to a wide range of the Department's employees through a unique training opportunity called "Context Sensitive Solutions: A Better Way."

This seminar is an intense three days of presentations, case study group exercises and participant interaction that focus on planning, environmental, design, construction and maintenance issues during the development of highway projects. Stakeholder involvement, project purpose and need, communicating with the public, roadway design flexibility, aesthetics and managing liability are some of the major topics discussed and addressed in the course exercises. The guiding principles of CSS are to produce solutions that address the transportation need, be an asset to the local community and be compatible with the natural and human environmental communities.

The CSS training course has been offered to NCDOT staff since February 2003 -- training over 1300 participants. Eligible participants include any DOT personnel or partner agency that may have an impact during the planning, environmental, design, construction, operations and maintenance phases throughout the development of transportation projects.

In 2005-2006, multiple CSS sessions have been scheduled in collaboration with the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) to train an additional staff and partner organizations. To keep the training organizationally diverse each NCDOT branch/division is allocated a number of participant slots for each course date.

**Limited seating:** The 3-day class will accommodate a total of 35-40 students per session and NCDOT is currently providing several openings for attendees outside NCDOT. Seating in the courses is on a "first come first serve" basis. Seats can be reserved by contacting Mr. Ehren Meister with the Office of Environmental Quality by phone at (919) 733-1142 or e-mail at [emeister@dot.state.nc.us](mailto:emeister@dot.state.nc.us).

**Where:** The course is facilitated in Raleigh at N.C. State University's Centennial campus by the Center for Transportation and the Environment (some regional courses have also been scheduled). The course begins each day at 8:00 am (an example agenda is below).

**Cost:** It is *free* to all NCDOT & FHWA-NC personnel. Cost for the 3-day event is *\$375 for non-DOT attendees*. Lunches, light snacks and all course materials are provided.

**PDH's:** A personalized certificate with 21 Professional Development Hour's will be awarded to all participants who complete the entire course.

### **2006 Dates:**

Session 1: February 21-23 in New Bern  
Session 2: April 18-20 in Raleigh

Session 3: June 13-15 in Raleigh  
Session 4: August 8-10 in Raleigh

Note: A western NC course will be scheduled in November. No other Raleigh courses will be scheduled until 2007.



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**Session Agenda:**

<b>DAY 1</b>	
7:30-8:00 AM	Sign-in and Coffee
8:00 AM	Welcome and Self-Introductions
	Introduction to Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)
	Overview of CSS
	Quality of Life: Defining Context
	Lunch (provided)
	Transportation Decision-Making
	Communication and Collaboration
	Case Study Overview Exercise #1: Identifying Issues: Context Screening Tool and Class Discussion
5:00 PM	END
<b>Day 2</b>	
7:30-8:00 AM	Sign-in and Coffee
8:00 AM	Stakeholder Involvement Considerations
	Exercise #2: Identifying Stakeholders and Involvement Techniques
	Environmental Considerations
	Lunch (provided)
	Exercise #3: Problem Definition Consensus & Exercise #4: Project Vision Consensus
	Legal Benefits of CSS
	CSS Considerations in Construction, Operations, and Maintenance
5:00 PM	END
<b>DAY 3</b>	
7:30-8:00 AM	Sign-in and Coffee
8:00 AM	Engineering Considerations: Design Criteria
	Engineering Considerations: Exercising Design Flexibility
	Engineering Considerations: Thinking Beyond the Pavement
	<i>Exercise #5: Developing Evaluation Criteria/ Group Presentations</i>
	Lunch (provided)
	Exercise #6: Solution Consensus
	Class Presentations/Discussion on Solutions
	Course Summary
	Course Evaluations and Presentation of Certificates
4:00 PM	END

Note: Agenda sequence subject to change