What Is The Relationship Between ODOT's Sustainability Program And The Context Sensitive and Sustainable Solutions (CS³) Approach?

ODOT Sustainability Program

Context Sensitive and Sustainable Solutions (CS³) Approach

Background

Sustainability is defined by Oregon statute as "using, developing and protecting resources in a manner that enables people to meet current needs and provides that future generations can also meet future needs, from the joint perspective of environmental, economic and community objectives."

Sustainability is a uniquely broad and long-term concept that addresses quality of life and efficiency concerns. It takes into account both local and global views, applying a timeframe that considers costs and benefits over lifetimes rather than one- or two-year cycles.

Sustainability is gaining momentum at the state level as an important consideration for agency decision-making – both for internal state agency operations as well as the mission-related activities of agencies. Incorporating sustainability into decision-making can have positive effects for stakeholder relations, for the bottom line, and for the natural resources of the state.

ODOT's Sustainability Program will institutionalize the concept of sustainability over the long-term and create a structured framework in which sustainability initiatives are carried out. The Program aims to assist staff in carefully managing activities and assets, so we can sustain access to essential goods and services for all Oregonians, while supporting access to economic opportunities, transportation choices, livable communities, and healthy natural resources.

ODOT's innovative CS^3 approach was originally developed and implemented for the OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program. The 2006 Oregon Transportation Plan (OTP) calls for expanding the use of CS^3 by consistently applying it to transportation facility planning and design.

ODOT already incorporates context sensitive design (CSD) and context sensitive solutions (CSS) into project planning and delivery. Those two concepts include design flexibility, the use of interdisciplinary project teams, and the involvement of stakeholders to deliver projects that fit into their human and natural surroundings while maintaining safety and mobility. CS³ is a natural progression that brings together CSD and CSS and adds sustainability.

CS³ incorporates sustainability at the project level in a number of ways. Some of the most obvious include recycling and reuse of materials, use of renewable fuels such as biodiesel, and the conservation of resources. Other elements of CS³ such as maintaining mobility, promoting workforce development, and providing economic stimulus also support sustainability. In addition, CS³ promotes the optimization of a project over its life-cycle, which contributes to sustainability by reducing economic and environmental costs during the operation and maintenance of the facility.

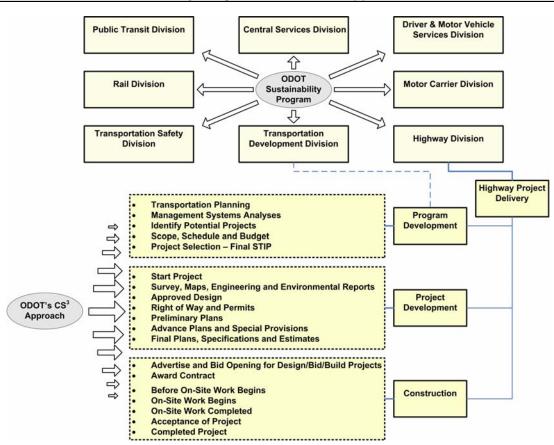
The CS³ approach requires the early involvement of internal and external stakeholders and an early understanding of issues during project development when there is maximum flexibility to address them in the planning and design.

Distinguishing Characteristics			
•	Relates to all Divisions (agency-wide)	•	Relates to Highway Division project planning and delivery
•	Operates at the organization/policy level	•	Operates primarily at the project level but also at the policy and program levels
•	Overseen by the Director's Office	•	Overseen by the Statewide Project Delivery Manager
•	Fulfills the requirements of Oregon statute ORS 184.421 and Executive Order 06-02, and helps ODOT do business more efficiently over the long-term	•	Fulfills the requirements of FHWA for context- sensitive solutions and the 2006 Oregon Transportation Plan
•	Supports Highway Division CS ³ initiatives	•	Supports ODOT Sustainability Program initiatives





The Scope of the ODOT Sustainability Program and the CS³ Approach



How CS³ Contributes to ODOT's Sustainability Efforts

