**Goal:** Deliver projects that harmonize transportation requirements and community values through effective decision-making and thoughtful design.

**Sustainability Linkage**
Implementing Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) supports all of the triple bottom line sustainability principles by ensuring that environmental resources, community values, and economic context of a project are all considered during project development.

**Background and Scoring Requirements**

**Background**

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) is defined as a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to provide a transportation facility that fits its setting. It is an approach that leads to preserving and enhancing scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and environmental resources, while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions.

Evidence should exist that the following principles of CSS were applied in the project development process through a formal CSS program or equivalent process that accomplishes the same principles. A public involvement process does not necessarily meet this criterion unless the public and other stakeholders are engaged in two-way communications that ultimately influence the vision and design of the project. For smaller projects that typically do not require involvement of many people, or direct management by stakeholders, this credit’s review and documentation process should be scaled accordingly.

**Scoring Requirements**

**Requirement PD-03.1**

2 points. Six Step Framework for CSS-based Project Development

Did the project development process generally follow the six-step CSS framework described in NCHRP report 480 at http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_480a.pdf and NCHRP report 642 at http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_642.pdf, or an equivalent process? NCHRP report 480 describes a general process for incorporating CSS at a project level:

1. Develop a decision-making process and management structure;
2. Define the problem;
3. Develop the project and the evaluation framework for the project;
4. Determine alternatives;
5. Screen the alternatives; and
6. Evaluate and select an alternative.
**Requirement PD-03.2**

1 point. Deployment of a Multi-disciplinary Team

Did the project development process feature a “cradle-to-grave,” project team that included planners, traffic engineers, public involvement specialists, design engineers, environmental experts, safety specialists, landscape architects, right-of-way staff, freight experts, construction engineers, and others to work on projects who worked together to achieve the desired CSS-based vision for the project?

**Requirement PD-03.3**

1 point. Creation of Public “Champions”

As a result of CSS-influenced project development process, were external “champions” for the project created in the affected community who were engaged and proactive in supporting it?

**Requirement PD-03.4**

1 point. Acceptance of Project-level “Problems, Opportunities, and Needs”

Was acceptance achieved among project stakeholders on the problems, opportunities, and needs that the project should address and the resulting vision or goals for addressing them?

**Scoring Sources**

The project is considered to have met this criterion if the requirements above can be reasonably substantiated through the existence of one or more of the following documentation sources (or equal where not available):

1. Documentation of the CSS or equivalent process applied on the project.