



CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS: WHAT IS IT?

- The Context Sensitive Solutions process is an approach based on the idea that transportation projects should consider the total “context” of their existence – not just the study’s physical boundaries. The I-70 Mountain Corridor Context Sensitive Solutions team will carefully consider the scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources that make the I-70 Mountain Corridor so unique and dynamic.
- The Federal Highway Administration defines Context Sensitive Solutions as: “a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility. Context Sensitive Solutions is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist. Context Sensitive Solutions principles include the employment of early, continuous and meaningful involvement of the public and all stakeholders throughout the project development process.”
- Partnering with mountain corridor communities and stakeholders, the I-70 Mountain Corridor CSS process will develop a guidance manual, historic context report and design guidelines that will be the framework for all current and future projects along the mountain corridor.
- Before any construction begins on mountain corridor projects, upcoming environmental studies will include context-sensitive planning in their process, including the West Vail Pass Environmental Assessment and other Tier 2 environmental studies.
- The Colorado Department of Transportation incorporates Context Sensitive Solutions in all transportation projects. Recent Colorado transportation projects that have used elements of context sensitive solutions in their planning processes include are the U.S. 24 Environmental Assessment in El Paso County and the New Pueblo Freeway Environmental Impact Statement. One of the notable, early products examples of a context sensitive solution is the design and construction of I-70 through Glenwood Canyon.