

Context Sensitive Design

**Wiehle Ave./Reston Parkway
Project Advisory Committee Meeting
January 16, 2007**

Context sensitive solutions (CSS) is 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. CSS is an approach that considers the total context within which a transportation improvement project will exist." -Federal Highway Administration

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Why Context Sensitive Design?

- Many roadway design guides tended to be “one-size” fits all (or at least that’s how they were interpreted in practice)
- The design of roadways affects how drivers perceive proper behavior
- Roadway design should encourage the behavior that is consistent with the environment in which the facility is located

Principles of Context Sensitive Design

- Context determines the priorities given different users of roadways and other public spaces
- Context determines the target speed for vehicle operations
- Context determines the appropriate design level-of-service for each mode

Context Sensitive Design

- The project **satisfies its purpose and needs** as agreed to by a wide range of constituents. This agreement is forged in the earliest phase of the project and amended as warranted as the project develops.
- The project is a **safe facility for users** of all ages and abilities as well as for the surrounding community.

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- The project meets **minimum design standards** for accessibility for people with disabilities and gives attention to universal design principles.
- The project is **in harmony with the community** and preserves environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, and built and natural resources of the area.

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- The project is well managed and involves **efficient and effective use of the resources** (time, budget, community) of all involved
- The project is designed and built with the **least possible disruption** to the community.
- The project is seen as having **added lasting value** to the community.

Roadway Design Features

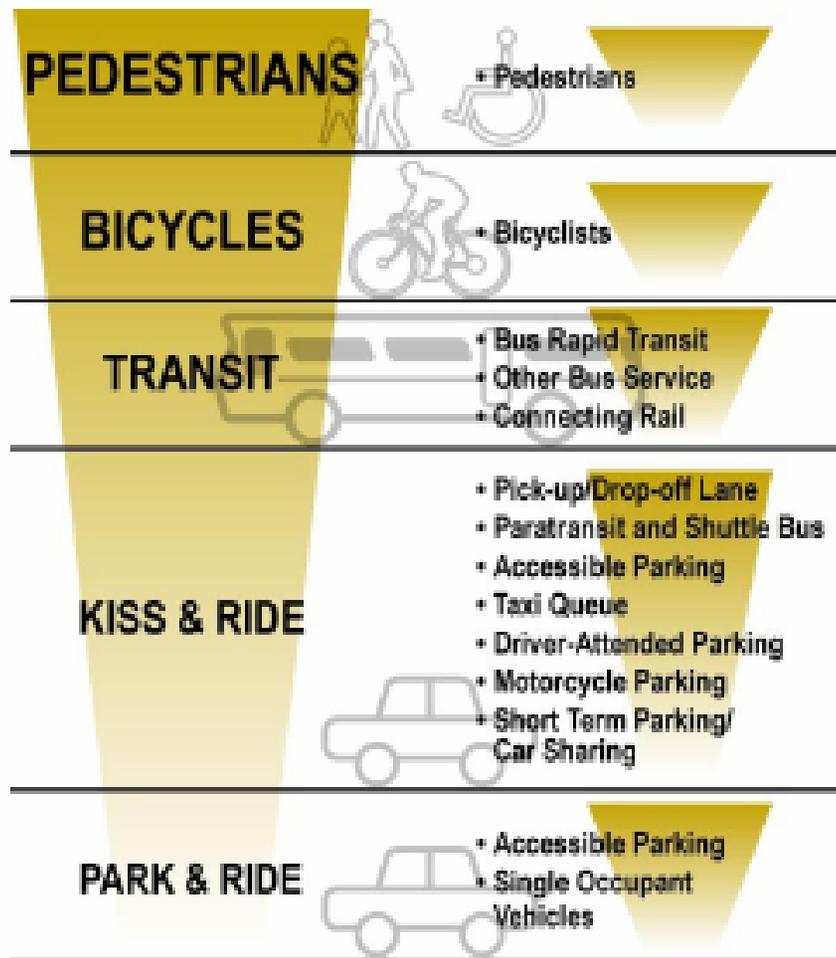
- Target Speed
- Lane Width
- Curb return (turning radius)
- Landscaping
- Sidewalk width
- Pedestrian Crossings

Context Sensitive Project Development

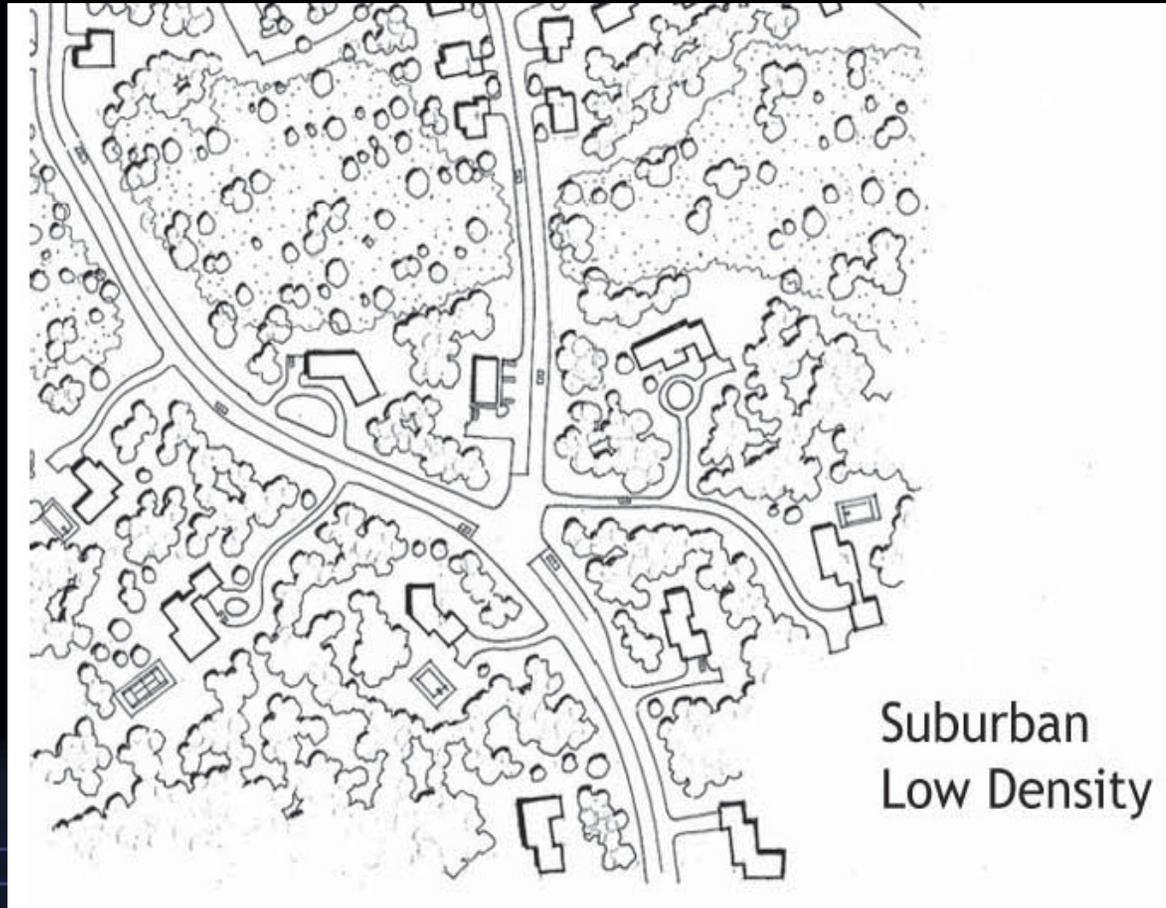
- **Early planning and evaluation** so that project needs, goals and objectives, issues, and impacts can be identified before significant resources are expended.
- Ensure context sensitivity through an **open, consensus-building dialog** with project constituents.
- Achieve **consistent expectations and understanding** between project proponents and those entities who evaluate and prioritize projects
- Facilitate efficient allocation of resources based on **pre-established project selection criteria** and consistency with local, regional, and statewide priorities.

WMATA Access Mode Priorities

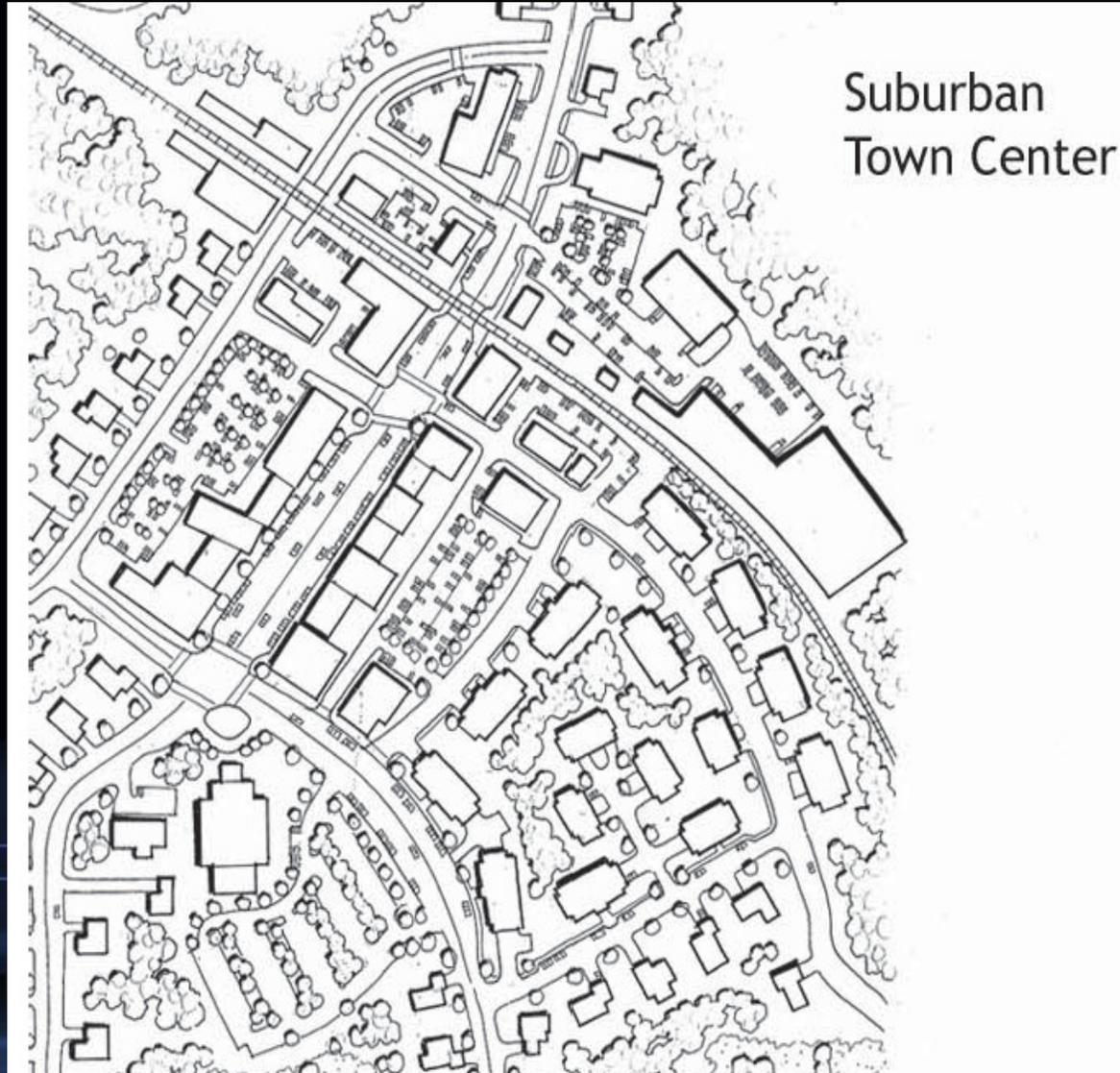
FIGURE 1-1: ACCESS HIERARCHY



Planning Contexts



Planning Contexts



Planning Contexts



Current Context



Current Context



Current Context



Current Context

