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APPROVED
Date: 10/14/2008

Submitted by: Chair of the Assembly at
the Request of the Mayor
Prepared by: Traffic Department/PM&E
For reading: October 14, 2008

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2008-237

1 A RESOLUTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ADOPTING THE
2 STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING CONTEXT SENSITIVE TRANSPORTATION
3 PROJECTS.
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6 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:**
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8 WHEREAS, The Municipality of Anchorage is desirous to develop
9 transportation projects that meet the community needs while recognizing and
10 working to minimize the impacts on the adjacent neighborhoods;
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12 WHEREAS, the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions
13 (AMATS) Policy Committee requested that staff develop a Context Sensitive
14 Design/Solutions (CSD/S) process to implement transportation projects;
15

16 WHEREAS, this Strategy for Developing Context Sensitive Transportation
17 projects was developed through a collaborative planning process involving staff,
18 residents and agency input; and
19

20 WHEREAS, a notice was published and a public hearing was held before
21 the Planning and Zoning Commission on February 11, 2008.
22

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE ANCHORAGE
24 ASSEMBLY THAT:
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26 **Section 1.** This Strategy for Context Sensitive Design of Transportation
27 projects will be actively put to use by the Municipality of Anchorage.
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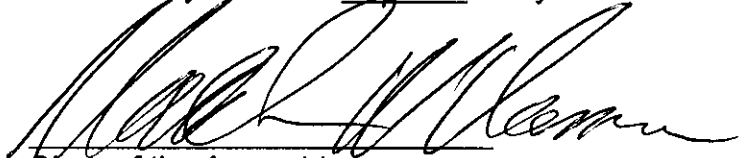
29 **Section 2.** The CSS policy will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning
30 Commission in one year for changes based upon project experience.
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32 **Section 3.** This process will identify the functional and design issues early in
33 the process and work to resolve them.
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35 **Section 4.** The Planning and Zoning Commission will serve as the adjudicating
36 body in cases where there are irreconcilable differences between the public and
37 the administration.

1 This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage and approval by the
2 Anchorage Assembly.

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4 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Assembly this 14th day of
5 October, 2008.

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9 
Chair of the Assembly

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11 ATTEST:

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15 Municipal Clerk



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM**

No. AM 641-2008

Meeting Date: October 14, 2008

FROM: Mayor

SUBJECT: MOA POLICY ON CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS.

The purpose of this memorandum is to request Assembly approval of Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) resolution AR 2008 adopting a MOA Policy on Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).

This recommended MOA, CSS Policy has been developed to implement improvements in our city-wide approach to transportation project design/implementation based upon the principles of CSS. The policy will initially be used on MOA transportation projects but, based upon anticipated results and additional staff training, could also be used later for other MOA projects dealing with facilities, parks etc. It should be noted this policy will not be applied to Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facility plans as they feel they already use the CSS model following the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures for their project work.

According to the FHWA:

Context Sensitive Solutions is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to project development, involving all stakeholders at the earliest phase, to ensure that transportation projects are in harmony with communities and preserve environmental, scenic, aesthetic, and historic resources while maintaining safety and mobility. It involves taking into consideration the land use and environment adjacent to the roadway when planning and designing a project so as to make the improvement blend in with the surrounding community.

This process has been implemented in many other areas throughout the country with positive results showing more efficient project development and community acceptance. In Anchorage, the goal of CSS is to provide a consistent project methodology resulting in better public input/understanding resulting in projects that meet the Anchorage community needs (Long Range Transportation Plan, Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan, etc.) and local area needs (traffic calming, landscaping, sidewalks, parking, etc.).

This CSS policy was cooperatively developed between staff and community activists who have provided a number of helpful comments. The policy includes many of the public comments which are shown in the attached Comment Summary and Response. This policy was reviewed and revised by the Planning and Zoning Commission and

recommended for Assembly adoption (Planning and Zoning Commission Resolution attached).

This CSS process will be administered by a dedicated MOA PM&E staff, who will provide early consistent project direction, public and staff CSS training and project oversight to the consultant community. The project activity costs for the CSS program will be funded similarly to other PM&E staff costs through project designated bond funds. Following the first year of active CSS projects, the process will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and changes implemented as appropriate.

THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2008.

Prepared by: Lance R. Wilber, Director, Traffic Department

Reviewed by: Jerry Hansen, Director, Project Management and Engineering

Concur: Michael K. Abbott, Municipal Manager

Respectfully submitted: Mark Begich, Mayor

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MuniMgrCoord_SubWorkflow	10/3/08 11:10 AM	Approve	Heather Handyside	Public	006801
MuniManager_SubWorkflow	10/3/08 10:39 AM	Approve	Michael Abbott	Public	006801
Traffic_SubWorkflow	9/23/08 10:23 AM	Approve	Lance Wilber	Public	006801
PME_SubWorkflow	9/17/08 1:51 PM	Approve	Jerry Hansen	Public	006801
OtherServicesAMWorkflow	9/17/08 9:20 AM	Checkin	Tammy Bascome	Public	006801