
APPENDIX E: CONTEXT SENSITIVE DESIGN **"Thinking Beyond the Pavement"**



APPENDIX "E"

Principles of Context Sensitive Design **Thinking Beyond the Pavement "Qualities and Characteristics"**

The following principles were presented at the 1998 workshop, *Thinking Beyond the Pavement: A National Workshop on Integrating Highway Development With Communities and the Environment*, held in Maryland. It provides an excellent overview of the principles behind context sensitive design and a recommended consideration when partaking in any project on or near the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail.

Qualities of Excellence in Transportation Design

- The project satisfies the purpose and needs as agreed to by a full range of stakeholders. 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 both the user and the community.
- The project is in harmony with the community, and it preserves environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, and natural resource values of the area, i.e., exhibits context sensitive design.
- The project exceeds the expectations of both designers and stakeholders and achieves a level of excellence in people's minds.
- The project involves efficient and effective use of the resources (time, budget, community) of all involved parties.
- The project is designed and built with minimal disruption to the community.
- The project is seen as having added lasting value to the community.

Characteristics of the Process Contributing to Excellence

- Communication with all stakeholders is open, honest, early, and continuous.
- A multidisciplinary team is established early, with disciplines based on the needs of the specific project, and with the inclusion of the public.
- A full range of stakeholders is involved with transportation officials in the scoping phase. The purposes of the project are clearly defined, and consensus on the scope is forged before proceeding.
- The highway development process is tailored to meet the circumstances. This process should examine multiple alternatives that will result in a consensus of approach methods.
- A commitment to the process from top agency officials and local leaders is secured.
- The public involvement process, which includes informal meetings, is tailored to the project.
- The landscape, the community, and valued resources are understood before engineering design is started.
- A full range of tools for communication about project alternatives is used (e.g., visualization).

The above information was taken from the Federal Highway Administration website.

For more information on this subject, visit: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/csd/qualities.htm>