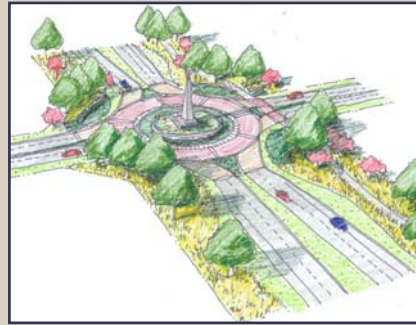


Consensus Building



CSD is about building partnerships, alliances, and consensus; however, this can be challenging and labor intensive. Oftentimes, conflicting goals and priorities are presented that have to be taken into consideration, but it is important to remain focused and respectful of the various issues. In order to address the issues, a multi-disciplinary team, including

the public, a full range of stakeholders, and commitment from top agency officials and local leaders, was established to lead the Mack Hatcher Parkway development process through open, honest, and continuous communication.

TDOT and the City of Franklin, along with local stakeholders, partnered to guide the CSD process and develop design recommendations for the MHP extension and the existing MHP. The consulting team, led by Wilbur Smith Associates (with assistance from Hawkins Partners, Inc., served as facilitators to the CSD process and provided the necessary tools for the Citizen Design Team (CDT) and Agency Resource Team (ART) to make informed decisions on potential design solutions for MHP. Before making design recommendations to the CDT, the consulting team listened carefully so the recommendations corresponded to the team's vision of a fully integrated transportation facility.

The CSD process requires a commitment to a public involvement process that solicits and values public input and gives proper consideration to that input during the decision making process. This process includes development of communication tools to create public awareness and achieve meaningful public input regarding the study issues and corridor needs. The process was tailored to suit the issues, impacts, and communication style of the Franklin area. The process assessment led to the creation of a vision statement that provided the image for the finished product. Once the vision had been established, everyone involved worked to see that this vision was realized by organizing goals and objectives that will accomplish the ultimate goal of a fully integrated transportation system. Finally, consensus was built based upon these goals and objectives and established the basis for the final design recommendations.



## Mack Hatcher Parkway CSD

On the forefront of transportation project delivery, Context Sensitive Design (CSD) is relatively new to the state of Tennessee. The Mack Hatcher Parkway (State Route 397) extension in Franklin, Tennessee, is a unique project on which the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has utilized the



CSD process to develop a roadway that complements its surroundings. This milestone project

functions with interdependent stakeholders working together as a team to realize a vision for future improvements to Mack Hatcher Parkway and the Franklin community.

The State Route 397 Mack Hatcher Parkway (MHP) project team has evaluated possible context sensitive design solutions for the widening of existing sections of MHP and for a new western extension in Franklin, Tennessee. CSD seeks to balance the goals of safety and mobility with the preservation and enhancement of aesthetic, historic, environmental, and community values. The design team, led by Wilbur Smith Associates (WSA), has worked closely with TDOT to develop an effective Context Sensitive Design process in order to realize these goals and values.

Through close coordination with TDOT, the City of Franklin, Williamson County, and other agencies, this project



has evaluated a range of appropriate ideas in order to develop design recommendations for the improved Mack Hatcher Parkway by utilizing CSD. Key elements of the CSD process include safety and mobility, an extensive public involvement process, roadway enhancement and aesthetics, contextual understanding, and constructability.

***CSD seeks to minimize and alleviate disruption of historically significant sites, commercial and residential areas, and the natural landscape.***

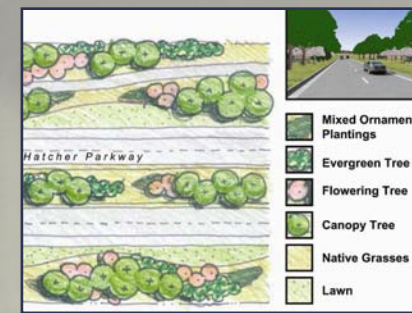
Immersed in history and culture, while maintaining a contemporary appeal, the Franklin locale is distinct and merits a process that seeks to protect these attractive qualities. Franklin is a very special place and the CSD process makes every effort to ensure that the new roadway enhances this fact.

There are many benefits to using the CSD process, including promoting public acceptance, trust, and support by building positive

## Mack Hatcher Parkway CSD

relationships with stakeholders. The CSD process is proactive as opposed to being reactive, which makes for prompt and lasting decisions, improves project delivery and cost effectiveness, and creates better facilities for the community. It works to maintain an important balance point between region, user, community, and environment

CSD provides a sensitive design approach that is important to



the MHP project because of the existing environment surrounding the roadway. CSD seeks to minimize and alleviate disruption of historically significant sites, commercial and residential areas, and the natural landscape. Building an extension that is compatible with the existing portion of MHP is another reason

CSD is important to this project. The proposed extension and improved existing segments should complement one another, resulting in a consistent MHP once all segments are completed.

The goal of the MHP Context Sensitive Design process is to create an aesthetically pleasing roadway that fits into its environment. This is not only the desired outcome of the project established by those involved, but there is legal precedence and an authoritative basis for context sensitivity in transportation mandated by several Federal acts. This illustrates the importance of contextual understanding and awareness of the MHP environment.

Including local stakeholders and involving the community of Franklin in the design process is central to understanding the importance of the context of MHP. The people that use the roadway every day understand the effects the roadway will have on their neighborhoods. A “one-size-fits-all” approach to transportation design contradicts CSD and will not serve the needs of Franklin and its residents. MHP should agree with its environment and enhance Franklin’s sense of place.



***CSD is about building partnerships, alliances, and consensus...***