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Understanding Context



Managing Effective Public Participation

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February 20-21, 2007



What Is Quality of Life?





Signs of Successful Community

- Active, vital, special uses and activities
- Safe, historic, attractive, environmentally sensitive
- Walkable, accessible, connected
- Neighborliness, socializing

Source: Project for Public Spaces



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To Build Quality of Life, You Must:

- Understand the character of the **PLACE** you are working in and the **PEOPLE** you are working with.
- Understand the type of **COMMUNITY** these people want to live in.
- Then design to accomplish that goal.

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Transportation

Means (tool) to
an end – not the
end itself.



Mn/DOT's SIX PRINCIPLES

Balance

Interdisciplinary
Team

All Modes



Public Involvement

Aesthetics

Design Flexibility



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Principles of CSD/S

- 1. Balance safety, mobility, community and environmental goals in all projects.**



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Interstate 35 - Duluth, MN



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Principles of CSD/S

2. Involve the public and affected agencies early and continuously.



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Public Participation

LISTEN

Public participation is two-way communication.

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Understand Different Points of View

- “This is an arterial highway with some houses alongside.” – *Transportation Professional*
- “This is a big busy street that runs through our neighborhood where people drive too fast.” – *Resident*

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Public Participation

BE HONEST

Public participation without integrity is worse than no public participation at all.

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Public Participation

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

Believe in involving the public and
treat everyone with respect - no matter
what.

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Public Participation

BUILD OWNERSHIP

“I became a team player because I was on the team.”

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Principles of CSD/S

3. Use an interdisciplinary team tailored to project needs.



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TH 61 - Gooseberry Falls



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TH 61 - Gooseberry Falls



Principles of CSD/S

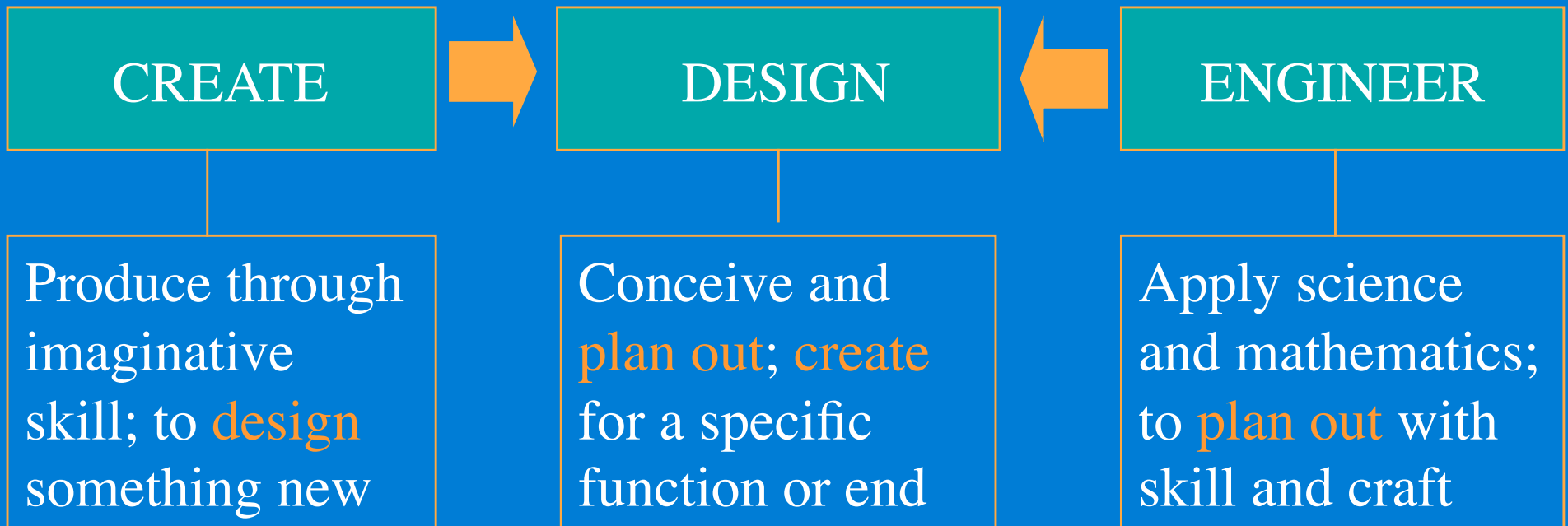
4. Apply flexibility inherent in design standards.



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CSD/S is firmly rooted in good **design**

(Values change by minute degrees)



Source: Webster's Dictionary

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Opportunities for Flexibility

- Network
- Alignment
- Roadway Cross Section
- Intersections and Interchanges

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Walk In Their Shoes



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Place Characteristics: Land Uses



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Principles of CSD/S

6. Incorporate aesthetics as an integral part of good design.



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First Step Is Understanding Context

- Identify physical, environmental, social, cultural, aesthetic and transportation elements early
- Understand community values before beginning design – walk in their shoes
- Plan the “experience”
- Try to design from building front IN, not centerline OUT

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Environmental Context



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Yellowstone National Park - WY



Historic Context



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Paris Pike - Kentucky



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Architectural Context



Social Context



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Little Fork River Bridge – Hwy 65



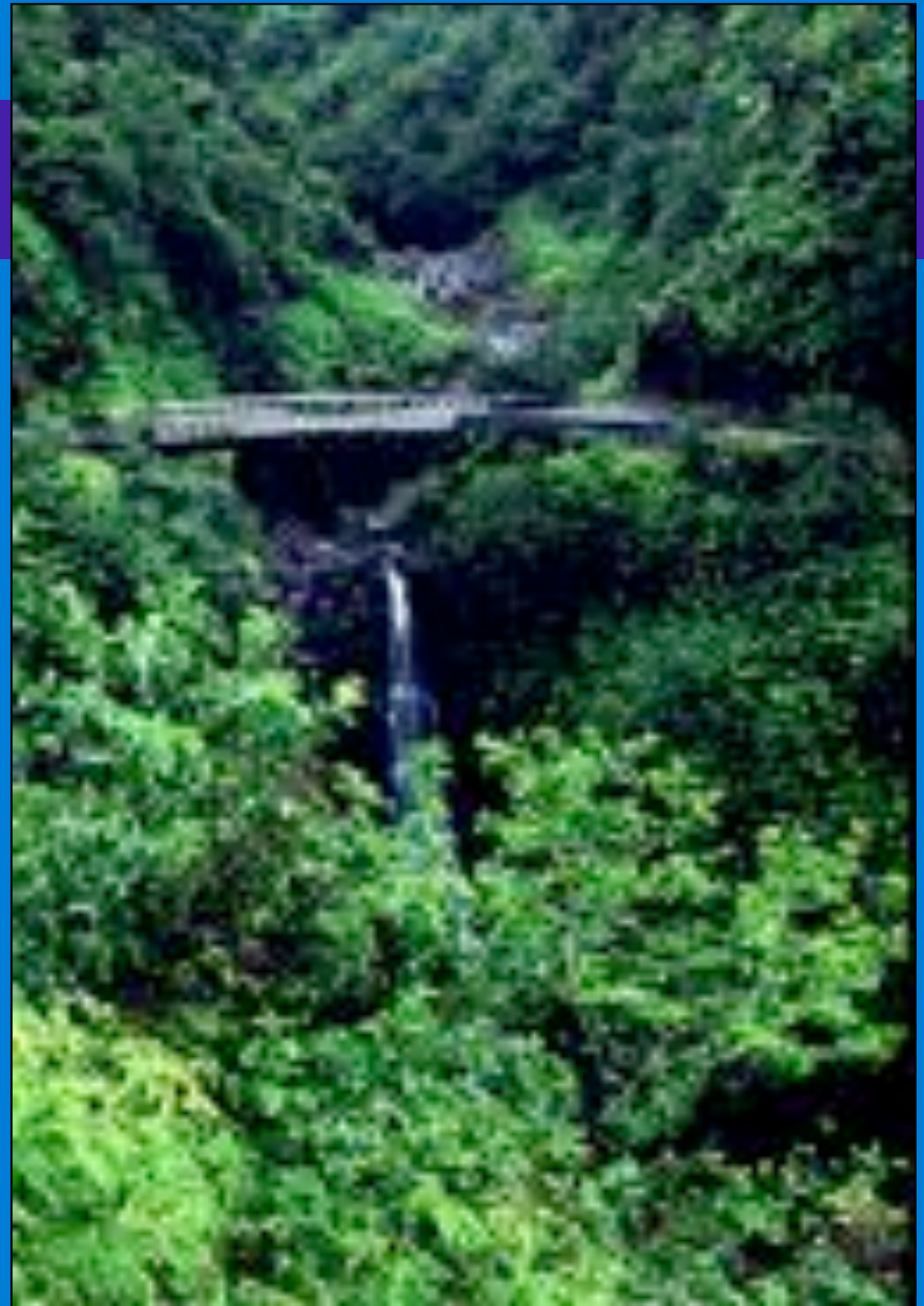
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What Is the Context? Who Are Stakeholders?



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What Is the
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Who Are the
Stakeholders?



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What Is the Context? Who Are Stakeholders?



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What Is the Context? Who Are the Stakeholders?



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What Is the Context? Who Are the Stakeholders?



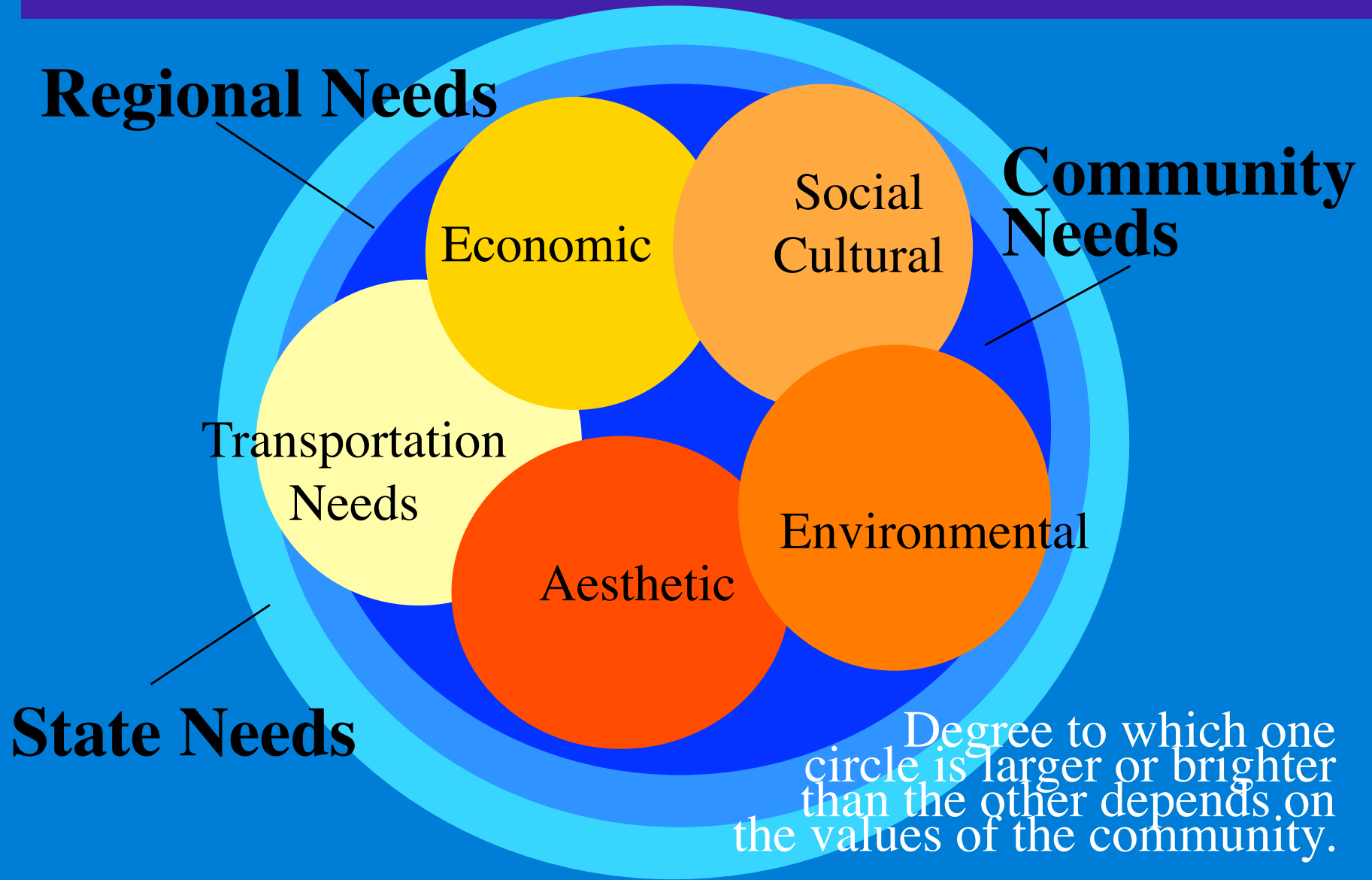
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Some Things to Remember



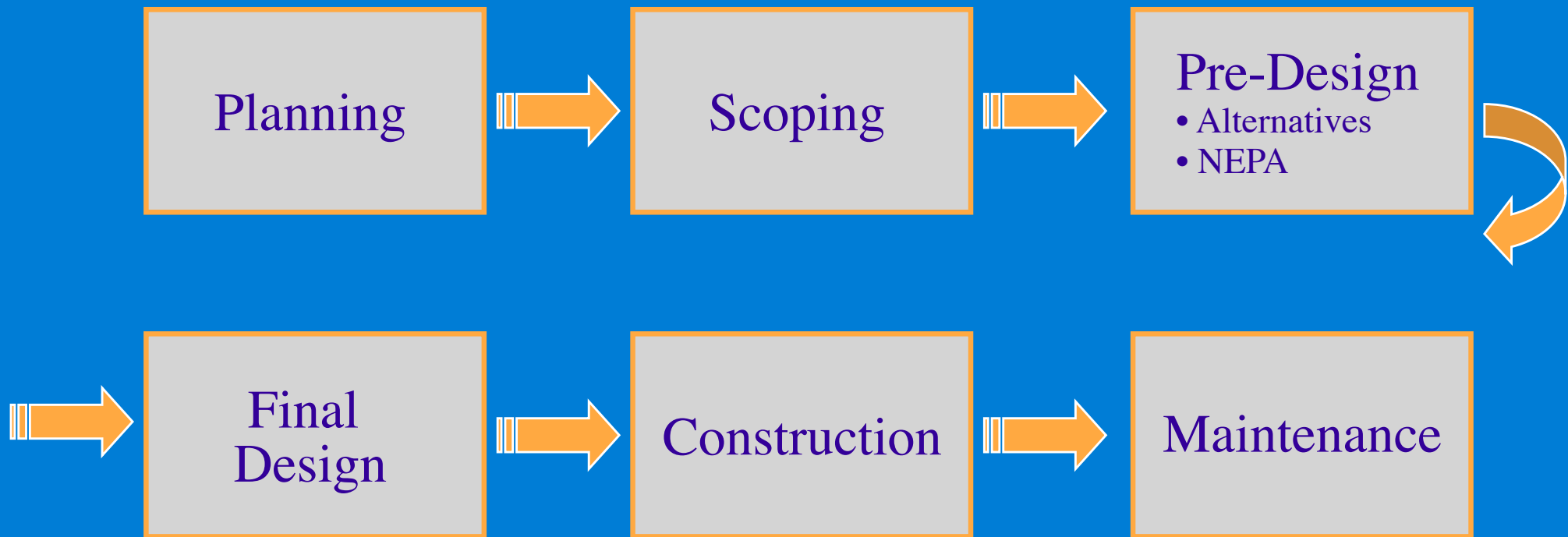
CSD/S Is About Building Better Communities

CSD/S Is About Balance



CSD/S Affects All Steps

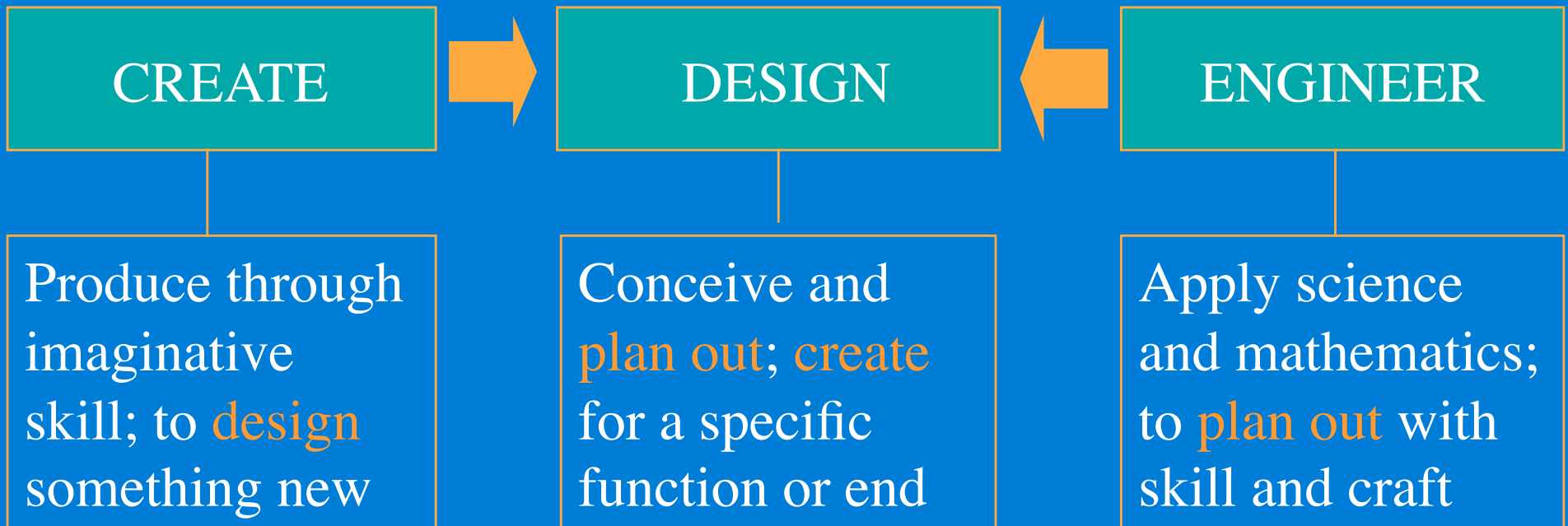
in Project Development Process



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CSD/S is firmly rooted in good **design**

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Source: Webster's Dictionary

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Project Objectives



Must Reflect Community Values

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P2 & CSD/S Are Intertwined

You can't do context sensitive design without good public participation.

You can't do good public participation without the tools and approach of context sensitive design.

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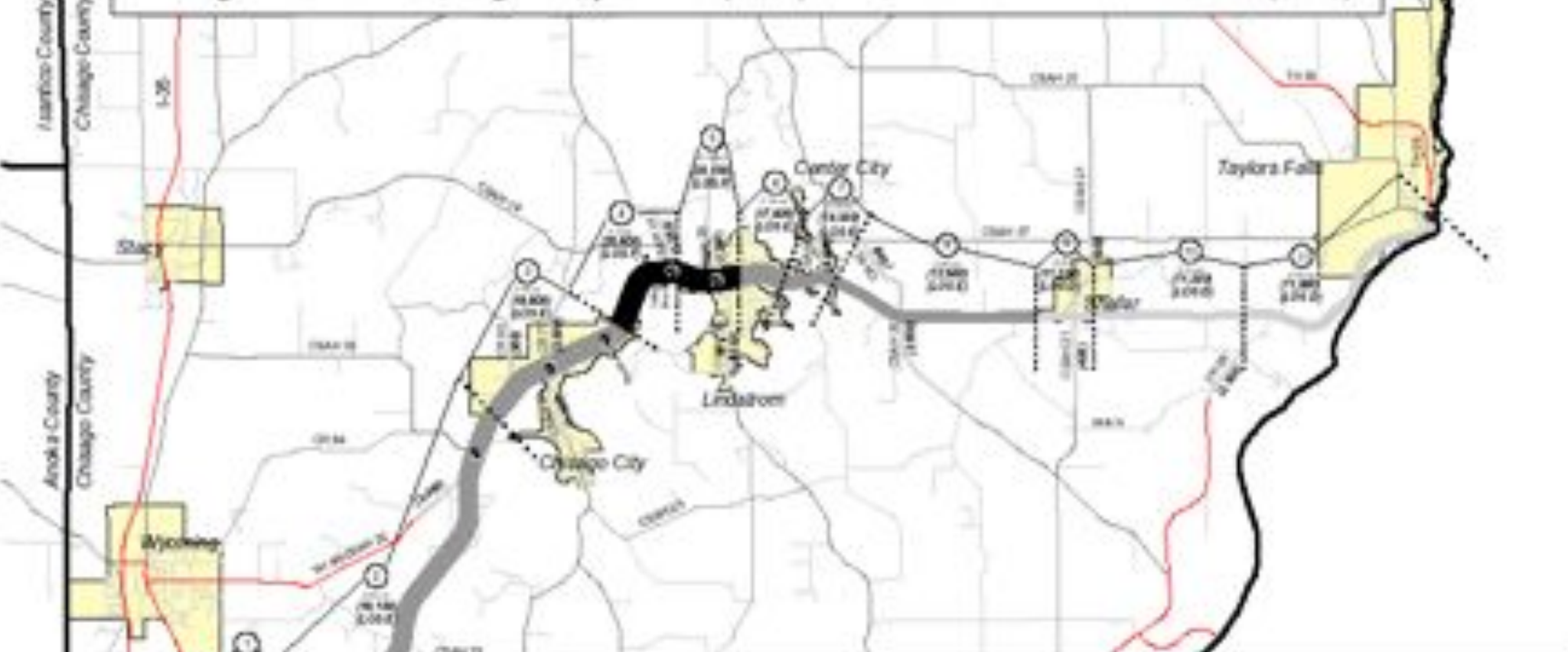
Questions?

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Case Study: TH 8 - Lindstrom



Existing Year 2000 Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volumes and Level of Service (LOS)



Legend

- Signalized Intersections
- ~ Segment Boundaries
- Trunk Highways
- CSAN Highways
- County Roads
- Township Roads
- City Streets
- Municipal Boundaries

ADT Bandwidth

- 18,000 or more vehicles per day
- 15,500 - 18,000 vehicles per day
- 12,000 - 15,500 vehicles per day
- 8,000 - 12,000 vehicles per day
- less than 8,000 vehicles per day

Level of Service (LOS)

- LOS A - D
- LOS E
- LOS F

Scale: 0 1 2 Miles

Source: Illinois Department of Transportation and ITRR, Inc.



Figure 12: Existing 2006 TH 8 Wednesday (Wednesday) Travel Patterns (7:00am-7:00pm; July, 2008)









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Case Study: Keep in Mind

Real Life Project

- Not yet built
- Some facts may have been changed to simplify the case study
- Limited data provided to keep focus on design process
- Results are for learning purposes only