



Scenic America

Model State Law to Foster Context Sensitive Highway Design (Context Sensitive Solutions) on America's State and Local Roads and Streets

Prepared by Scenic America

Scenic America proposes that states adopt model language to foster context-sensitive highway design on state and local roads and streets throughout the nation. We have taken language from both Connecticut Public Act No. 98-118, and from Section 304 of the National Highway System Act of 1995, adding some original text to make clear the legislative intent.

PUBLIC ACT NO. _____
AN ACT CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE DESIGN CRITERIA
FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES

It is the intent of the Legislature to encourage the highest quality design to ensure that road and bridge projects adequately meet our transportation needs, exist in harmony with their surroundings, and add lasting value to the communities they serve.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

a) On or before _____ date _____, the Commissioner of Transportation shall establish new design criteria to govern new construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, restoration, or rehabilitation of bridges, principal and minor arterial roads, collector roads and local roads and streets. The criteria shall take into account:

- 1) safety, durability, and economy of maintenance;
- 2) the constructed and natural environment of the area;
- 3) the environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and preservation impacts of the activity; and
- 4) access for other modes of transportation, including those that promote physically active communities.

b) In establishing the criteria required under subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner shall solicit and consider the views of chief elected officials and

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organizations including, but not limited to: those with expertise in environmental protection, historic preservation, scenic conservation, bicycle and pedestrian transportation, as well as regional councils of governments, rural development councils, the state council on the arts, the Federal Highway Administration and (add other categories as appropriate).

Certified as correct by:

Legislative Commissioner

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House

Approved _____, 20____

_____ Governor, State of _____