

NCHRP 20-68 – “US Domestic Scan Program”

Domestic Scan 21-02 “Leading Approaches to Implementing Context-Based Classification of Roadways in Planning and Design”

The recently released 7th edition of the AASHTO “A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets (Green Book)” introduced the concept of context-based classification of roadways, intended to ensure that roadway designs are appropriate for the settings in which they are built and operated. The new guidance introduced a broader set of land-use context classifications (including rural, rural town, suburban, urban, and urban core) to better match design solutions to specific contexts and provide flexibility in developing project scopes with traditional functional classifications of roadways (local roads and streets, collectors, arterials, and freeways).

The Green Book does not present specific methodologies or parameters for applying the new context classifications. Some agencies seeking to take advantage of the flexibility made possible by these new classifications (for example Florida, New York, Connecticut, and the State of Washington) have implemented context classification in their own design guidance. The objective of the scan is to describe the experiences gained in such leading states and lessons learned that may be valuable to others who have not yet implemented context-based classification.

The scan will investigate a number of key questions:

- In developing a project when is context classification determined?
- Is Context Classification of roadways be done on a state-wide, corridor, or project basis?
- What factors are considered in defining the context of a particular roadway?
- Is context based on current or anticipated future conditions?
- What agency staff is involved in context classification decision making?
- What criteria is used for design exceptions within the determined context classification?
- What flexibility in design do designers have for differing context classifications?
- How are multi-modal considerations (e.g., bike-ped, transit) incorporated in projects?
- Does Context Classifications allow the flexibility for seasonal or special events? (e.g., outside dining, seasonal tourism sites, festivals)?

The scan is planned to be conducted as a virtual peer exchange (Type 4 Scan). In addition to providing an opportunity to document and compare how leading states have implemented Context-Based Classification within their jurisdictions, the scan should encourage a more uniform implementation of guidance across the country and allow for a common language to develop nationwide, promoting greater cooperation and sharing among practitioners. The scan also will provide information for the AASHTO Committee on Design to consider in the development of the next version of the Green Book.

Original Scan Proposal Title: Implementation of Context Classification of Roadways

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Classification of Roadways in Planning and Design”**

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Activity	Planning Milestones (minimum months prior to scan)	Tentative Schedule - Scan # 21-02
		Leading Approaches to Implementing Context-Based Classification of Roadways in Planning and Design
Chairs and Team Members Identified	D-5.5	May – July 2021
SME Selected	D-5	July – August 2021
Desk Scan Completed	D-3.5	September 2021
Organizational Meeting Held	D-3.5	September 2021
Host States Confirmed	D-3	October 2021
Draft Agenda for Virtual Scan Drafted and Confirmed	D-.75	December 2021
Briefing Materials Distributed	D-.25	December 2021
Prescan Conference Call Held	D-.25	December 2021
Scan Conducted	D	January 2022
Thank You Letters Sent to Hosts	D+.25	January 2022
Draft PowerPoint submitted by SME	D+.5	January 2022
Final PowerPoint Submitted by SME	D+1	February 2022
Draft Report Delivered to NCHRP and Panel	D+3	April 2022
Final Report Delivered to NCHRP	D+5	June 2022