

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 372(TRA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/19/08

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE BUCH

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to highway design; and providing for an effective date."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 *** Section 1.** AS 19.10.160 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

4 (c) In applying the standards described in (a) of this section, the department
5 shall establish a design process for use during the design of highway projects that
6 ensures projects are consistent with the principles used by the Federal Highway
7 Administration under its Context Sensitive Solutions program. In establishing a design
8 process described in this subsection, the department shall take steps to ensure early
9 and ongoing collaboration with affected citizens, elected officials, interest groups, and
10 other stakeholders in a project, and shall consider the following factors:

11 (1) safety, durability, and economy of maintenance;

12 (2) the constructed and natural environment of the area;

13 (3) community development plans and relevant municipal ordinances;

14 (4) sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places or identified

15 by the Alaska Historical Commission established under AS 41.35.300;

1 (5) the environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and
2 preservation effects of the activity;

3 (6) access for other modes of transportation, including bicycle and
4 pedestrian transportation;

5 (7) access to and integration of sites considered culturally and
6 historically significant to the communities affected;

7 (8) acceptable engineering practices and standards; and

8 (9) safety studies and other pertinent research.

9 (d) In carrying out the design process described in (c) of this section, the
10 commissioner may

11 (1) consult with affected citizens, elected officials, interest groups, and
12 other stakeholders appropriate for a particular project; and

13 (2) scale the process commensurate with the scope, complexity, and
14 effect of the project.

15 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
16 read:

17 **REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.** The Department of Transportation and
18 Public Facilities shall review the design process set out in AS 19.10.160(c), as enacted by sec.
19 1 of this Act, and the effect of the Context Sensitive Solutions program on the state, and
20 submit a report to the legislature not later than January 1, 2011. The report must include

21 (1) a summary of the training opportunities offered by the Federal Highway
22 Administration of which the department's employees have taken advantage;

23 (2) an evaluation of interdepartmental relations as they relate to the amended
24 guidelines, as well as public safety, traffic control, and environmental concerns; and

25 (3) a review of the design process in the state with a recommendation for
26 eliminating or modifying elements that will conflict with or obstruct the implementation of
27 the Context Sensitive Solutions best practices model.

28 * **Sec. 3.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
29 read:

30 **APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this Act apply only to projects that begin on or
31 after the effective date of this Act.

1 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2009.