I-35 CENTRAL AUSTIN | COMMUNITY FACING AESTHETIC ELEMENTS

The following elements have been identified as community focused aesthetic opportunities within the I-35 Central Austin corridor. The images are intended to depict different design approach examples and are not focused on site specific design. The images below are a sample of ideas that could be applied to the various elements.

- **Retaining Walls**
- **District Identifier**
- **Shade Structures**
- **Tree Planters**
- **Corner Treatments**
- **Site Furniture**
- **Landscape**
- **Bridge Railing**
- **Gateway Features**
- **Under Bridge**
- **Bike Lanes / SUP**
- **Sound Walls**
- **Artwork / Panels**
- **Lighting**
- **Concrete Colors**
- **Intersection Treatments**
- **Hardscape**
- **Fencing**

Bridge Railing (Beyond Clear Zone)

Example of artistic bridge railing, using color to add visual interest during the day and using light to add interest at night. It adds color and design to an otherwise plain concrete bridge. Patterns and colors can compliment the character of the area.

Custom bridge railings provide an opportunity for public art by adding play of color with lighting, elevating the sense of visual interest to the area.

Custom bridge railings with openings allows for more views and decorative opportunities. These can be provided if crash rated barrier is not required.

Decorative bridge railing with or without lighting can provide safety and a unique and engaging visual experience that enhances the character of the area.

Locations: E/W Bridges & intersection treatments

Hardscape

Organic or curvilinear designs created with colored concrete can transform a dull slab of grey concrete into a work of art.

Concrete pavers can be used to create various patterns with colors and textures adding landscape design appeal.

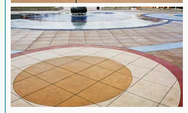
Unique paving patterns can impact the experience of a space, making it more inviting.

A variety of hardscape materials, color, and patterns can be used to soften the look of a paved areas such as sidewalks, street intersections, shared-use paths, etc.

Locations: Bridge decks and intersection treatments

Concrete

Integral colored concrete provides opportunity for various shades of color and it is more durable than stained and painted concrete.



Concrete stains and paints provide a large variety of color options, but require more maintenance than integral color.

Decorative concrete topping offers deep colors and consistent colors with opportunities to blend with other aggregates like various rocks, glass or shells.

Colored concrete can be used as a corridor treatment along the length of bike lanes, or spot treatments such as the corners at an intersection, or plazas to add visual interest to the area.

Locations: Bridge decks and intersection treatments

Tree Planters

Larger curvilinear cast stone planters offers seating for the public and space for planting.

Linear integrated planters and bench seating.

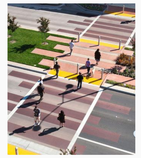
Tree planters are a long-lasting environmentally friendly investment. They can also provide seating and contribute to the character of the area with the use of different designs, materials and colors.

Locations: Bridge decks and intersection treatments

Intersections Treatments

Thermoplastic paint provides opportunity for a pop of color and unique designs.

Colored concrete highlights important intersections and gives a visual cue for drivers to slow down.



Colored concrete can be used at crosswalks to complement the aesthetics of the area while increasing safety for pedestrians.

Decorative crosswalks and intersection treatments can create visual interest and add to the safety of pedestrians by making them more prominent through the use of a variety of patterns, colors, and textures.

Locations: Crosswalks

Landscape

Flowering plants enhance the pedestrian experience with color and variety. The planting zone also adds a buffer from the street, helping the pedestrian feel safer.

Artificial grass added on bridge structures where soil and real plants may not be viable enhance the surrounding area by softening the look of concrete.

Large linear bands of native plantings with repetitive patterns create visual interest and that are easily visible from approaching vehicles.

Landscape design of spaces is essential for the physical, social, and economic health of the city. The use of planting materials, patterns and textures, enhances the pedestrian experience. Landscaping It helps combat toxicity from pollutants, especially in urban areas such as the neighborhoods along I-35.

Locations: E/W Bridges and intersection treatments, R.O.W

Lighting

Traffic lighting with custom, artistic elements add color, vibrancy, and an element of repetitiveness that enhances the corridor and area.

Stand alone light elements can be designed in unique shapes, sizes, and various colors to complement the public spaces.

Overhead pedestrian scale lighting can be integrated with other elements, such as tree planters as seen in the above image.

Lighting along SUPs can help identify pedestrian areas and increase safety in a subtle or dramatic way. It can provide an opportunities for unique design reflective of the neighborhood character.

Locations: E/W Bridges and intersection treatments

Bike Lanes / Shared-Use Path (SUP)

Separated bikes lanes with landscaped buffers increase pedestrian safety and highly encourages use of SUPs.

SUPs can provide pedestrian exclusive areas enhanced with landscaped areas and varying walkway material to add interest and visual variety.

Using color to identify the bike lanes increases safety and visual awareness.

Bike lanes and SUPs can help take cars off the road if design correctly . Wider, protected/ buffered, painted, well connected and providing adequate supporting facilities all play a significant role in improving bike lanes.

Locations: Bikelanes / SUP's

Shade Structures

Shade structure should be place strategically at high pedestrian areas for maximum effectiveness.

Clustered shade structures can provide interesting patterns both by the structure itself and the shadows.

Solar shade structures provide an opportunity to generate renewable energy and provide shade.

Shade structures can create visually enhancing structures that can draw people into a more comfortable space or path while providing practical solutions for solar and rain protection.

Locations: Bridge Decks and intersection treatments

Fencing

Metal blade fencing represents a more simple and modern look.

Fine wire fencing can be used in areas that are more traditional in character

Perforated and cut metal panel fencing provi des endless possibilities for designs.

Metal fencing provide a solution to separate areas and provide safety for pedestrians . They can also provide opportunity for art.

Locations: TxDOT R.O.W

Artwork / Panels

Murals present an opportunity to tell about the history, heritage, and unique character of the area/ neighborhood. Integrated lighting helps with the visibility of the art piece at night and enhances the safety of pedestrians.

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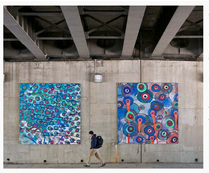
Art panels representing history of a place.

Public artwork is a defining visual elements of cities. It can adds to the character and vibrancy of neighborhoods. It is often a reflection of the cultural, historic, and unique character of the area.

Locations: Bridge Decks / TxDOT R.O.W

Underbridge



Artwork can be added to the traditional under bridge walls to create a more friendly pedestrian experience and a visual cue to slow vehicles.

Colorful and artistic lighting creates an inviting space for pedestrians and opportunities for night markets and events.

Medallions applied to the interstate side of the under bridge helps identify the district or neighborhood of the above cross street and celebrate the culture and history of the area.

Underbridges are areas of opportunity for enhancing the pedestrian/bicyclist or vehicular experience with lights, art, designs, and events, where appropriate.

Locations: Underbridges

Sound Walls

Sound wall depicting flora and fauna of the region with concrete patterning and colors add visual interest and experience of the area.

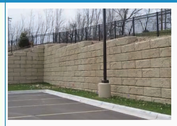
Sound wall depicting history or culture of the region with concrete paints and stains serves as an educational element of the area.

Sound walls can be transparent to see through to the adjacent communities. Options include being colored or clear.

Design on sounds walls can provide interest to an otherwise blank wall. The patterns and designs can raise awareness of the local identiy.

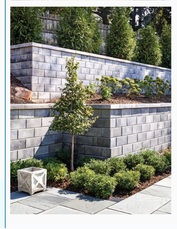
Locations: Along TxDOT ROW
(The final decision to construct any proposed noise walls would be in accordance with TxDOT's Traffic Noise Policy, which has been written in accordance with 23 CFR 772.)

Retaining Walls



Concrete block walls with stone appearance shows a different scale or size of stone blocks that can be used for retaining walls.

Natural stone look on concrete is a more rustic look and reflective of the natural materials of the region.



Concrete block wall with cap offers an more traditional look and feel for retaining walls.

Retaining walls are not only a structural solution to retaining soil for a slope, but they also offer an opportunity for aesthetic treatments through the use of materials, type of wall, color, design, and patterns.

Locations: TxDOT ROW at intersection treatments

Corner Treatments

Shared-use path connections can highlight key intersections by beautifying them with landscaping, art, lighting, seating, and signage.

Enhanced landscape at intersections can soften corners and create a safer and more inviting pedestrian space.

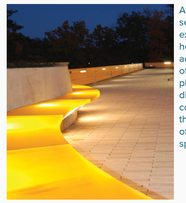
Depending on the context of the area, corner treatments at intersections can provide an opportunity for rest for pedestrians and bicyclists. They can be purposefully designed to provide amenities including: signage, public art, landscaping, trash receptacles, seating, wayfinding, and specialty lighting. The are also an opportunity to celebrate the culture or history or a place through various design treatments.

Locations: TxDOT ROW at intersection treatments

Site Furniture

Stand alone sculptures can be made of various types of materials for seating.

Seating can also be integrated with the landscaped areas and be constructed with materials that make them more inviting.



Adding lighting to seating areas extends the hours of use by adding a sense of safety . The play with different lighting colors adds to the visual interest of the public space.

Site furniture that is accessible, well-maintained, comfortable, and located in the adequate places is essential to creating successful public areas. Seating can be part of public art, integrated with the landscape , or stand alone sculptures. The cultural character of the area can be expressed through site furniture.

Locations: Bridge Deck /Trailheads

District Identifier / Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage can features significant people, history, and culture, etc. They are placed at tourist destinations, walking trails, or heritage site.

Signage can be designed with various types of materials that best complement the surrounding character of the area.

Signage integrated into the pavement also serves as an art piece to enhance the area.

Interpretive signage and district markers can encourage pedestrians and bicyclists to explore and learn about new areas, provide a seamless travel experience from one destination to the next, and help them orient themselves. It can also increase active transportation by providing a clear and attractive network that is easy to read and understand.

Locations: Bridge Deck /TxDOT R.O.W