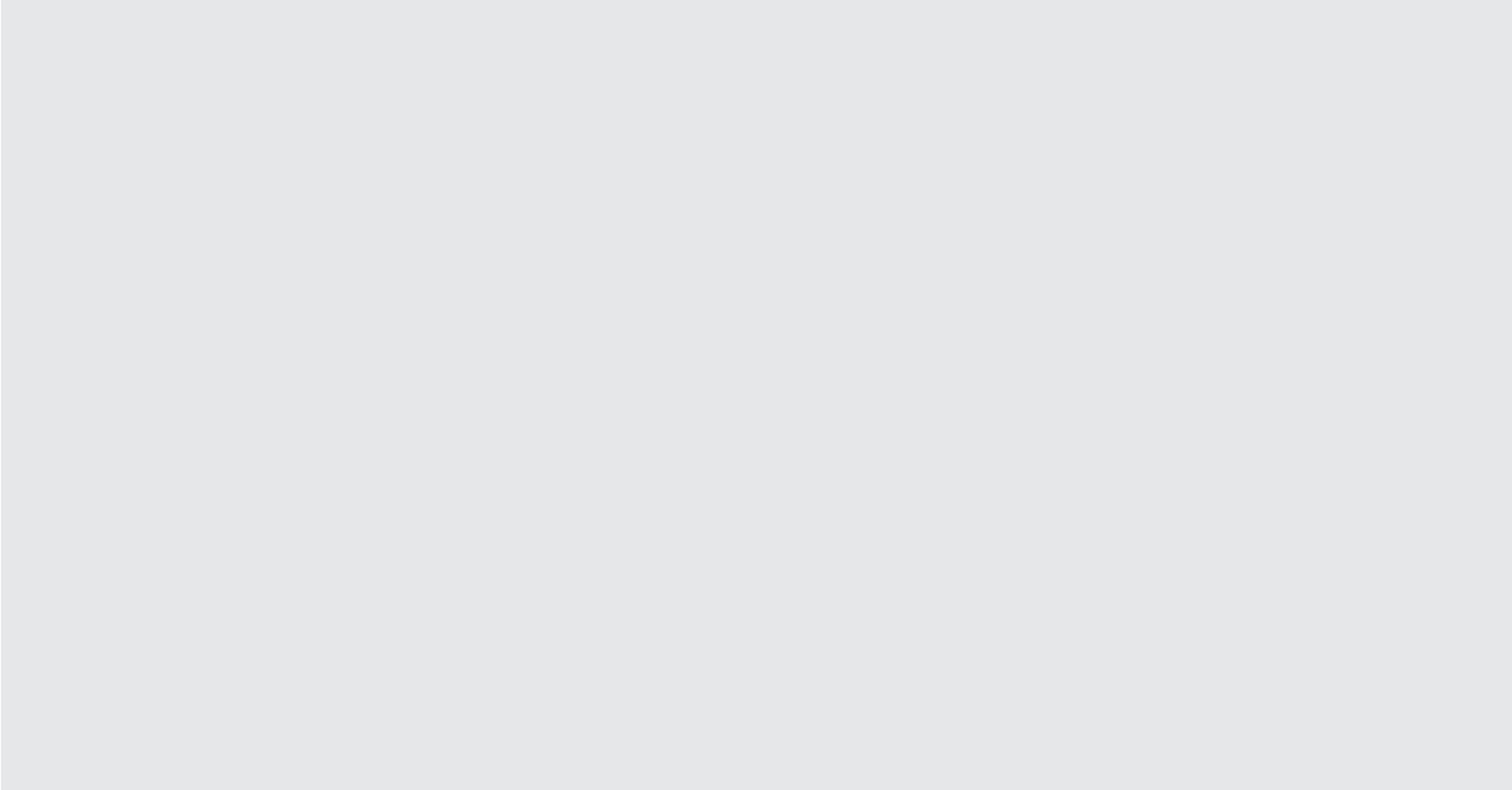


**APPENDIX B**  
**DESIGN ADVISORY GROUP**  
**MEETING NOTES**



# DAG Process



In order to design roadway facilities that fit within their unique contexts and meet the needs of the local communities WSDOT developed a community involvement program to focus on SR 520 aesthetics. The first step in this program was the formation of the Design Advisory Group whose purpose was to explore and articulate the aesthetic vision for the new SR 520 facilities. The DAG was formed in winter of 2005 through a nomination process that sought volunteer representatives with backgrounds or interest in planning, design, and the arts.

The group that assembled included representatives from:

## Westside Communities

- North Capitol Hill
- Portage Bay/Roanoke Park
- Montlake
- University of Washington
- Laurelhurst
- Madison Park

## Eastside Communities

- Medina
- Hunts Point
- Clyde Hill
- Yarrow Point
- Wetherill Nature Preserve
- Kirkland
- Bellevue

# DAG Meetings

Six meetings with the Design Advisory Group (DAG) were held between February 23rd and June 22nd, 2006. The meetings were scheduled in advance in order to ensure that each DAG member could attend all of the meetings or as many as possible since the purpose of each meeting built on the preceding meetings.

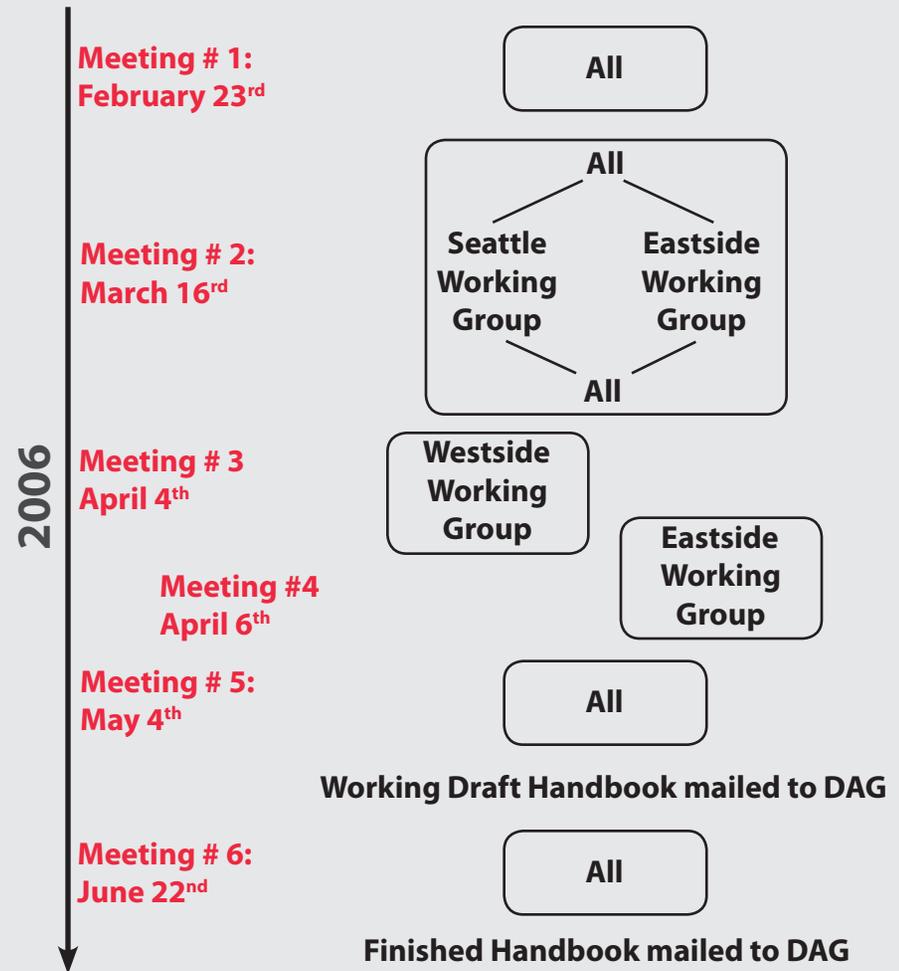
The flowchart to the right shows the series of meetings that were conducted and at what level of the corridor each session focused. At some meetings DAG members were separated into Westside and Eastside groups, and other meetings everyone met together.

## Nomination Process

The WSDOT project staff sent a letter to the leaders of the local neighborhood associations, requesting that they nominate a community member to be a part of the DAG. Project staff looked for individuals with experience in at least one of the following areas: planning, design, architecture, landscape architecture, or the creative arts. In addition, individuals should have experience in a team decision-making process and be able to dedicate a total of twelve to thirteen hours to the DAG process (five evening sessions at two and a half hours each).

Each meeting is outlined in the following pages, listing the agenda, materials presented, break-out session format, and the results of the discussions. Illustrations include poster boards used at the meetings, photos, notes, sketches, and preferred thematic images.

## DAG Meeting Flowchart



## Purpose

Overview of DAG process, goals, objectives, and participation guidelines

Establish positive group interactions

Familiarize DAG with corridor opportunities

## Corridor Aesthetics

### Rhythm

- Bridges
- Water ~ land ~ water
- Exposure (lakes and bays) versus enclosure (hills and trees)
- Seasonal changes in vegetation, wind, light, rain

### Natural Setting

- Streams, lakes, bays
- Ridges, valleys, mountains
- Sunlight, clouds, rain, wind
- Greenbelts, parks, gardens



## Meeting Agenda

1. Introduce Project Team and DAG participants
2. Overview of the DAG purpose, anticipated outcomes, process, etc.
3. Overview of SR 520 project history, need, current status, and objectives
4. First breakout session to investigate aesthetic character and preferences
5. Corridor Unity presentation covering aesthetic treatments, design elements, context and setting, views, structures, and community connections
6. Second breakout session to present corridor unity and aesthetic themes concepts
7. Next Steps and homework assignment

# BREAK-OUT SESSION #1

This session started the visioning process by playing an aesthetic preferences word game. Each member of the DAG was given a master list of descriptive words (below) and they individually selected several words that best expressed their vision for the appearance of the corridor. People could add their own words if they wished. The DAG was then divided into three groups with a mix of Eastsiders and Westsiders in each group. In each group the participants reached a consensus on a few descriptive words that best expressed their vision theme (to the right). A spokesperson from each group reported their findings to the re-assembled full DAG.

Here are the descriptive words from the word game:

**Elegant Dramatic Colorful Modern**  
**Functional Noble Vital Solid Graceful**  
**Slender Vertical Refined Amazing**  
**Unpretentious Humble Modest Dignified**  
**Simple Natural Svelte Civilized Tasteful**  
**Commemorative Celebratory Delightful**  
**Exquisite Exciting Sensible Sentimental**  
**Compatible Reserved Subordinate**  
**Extroverted Contextual Advanced Linear**  
**Angular Curvilinear Sinuous Harmonious**

...and these are the words each group chose:

## BLUE GROUP

Natural - Green  
Graceful - Refined  
Quiet - Calm

## GREEN GROUP

Natural - Harmonious  
Worthy  
Contextual

## RED GROUP

Reflective  
Subtle - Harmonious  
Artful



The second breakout session introduced the concept of “corridor unity” and how an aesthetic theme could provide visual unity for the corridor. Each of the three ‘color’ groups discussed aspects of the highway that are aesthetic or community priorities or concerns. The groups built on ideas from the first breakout session and decided upon thematic phrases that could help establish a corridor theme.

They also took preliminary steps to define a palette for the themes by asking:

- Are there colors that our group sees as part of this definition?
- Are there textures that would support the theme?
- What other approaches should be considered as part of each theme?
- Do we have examples in mind that show this theme?

## GREEN GROUP

### Natural – Harmonious

Structures could become wildlife habitat

- Vines growing
- Bird sanctuary
- Observation points overlooking marshland

### Reconnection

Human and wildlife

Reconnect divided communities

### LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification

Sustainability

Materials and run-off review

## RED GROUP

### Sweeping Vistas

Vistas as gateways

Paradigm of being on the structure versus looking at it

### Natural Beauty

Color Palette: light/warm/subtle

Materials: natural/naturalistic, wood, stone, tile

Reflective of the Pacific Northwest

Landscaping should reflect surroundings

### Three distinct zones

Eastside – conifers

Bridge – water/sky

Westside – urban/deciduous trees

## BLUE GROUP

### Graceful – Sleek

Colors: Complementary to silvery/watery

Low profile

Reconnect neighborhoods

### Sophisticated

No “hokey Northwest”

No trees or salmon

### No vertical canyons like I-90

Texture – can texture soften noise?

Vistas – can’t impede traffic

Unobtrusive – soften with foliage



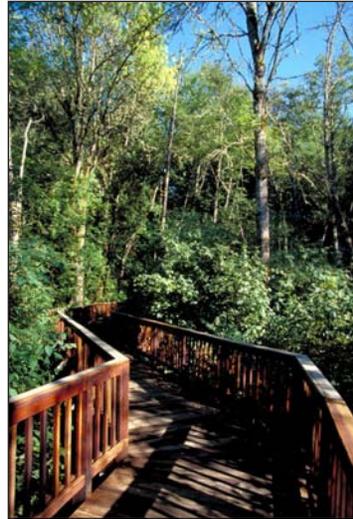
## NEXT STEPS AND HOMEWORK

Both the Project Team and the DAG had “homework” assignments that would be used at the next meeting, DAG #2. DAG members were requested to:

1. Look at highway elements (lights, barriers, landscaping, walls, views, etc.) and ponder why the elements are the way they are.
2. Photograph or sketch a place or landscape in your neighborhood (or someone else's) that you really like and consider what you like about it.
3. Photograph or sketch a place or landscape in your neighborhood (or someone else's) that you really DON'T like. Consider why you don't like it. What works and doesn't work and why?
4. Take photos of objects, landscapes, and places that interest or intrigue you

The two goals were to encourage observation and inquiry (“Wow, I never noticed or thought about that before. Why is it there? How does it work?”) and to start a collection of images to use as part of developing and agreeing to the aesthetic concepts. The photographs sent in by individuals became a library of images that was provided to the DAG team on CDs and used by the Project Team to support following meetings.

Below and right are a few of the images DAG members sent to the Project Team.





## BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

In the first break-out session the three color groups from the first meeting (red, green, and blue) reconvened to review the descriptive words and themes they had previously selected. Each group also selected photographs from the library images that captured desirable characteristics and enhanced the story told by the words and themes. The photographs the group chose were set up as slide shows for each group's "report out".

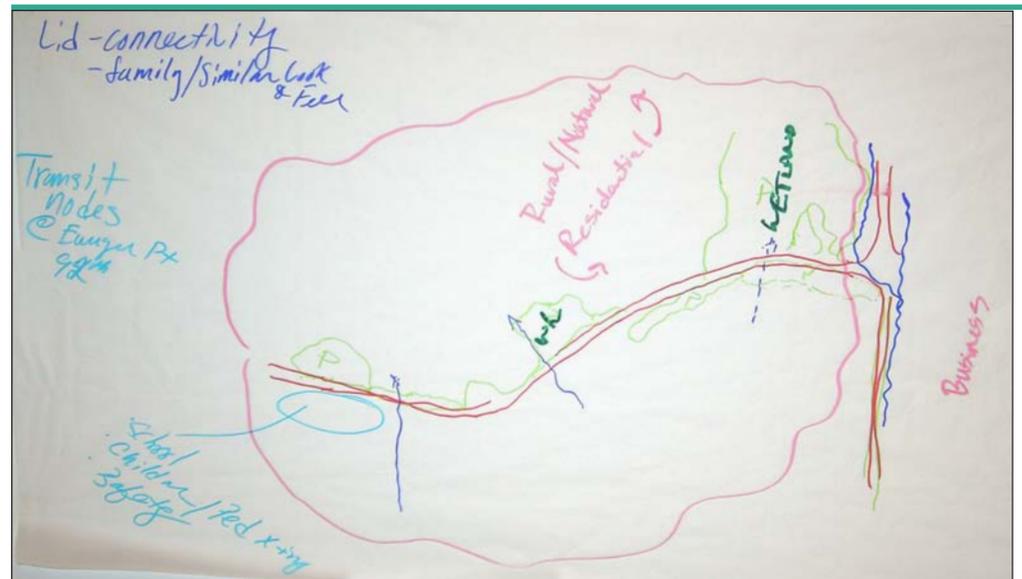
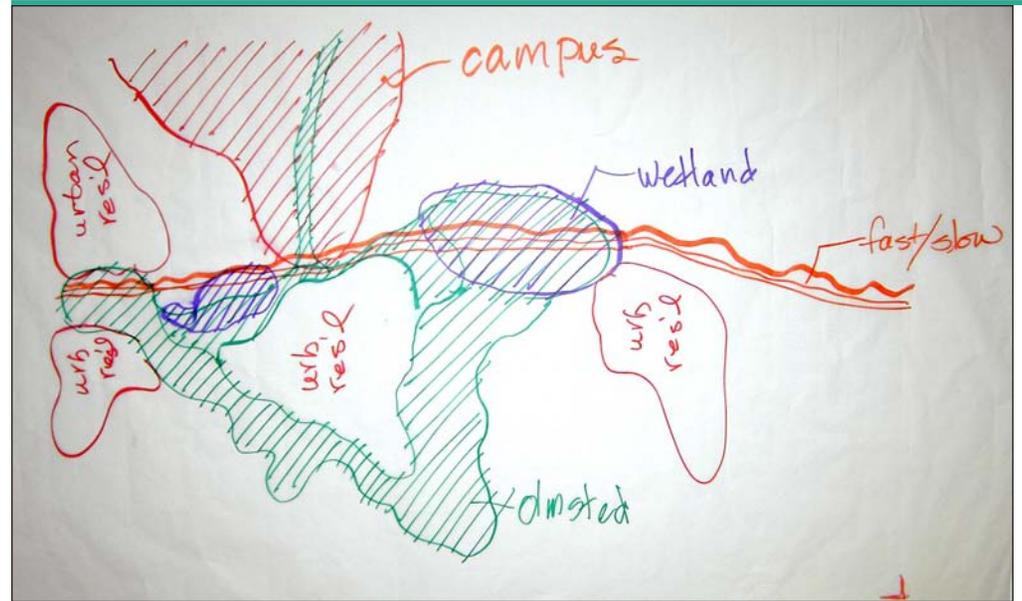
In the second break-out session the Eastside and Westside groups sketched boundaries for and named the zones in their respective communities. We diagrammed thematic zones because they help us understand local place character and are an easy, intuitive step down from the big picture to a smaller scale. As an example of how to think about thematic zones, it was noted that the Red Group had already, intuitively identified three zones during the corridor unity themes discussion in meeting #1:

- "Suburban" – Eastside
- "Sky/Water" – Bridge span
- "Urban" – Seattle

Thematic zones can be distinguished by distinctive qualities or differences in:

- Water/land
- Topography and vegetation
- Built environment
- Activities

The DAG members drew on trace paper over aerial photographs to delineate the thematic zones and locate any spaces, places, and connections that are significant to them.



## WESTSIDE

- Create a tapestry of themes
- Park space and wetlands (e.g., Arboretum) are vital
- Design wetlands to help heal what was decimated by the original bridge design
- Preserve the Olmsted legacy
- Design should be coordinated with UW campus plan
- Montlake has collegiate/gothic style
- Always consider the Rainier Vista as part of roadway landscape
- Acknowledge the dense urban neighborhoods
- Compact scale
- Keep the area walkable
- Designs should be both functional and aesthetic
- Make the bike/pedestrian trail comfortable for users

### Concerns:

- Bike/pedestrians are currently separated through the corridor
- Monitoring where the path of the bridge goes
- Fix the Foster Island Trail
- Restoring wetlands
- Creating access to the waterfront

## EASTSIDE

- Reconnect as one community – residential/ semi-rural
- Residential versus Business
- Did not consider city boundaries in forming thematic zones - invisible!
- Points Loop Trail is an important connector and recreational facility
- Parks – Medina, Wetherill Nature Preserve, Yarrow Point Wetland, natural green spaces
- Wildlife – include wildlife crossings
- Streams and lakes are defining features
- A consistent theme exists now: “one city”
- Lids should reconnect existing communities
- Lids should have the same character

### Concerns:

- Parks along north side of the highway
- Green space
- Community trail - preserve its character
- Two major streams
- Park & Rides and flyer stops
- Bellevue Christian grade school – will it continue to exist?
- Safety – current seismic standards

# DISCUSSION

## LEED and “Green” Practices

During the first meeting the question was asked if LEED was applicable to the bridge replacement project. To answer the question the project team prepared a short presentation on LEED and how environmentally-friendly practices would be part of the construction and operation of the new SR 520 facilities.

LEED stands for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” and was developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to establish consensus-based standards of measurement and to promote integrated, whole-building design practices. The USGBC web site states that “LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals. Based on well-founded scientific standards, LEED emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.”

The USGBC is made of members from every sector of the building industry, who together have developed LEED ‘green’ standards for:

- Commercial construction and major renovation projects
- Existing building operations
- Commercial interiors projects
- Core and shell projects
- Homes
- Neighborhood development

While LEED sets high standards for green building the program is not concerned with aesthetics and is not directly applicable to highway projects. However, the fundamental principles of LEED have corollaries in roadway construction and operation projects including:

- Erosion and sedimentation control
- Alternative transportation
- Reduced site disturbance
- Stormwater management
- Light pollution reduction
- Water efficient landscaping
- Renewable energy
- Recycled content
- Regional materials
- Construction waste management

These green practices can and will be applied to SR 520 in the following ways:

- Stormwater treatment
- Use of native vegetation in landscaping
- Integrated vegetation management
- Use of recycled materials in asphalt and concrete including cold-in-place asphalt recycling
- Water quality sampling during and after construction
- Certification in erosion control procedures
- Habitat protection and enhancement

The primary regulatory instruments that govern environmental practices for highway projects are the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and WSDOT standards and specifications. For more information on LEED please see the U.S. Green Building Council web site at: <http://www.usgbc.org>

## NEXT STEPS AND HOMEWORK

The DAG was requested to repeat the exercises from the first meeting (i.e., look at the surroundings and critique them) and to start a prioritized list of those opportunities. The goal of the homework was to start to identify and prioritize opportunities for aesthetic design within the thematic zones.

One of the places identified as a potential gateway is at the westbound approach to Seattle at the descent from the west highrise, as illustrated in this photograph.



# Meeting #3 – April 4<sup>th</sup>

This meeting was with the Westside DAG members only for the purpose of focusing on refining their thematic zones and starting to build a set of aesthetic goals and principles.

## Purpose

Confirm that the group still agrees upon the thematic zones delineated in Meeting #2

Identify the most important places, spaces, and connections in the thematic zones for aesthetic planning and design

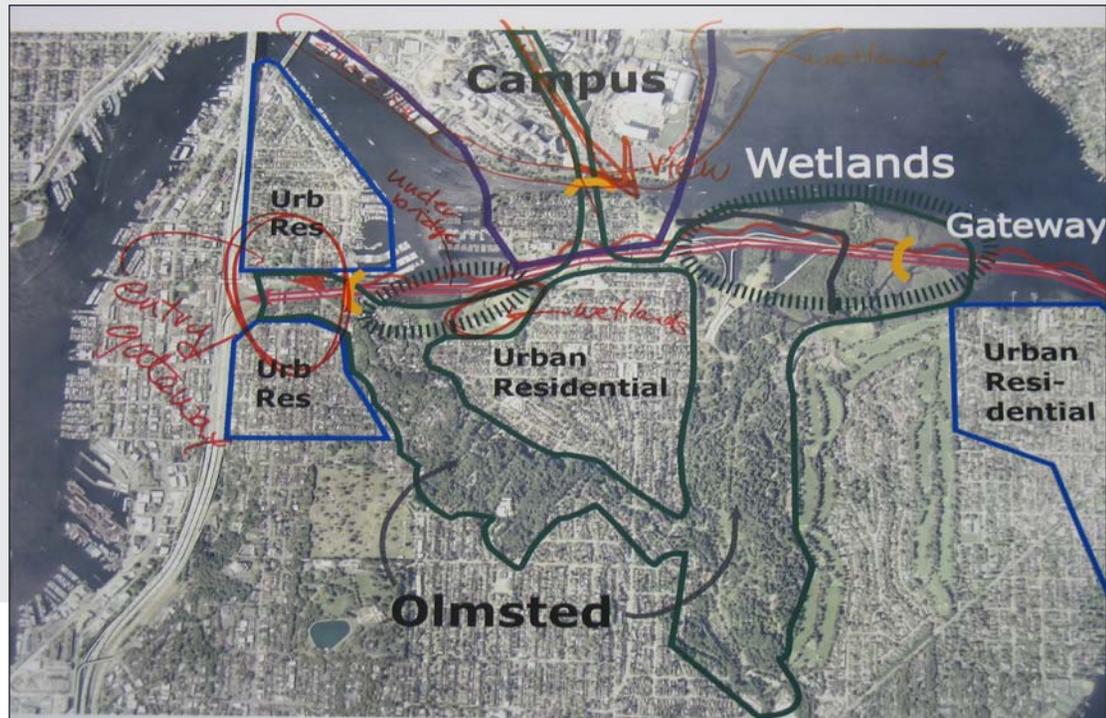
Consider aesthetic character - existing and desired - for these places

## Meeting Agenda

1. Review posters created for thematic zones (to the right) and ideas from DAG #2 and make any changes that are needed
2. Explore thematic zone opportunities for aesthetic design attention and identify the key places, spaces or connection
3. Recap of tonight's ideas
4. Next Steps and homework assignment

## WESTSIDE THEMATIC ZONES

For Meeting #3 the hand sketches from Meeting #2 were re-created and presented as posters. The group was then able to make additions and corrections to the thematic zones.



**The Westside group identified these places as important for community character and activities and also articulated what the character was and could be:**

## SIGNIFICANT PLACES

where people do or could gather:

- Montlake Cut - mix of styles
  - UW formal
  - Olmsted naturalistic
  - Views from water, bridge, and surroundings
  - Water access at UW's boat activities center
  - Boaters' experience
  - Is an iconic symbol for the area
- Montlake lid
- 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Arboretum

## LIDS

- Best if soft and garden-like with a pervious cover
- Would act as an attraction - make it positive
- Create active places, not passageways

## BRIDGES

- Less intrusive materials
- High quality design
- Positive experience of the underside of the bridge

## CONNECTIONS/TRANSITIONS

- Transitions at all off ramps that say "slow down"
  - Reflect the local area
  - Acknowledge gateways
- History
  - Montlake houses at  $\frac{3}{4}$  scale and date from 1920s – 1930s
  - North Capitol Hill houses at full scale and date from 1900s
  - Tell the story of the changes in the area

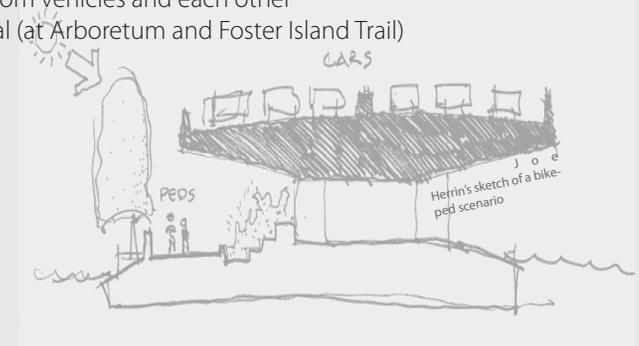
- Recreation
  - Both active and passive: Active at the University of Washington and passive at the Arboretum
- Connections
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue is complex – traffic and a "grand gateway"

## WETLANDS

- Traditionally no public access
- Montlake wetlands are different from the Arboretum wetlands in function

## BIKE/ PEDESTRIAN PATHS

- Make it interesting
- Comfortable
- Separate from vehicles and each other
- Educational (at Arboretum and Foster Island Trail)



## STYLE

- All thematic zone styles appear in the Montlake Cut area
- Tapestry concept and weaving neighborhoods together in a coherent fashion

# Meeting #4 – April 6<sup>th</sup>

This meeting was with the Eastside DAG members only for the purpose of focusing on refining their thematic zones and starting to build a set of aesthetic goals and principles.

## Purpose

Confirm that the group still agrees upon the thematic zones delineated in Meeting #2

Identify the most important places, spaces, and connections in the thematic zones for aesthetic planning and design

Consider aesthetic character - existing and desired for these unique places

## Meeting Agenda

1. Review posters created for thematic zones (to the right) and ideas from DAG #2 and make any changes that are needed
2. Explore thematic zone opportunities for aesthetic design attention and identify the key places, spaces or connection
3. Recap of tonight's ideas
4. Next Steps and homework assignment

## EASTSIDE THEMATIC ZONES

For Meeting #4 the hand sketches from Meeting #2 were re-created and presented as posters. The group was then able to make additions and corrections to the thematic zones.



**The Eastside group identified these places as important for community character and activities and also articulated what the character was and could be:**

## NATURE AND OPEN SPACE

- Tree canopy is a defining characteristic of the community  
Preservation and restoration are important
- Hydrologic matrix; preserve wetlands
- Wildlife and water pass through all landscapes

## PARKS AND GREEN SPACE

- Create places to walk; have a variety of simple things to do  
Make paths functional  
Separate pedestrians from vehicles and bicyclists  
Separate the regional commuting path from the local recreational path

## COHERENCE

- “One community” theme  
Use the landscape to tie communities together  
Natural and sinuous lines and form
- Connections  
Emphasize details and the location/local character  
Create connections through landscaping

## AESTHETICS

- The design of the bridge and materials should create the appearance of maturity, as if the new facilities have been softened with time
- Natural terrain is important and could be a common theme through the Eastside corridor
- Seamlessness of physical and visual features
- Sound walls flow to bridges which flow to off-ramps
- One corridor
- Elements should create connections

## GATEWAYS

- Blend bridge and exits with lids

## LIDS

- Have a neighborhood feature
- Reflect the local community
- Create new and connect existing parks and open spaces
- Functional for the neighborhood
- Passive recreation
- Include natural materials
- Must also serve connecting roads and transit stops
- Create a similar feeling between all three lids

## VISTAS

- Vista over Fairweather cove from SR 520
- View from Evergreen Point looking west

## PLACES OF INTEREST

- Create a meeting place; use it to create a sense of place
- Unique feature or focal point on each lid
- Functional art (example of the Renton water treatment plant)

## HEADWALLS

- Consider the driver’s perspective
- Consider possible framing
- Local identity is not as important
- Include features that repeat to establish rhythm and style
- Transition between water, land, and tunnels

## LIGHTING

- Lighting should emphasize safety to allow recognition
- Should be understated where possible

# Meeting #5 – May 4<sup>th</sup>

This meeting was the last of the visioning sessions. The Eastside and Westside presented their thematic zones and aesthetic goals to each other. The full DAG returned to the corridor unity themes for a final consensus and previewed three draft chapters of the Corridor Aesthetic Handbook that present the core findings of the DAG workshops.

## Purpose

Review the draft Corridor Aesthetics Handbook

Review and refine the draft thematic zone themes and palettes

Engage in a full group discussion of the corridor themes and palettes

Establish the timeline for final review of the Handbook

## Meeting Agenda

1. Review of the Design Aesthetics Handbook
2. Present “Working Conceptual Tool”
3. Thematic zones break out sessions
4. Eastside/Seattle groups convene to share ideas
5. Corridor unity
6. Next Steps

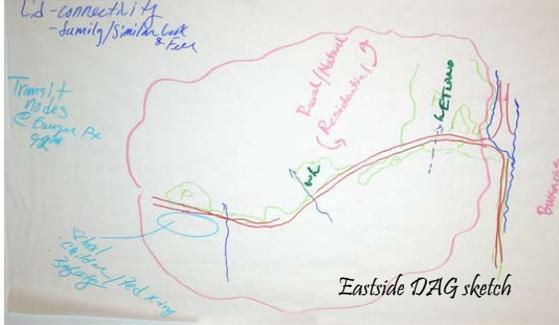
**DRAFT SR 520 Design Advisory Group Aesthetic Design Handbook | Ideas for Urban Corridor Design**

### Thematic Zones

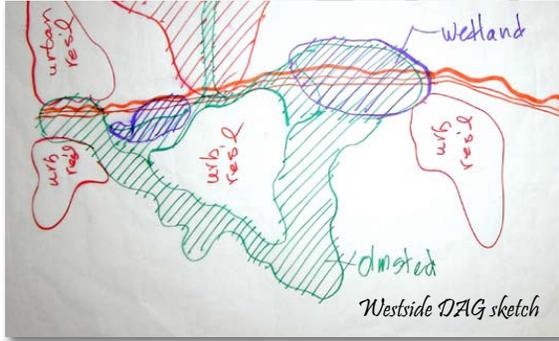
This chapter introduces the concept of a “thematic zone”. Thematic zones for the Eastside and Westside were defined by the respective groups during DAG workshop charrettes. Aesthetic design goals and principles emerged from the work shop discussions, as did a sense of desirable materials, color, and form that could manifest the aesthetic vision and goals. This sense became the beginnings of a design palette of images and descriptions.

The criteria for what constitutes a thematic zone are discussed in this chapter and the results of the DAG workshops are illustrated and described. The general outline of this chapter is:

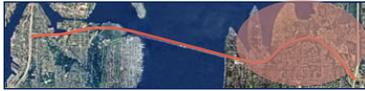
- Thematic zones map and a theme and aesthetic goals for the collective zones
- A description of each zone with vignettes showing places and features in that zone
- Opportunities map and ideas
- Aesthetic Design Principles
- Starting a palette



Eastside DAG sketch



Westside DAG sketch



1

An additional way for the group to think about thematic zone palettes was also introduced, based on the three kinds of landscapes in the corridor. The idea is that all three can be present in any single place but the relative proportions of the three components will vary depending on the nature of the place.

- Pieces – specific structures or man-made elements that need special attention
- Places – those particular areas of interest that have significance to the community
- Habitats – environmentally precious areas that need to be sustained, protected and enhanced

### Overview of Handbook

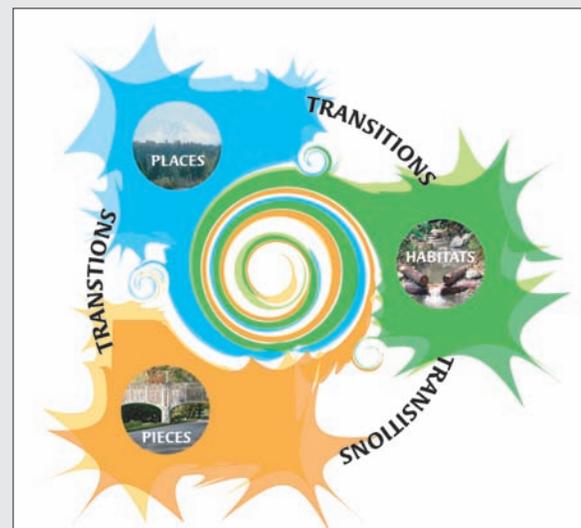
The DAG members received three draft chapters of the handbook prior to the meeting to give them time to review and critique the way the DAG's ideas were presented. It was important to capture the ideas accurately despite the degree of interpretation and summarizing that was involved.

The tentative outline of the handbook was also presented, as shown in the text box to the right.

### Break-out session

The DAG broke into Eastside and Westside groups to review the Handbook text and images for the respective thematic zones. More design ideas were explored, and the preliminary palette presented as part of the draft Handbook was critiqued. After the roundtable discussion concluded a spokesman presented the key ideas to the whole DAG so that Eastside and Westside ideas were shared with each other (presented on following pages).

A conceptual tool for designing landscapes



### DRAFT Handbook Outline

- Preface
- Purpose of Handbook
- Handbook – Workshop Process
- Intro to Corridor Unity and Thematic Zones
- Corridor Unity
- Thematic Zones – Westside
- Thematic Zones – Eastside
- Public Comments from Open Houses
- Concluding Comments
- Appendix: Glossary of Elements

# EASTSIDE GROUP REPORT BACK

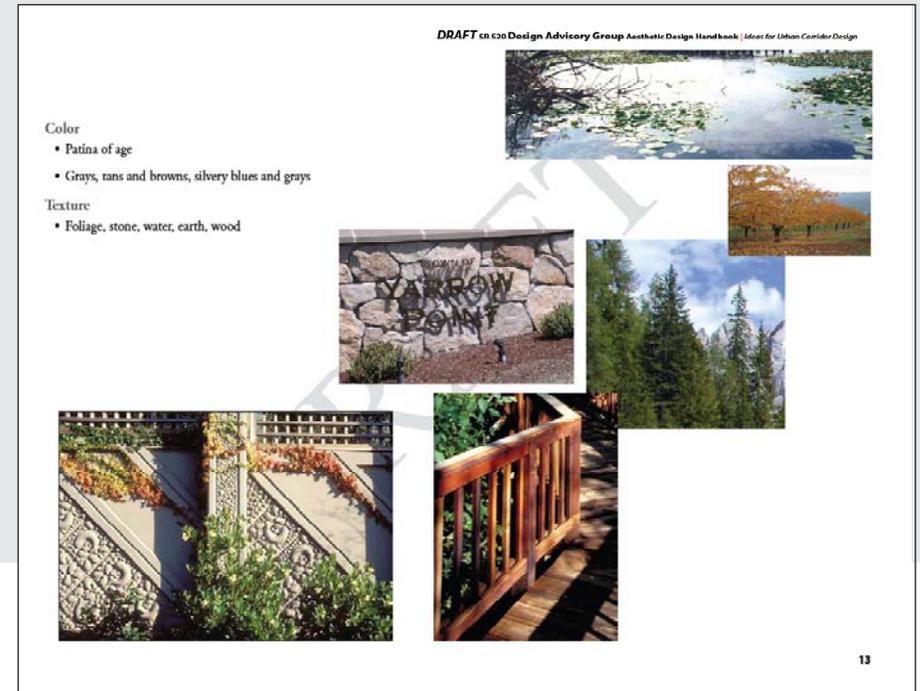
## Comments on “One Community Palette”

- Do not use water lilies
- Docks are important
- Calatrava-like design is desirable - fluidity, modern character, openness
- Water movement in streams and wetlands is prevalent
- Color palette should be natural
- Don't compete with nature, support it
- Native vegetation species are preferred



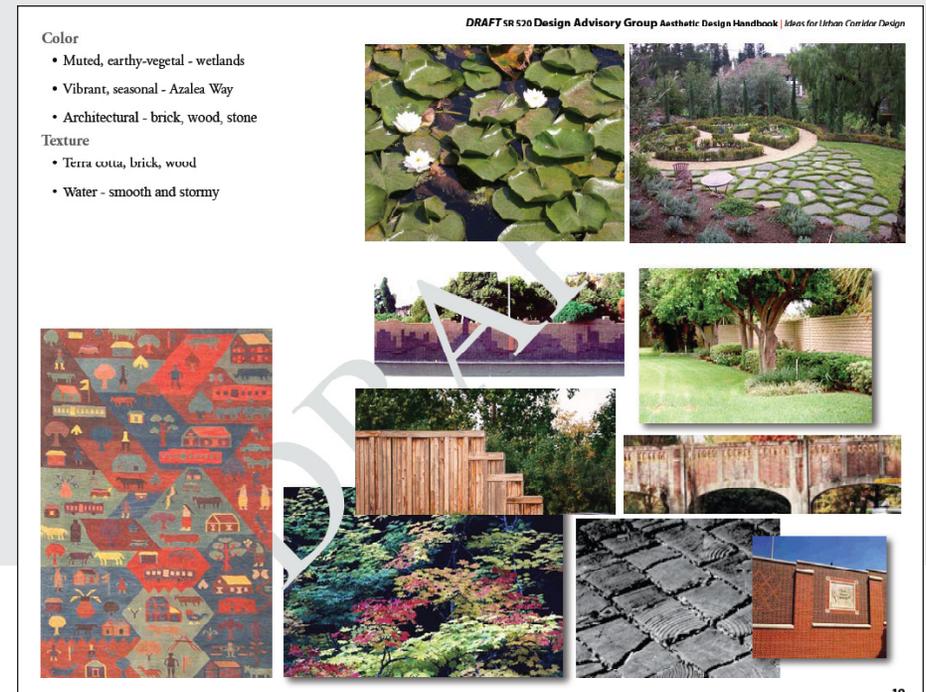
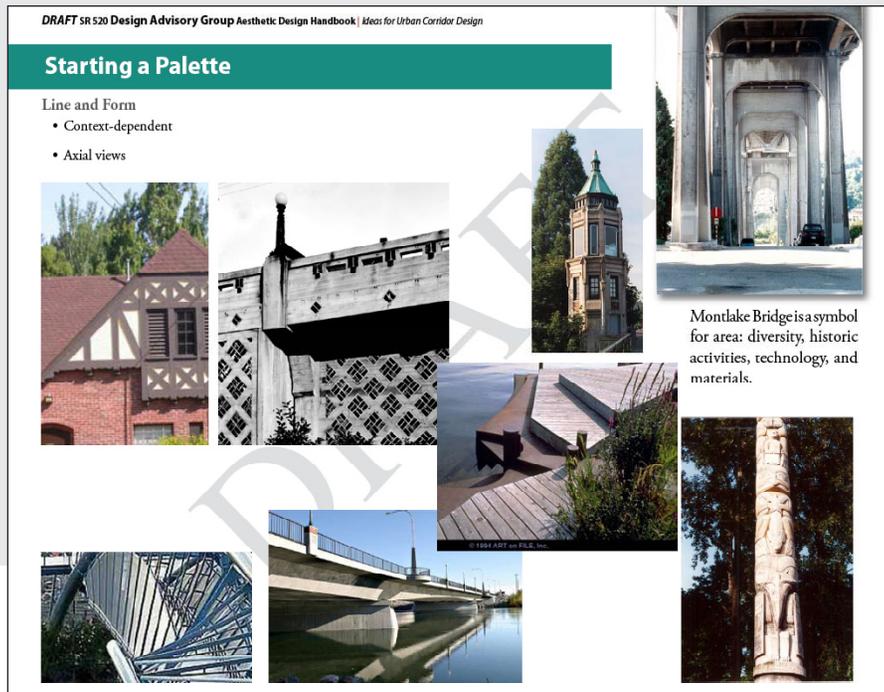
## Additional comments on the Eastside Thematic Zones

- Re-affirmed “One Community” theme – indistinguishable neighborhoods and natural setting
- Parks – natural
- Wetherill Nature Preserve should be distinguished from other parks
- Lids as potential reconnectors for communities and water paths
- Views are subtle but important to visual quality
- Lid themes should be similar



## The Seattle group discussed the following terms and ideas:

- Focus on human scale; attention to detail
- Current facility does not reflect its context
- Return to Olmsted legacy – Olmsted system used to include a bike trail system
- Emphasize craftsmanship
- Appropriate scale – experience of the driver versus that of bicyclists
- Appeal to bicyclists’ needs; recreational biking is different from commuting by bicycle
- Incorporate art along the facility
- Very contemporary bold design could be considered where appropriate
- Make things interesting
- Use the image of variegated foliage of maple trees for natural design inspiration



# CORRIDOR UNITY

In the process of summarizing the DAG's feedback on corridor unity two general themes emerged: Natural (later changed to Naturalistic) and Contemporary

To organize and capture the ideas that were taking shape four display boards portraying common principles and palettes were created and then presented at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

"Contemporary" Corridor Theme – Goals and Aesthetic Design Principles

"Contemporary" Theme Palette with images

"Natural" Corridor Theme – Goals and Aesthetic Design Principles

"Natural" Theme Palette with images

During the group discussion, each DAG member was given three dot stickers to vote for the statements and images they felt best captured the essence of their vision for the corridor. The results of this voting are illustrated here.

**Corridor Theme - Contemporary** May 4, 2006

**Goals**

- Harmonious relationship with surrounding landscape, structures, and other elements of the corridor
- A corridor that is elegant and acts as a frame for landscape and views

**Aesthetic Design Principles**

- Use gradual transformation of corridor elements to create a feeling of dynamic change with movement through the corridor
- Create an open character even within narrow segments
- Avoid overdone Pacific Northwest stereotypes
- Make new structures unobtrusive
- Soften new structures with foliage
- Use lighting where appropriate to add beauty and make a structure iconic

Logos: Washington State Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, SOUNDTRANSIT

**Corridor Theme - Contemporary** May 4, 2006

**Palette**

Color: Silvery, water  
Materials: Metal  
Line: Smooth  
Form: Smooth, sleek

Images: A large silver sphere reflecting a city skyline, a modern bridge over water, a close-up of a textured metal surface, a tree in a landscape, and a modern building with a curved facade.

Logos: Washington State Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, SOUNDTRANSIT

The result of the group voting exercise was the consensus that the two palettes should be combined, resulting in a palette focusing on “Natural and Contemporary” elements within the existing context that are enhanced by the built environment. Overall, the group felt that the corridor themes of “natural” and “contemporary” were not mutually exclusive, but rather compatible and quite complementary.

The schedule for reviewing the handbook was reviewed. A draft of the handbook will be mailed to the Design Advisory Group members on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The members were asked to send their comments to the Project Team by June 6<sup>th</sup>. The final Design Advisory Group meeting will be on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. This last meeting would be to review the final handbook. Any remaining comments from the group will be due on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Project Team will refine the thematic zone palettes, and integrate the two corridor unity palettes to make one that meets the preferences of the communities – namely, “Natural and Contemporary.”

In addition to voting, the DAG members made edits to the *Corridor Theme – Natural* board as shown.

**Corridor Theme - Natural** May 4, 2006

**Goals**

- A coherent and gracious facility that is integrated with the natural world
- Strong, elegant connections between east and west communities

**Aesthetic Design Principles**

- Design the walls, bridges, and portals to flow seamlessly into one another in a thematic way and to blend smoothly with the surrounding terrain
- New structures and features should add beauty to the surroundings
- Landscaping should be consistent with surrounding vegetation
- Frame vistas at gateways

*Handwritten notes:* "and graceful" above "coherent and gracious"; "and lids" next to "walls, bridges, and portals"; "and lids" next to "Frame vistas at gateways"; "integrate" and "and enhance the" near "Landscaping"; "NATURAL" near "consistent with surrounding vegetation".

Logos: Washington State Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, SOUNDTRANSIT

**Corridor Theme - Natural** May 4, 2006

**Palette**

- Color: Light, warm, subtle
- Materials: Pacific Northwest stone, wood, concrete, tile, trees, and shrubs
- Line: Organic; sinuous
- Form: Functional, solid

Photographs include: a sunset sky, a stone wall with a wooden door, a forest scene, a stone wall with a window, and a row of stone arches.

Logos: Washington State Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, SOUNDTRANSIT

# Meeting #6 – June 22<sup>nd</sup>

This was the last meeting of the DAG 2006 session.

## Purpose

Conduct a final quality control review of the draft Corridor Aesthetics Handbook to ensure that changes to content and layout made by the project were acceptable.

## Meeting Agenda

1. Final Review of Handbook
2. Next Steps
3. Thank You/Celebration



## DISCUSSION

The group discussed the difference between the terms “natural” and “naturalistic” because it was generally acknowledged that we are not necessarily re-creating nature. Rather, for the aesthetic character, the quality of looking natural is highly valued and this is properly described as “naturalistic”. The definitions are included in Chapter 2 Corridor Unity and the corridor theme of “Contemporary Natural” was revised to be “Naturalistic Contemporary”.

Secretary of Transportation, Doug MacDonald attended the entire meeting and spoke to the group at the end of the agenda. Secretary MacDonald emphasized how much he appreciated the group’s work in developing the handbook and acknowledged that this type of conversation will continue as the project progresses. He commented on how much momentum the project has gained in the past few months and noted that corridor aesthetics work is one part among many that are required to design and replace the SR 520 floating bridge. He asked the Design Advisory Group members for their continued support of the project.

To conclude the evening and the DAG 2006 session Julie Meredith, DOT Project Engineer for the SR 520 project, presented DAG members with a commemorative mug and invited them to enjoy some cake to celebrate their work.

## Next Steps - Beyond DAG

Julie Meredith noted that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be released in August for public comment.

After final edits are made the Handbook will be printed and mailed to the DAG members.

# Thank You

.... from Julie Meredith, John Milton, Secretary Doug MacDonald, and the entire SR 520 project team for your participation, candid conversations, and great ideas.



