

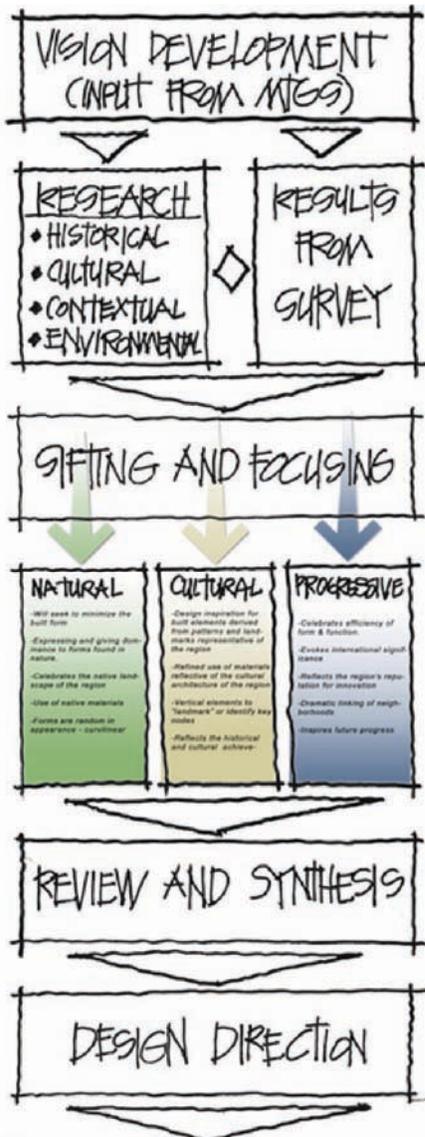
Context Sensitive Solutions - CSS

What is CSS?

CSS involves working with communities to achieve consensus on the look and feel of highways and other transportation facilities. CSS incorporates architectural treatments, structures, lighting, pedestrian and bike features, signage, and plantings into a unified look and feel that is consistent along an entire transportation system. Highways that function well fit within their community have long been a focus for WSDOT as the agency strives for highways to be “good neighbors” to their surrounding communities.

The I-405 project team engaged communities corridor-wide to develop a plan for the 30-mile highway from I-5 in Tukwila to SR 522 in Lynnwood. When new I-405 projects are implemented, they will follow the corridor wide CSS themes of “natural, progressive and cultural” established in the I-405 Corridor Urban Design Guidelines.

CSS Concept Development Process



Through a series of community meetings, workshops and design charrettes, the I-405 CSS process brought the community and WSDOT project staff together to review design options and aesthetic treatments to achieve a unifying look and feel for the I-405 Corridor.

How will the Cultural, Natural, and Progressive themes be implemented on I-405 Corridor?

Overwhelmingly, I-405 communities wanted the highway to be “as natural and green as possible, wherever possible.” They also wanted to reflect the region surrounding I-405 - the progressive and modern nature of the business community, and a link to the rich Northwest cultural heritage. Thus, the themes of natural, progressive and cultural were born.

These themes are carried out in the standard design features that were a result of the CSS process: curved fencing, natural warm paint colors, northwest-inspired lighting, water and plant-inspired wall treatments and structures, as well as landscaping whenever possible.

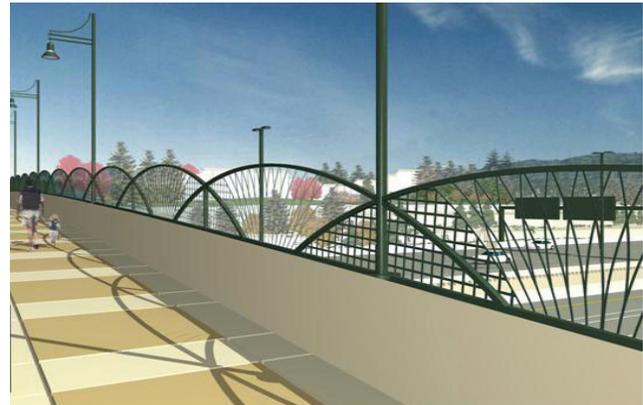


Corridor Program

Congestion Relief & Bus Rapid Transit Projects



This CSS process addressed I-405 views from two distinct approaches - the corridor side ("view from") and the community side ("view to"). The I-405 Corridor Urban Design Guideline (UDG) is the integration of community input and WSDOT standards.



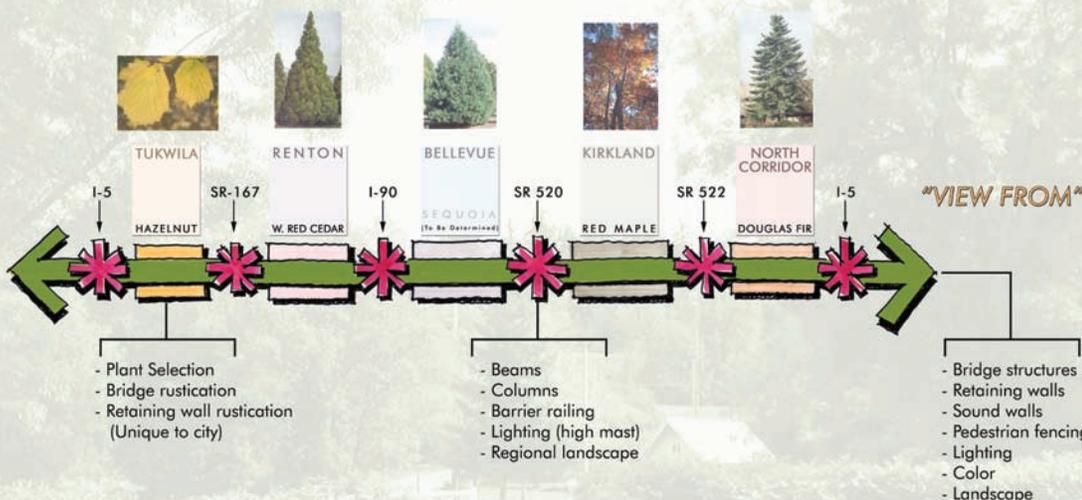
Elements of CSS are feature in this overpass, from the natural curve of the railing to the earth-toned colors on the lamp posts.



How was the community involved in the corridor-wide plan for CSS?

A corridor-wide Aesthetic Committee focused on the "view from" views along the I-405 corridor - the overall theme and character of the roadway. This group provided advice on elements that create a strong visual character and continuity along the entire 30 mile corridor. Each community's Advisory Committee selected individuals to focus on regional issues and what the I-405 corridor means to the entire metropolitan area. These individuals reported back regularly to their jurisdictions on the progress of the corridor-wide aesthetic concepts. Some of the successful outcomes from this group included architectural enhancements such as noise and retaining wall treatments, landscaping, bridge treatments, lighting styles, and sign structures.

I-405 CORRIDOR CONCEPT



Each community on I-405 is represented by a signature tree. The "tree themes" may be implemented in a variety of ways.

- Landscaping, using a combination of the signature tree and other plantings.
- Architectural treatments consistent with the tree themes may be incorporated at signature locations specifically at direct access ramps, end of noise walls, or at those walls where landscaping is not possible.
- Local agencies may decide to purchase custom wall treatments at community-side locations.

For more information on Context Sensitive Solutions, please visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405/CSS

