CITY OF IOWA CITY
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 12, 2015

TO: Tom Markus, City Manager

FROM: Ron Knoche, Public Works Director

RE: **Iowa City Gateway Project**
March 23, 2015 Work Session Presentation

At the March 23, 2015 City Council work session, city staff and our project consultant, HNTB, will be present to facilitate discussion of the Gateway Project and its current design status. The last persentation to the City Council was July 15, 2014. We have since received Field Exam plans, showing project design as 35% complete. Our design team has held numerous coordination meetings with both public and private utilities, the University of Iowa, adjacent property owners and our Technical Advisory Committee as the final design continues to advance.

At the upcoming Work Session, we plan to introduce the landscaping and corridor aesthetic concepts. The following list is a summary of aesthetic items that will be discussed:

- Landscape Design: We have maintained our original direction to preserve and enhance the natural character of the existing corridor. We have been working with the Parks and Recreation Department as well as Project GREEN to specify low-maintenance plantings and landscaping while promoting views of the river and the University.
- Retaining Wall Aesthetics: A chiseled limestone form liner panel has been represented throughout the concept design. We are now discussing how different colors and relief options will provide character to the wall and how it appears from City Park and the Park Road Bridge. Additional form liner panel options with additional character continue to be discussed.
- Barrier and Pedestrian Railings: Consideration has been given for Barrier and Pedestrian railings that meet design specifications, provide a see-through rail for views of the river, downtown and City Park and are low maintenance.
- Bridge Aesthetics: The design team has been exploring the need for an additional pedestrian or rub rail on the interior side of the multi-use path crossing on both sides of the bridge. Bridges have been constructed with and without this additional railing. There is additional concern about what manner is used to protect the arch and prevent people from attempting to climb on it.
- Overlook Opportunities: It has already been determined that there will be 4 overlook opportunities located on the new Park Road Bridge. In addition, thought has been given to a gathering/viewing area at the south end of Terrell Mill Park, a 150’-200’ long pedestrian overlook along Dubuque Street and incorporated into the retaining wall at Kimball Road and a seating area at the base of the retaining wall, south of Park Road Bridge at the Future Trail Extension location.

- Site Furnishings: Those currently shown are the typical site furnishings used by the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department. The design team will evaluate other alternatives as the bridge design and overlooks progress.
- Lighting Considerations:
    - The design team is currently recommending the use of an LED light fixture that provides options for size and style for street lighting and pedestrian uses. This fixture is energy efficient and is recognized as a nighttime friendly product, employing Dark Sky Technology. We are currently comparing these fixtures to fixtures being installed with the new Hancher Auditorium with the hope of providing an aesthetic tie between it and the new Park Road Bridge. We will continue to coordinate with the University of Iowa as design progresses.
    - During concept design, clearing the bluff south of Mayflower and highlighting it with appropriate landscaping and up lighting, similar to the University lighting of the bluff along Riverside Drive was discussed. We continue to evaluate this feature and will coordinate with adjacent property owners if this continues as part of the project.
    - It has been agreed that the bridge lighting shall not be overdone and shall highlight the curves designed in the bridge, highlighting the architecture. The Hancher design team and the University of Iowa have agreed that subtle lighting changes on event nights and weekends would be agreeable. Pedestrian lighting on the bridge may be a tie in to the Hancher Auditorium site.
- Existing Corridor Amenities:
    - The Four Module Piece, 1968 by Kenneth Snelson: At this time, this piece of public art will remain where it is and be protected during construction. The design team is evaluating the addition of lighting to highlight the piece in Terrell Mill Park after construction is complete.
    - The Iowa City sign will need to be removed and replaced. The design team will look into other design options for the sign. We are recommending that the new location be on the west side of Dubuque Street, south of Foster Road.
- Tree Survey: The tree survey was completed in the fall of 2014 / winter of 2015. The ribbons on the trees throughout the corridor simply represent that those trees have been inventoried. The pink stakes indicate the NEPA boundary. The surveyed trees were logged based on species, size, health & quality. They are represented on an exhibit as red (can be removed, poor species or quality), yellow (average) and green (can remain if possible, good species and quality).

As always, we look forward to sharing the new developments associated with the project. We are currently scheduled for an Iowa DOT letting on January 16, 2016 with construction beginning in the spring of 2016.

Cc: Jason Havel, City Engineer
Melissa Clow, Special Projects Manager

Iowa City Gateway

City Council Worksession

March 23, 2015

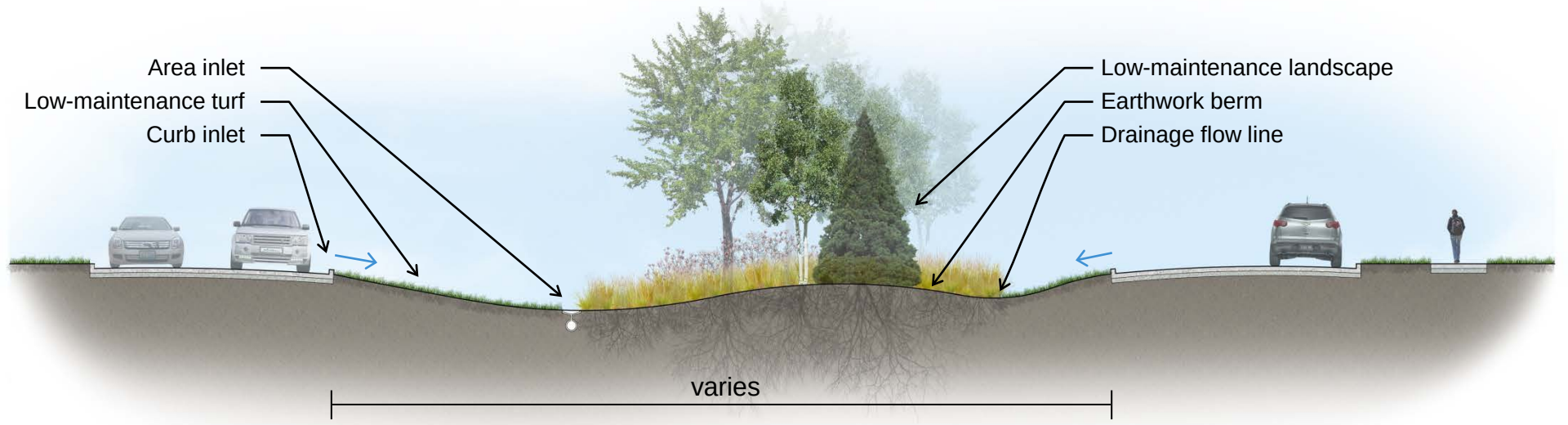
Aesthetic Concepts

- Landscape design
- Retaining wall aesthetics
- Barrier and pedestrian railings
- Overlook opportunities
- Site furnishings (benches)
- Lighting considerations
- Existing corridor amenities

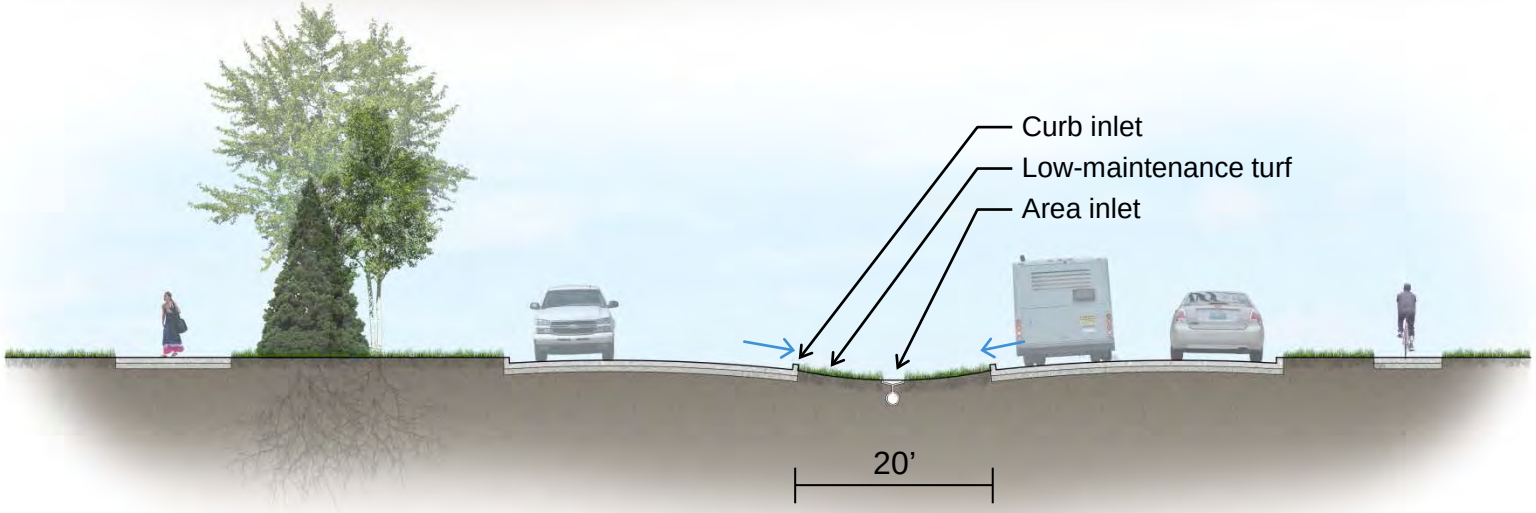
Landscape Design

- Emphasize traffic calming
- Preserve significant existing trees
- Buffer undesirable views
- Low-maintenance median plantings with color, texture, purpose
- Promote views of river corridor and university

Median Treatment



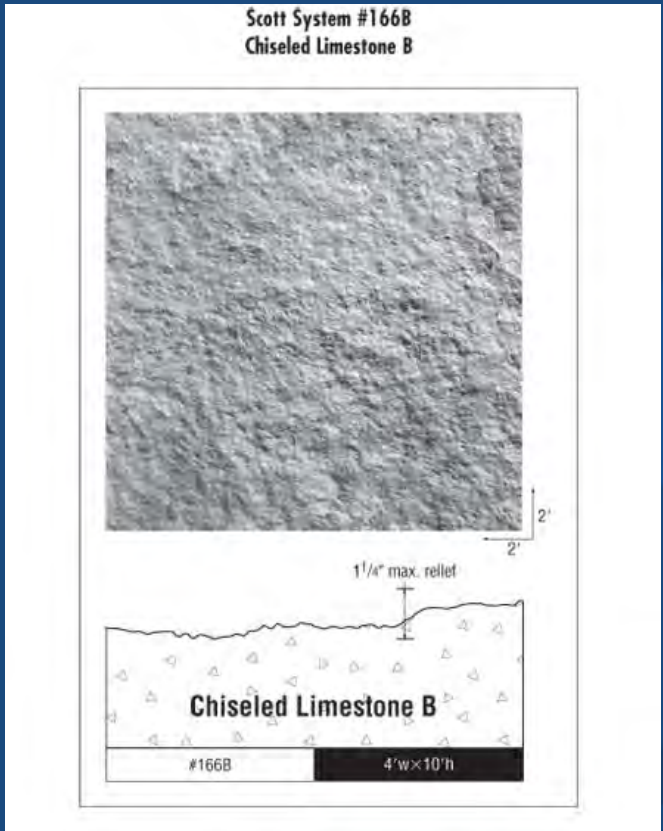
Median Treatment



Scott System or similar

Retaining Wall Aesthetics

Form Liner Panel



Chiseled Limestone Finish

Scott System or similar

Retaining Wall Aesthetics

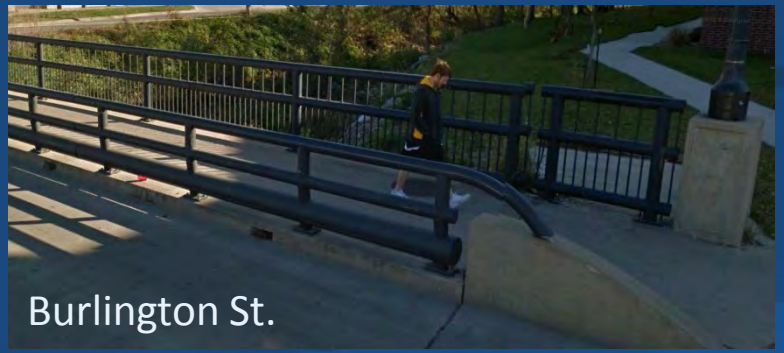
Form Liner Panel

Retaining Wall Aesthetics

Form Liner Panel

Railing Options

SUDAS, 2013 Edition - Section 12B-2 - Shared Use Path Design - Safety Rail: Safety rail should be a minimum of 42 inches in height.

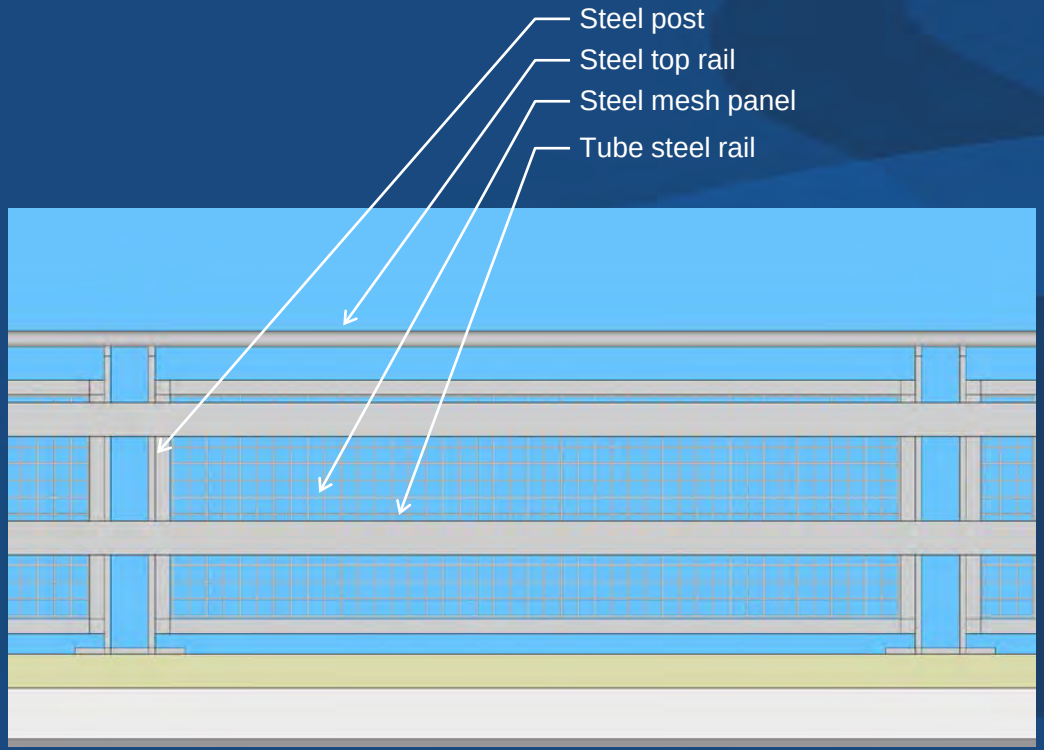

Burlington St.

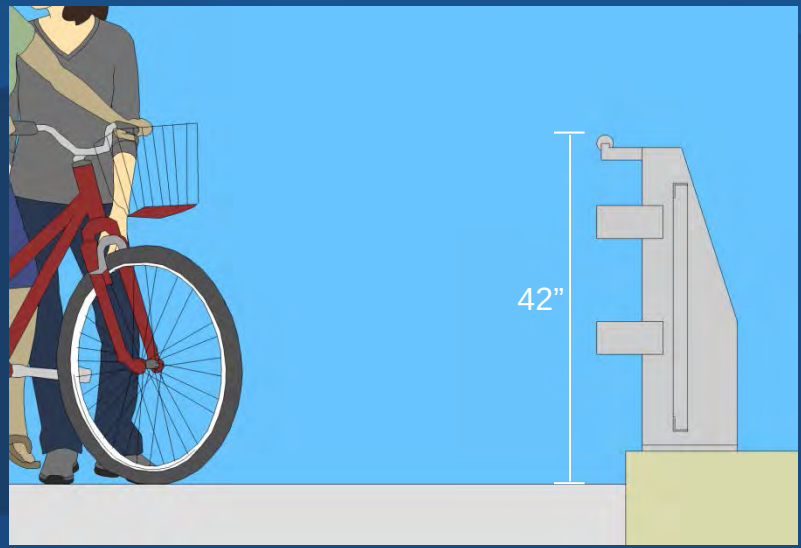

McCollister Blvd.


Caltrans ST-10 (TL-4)

Railings

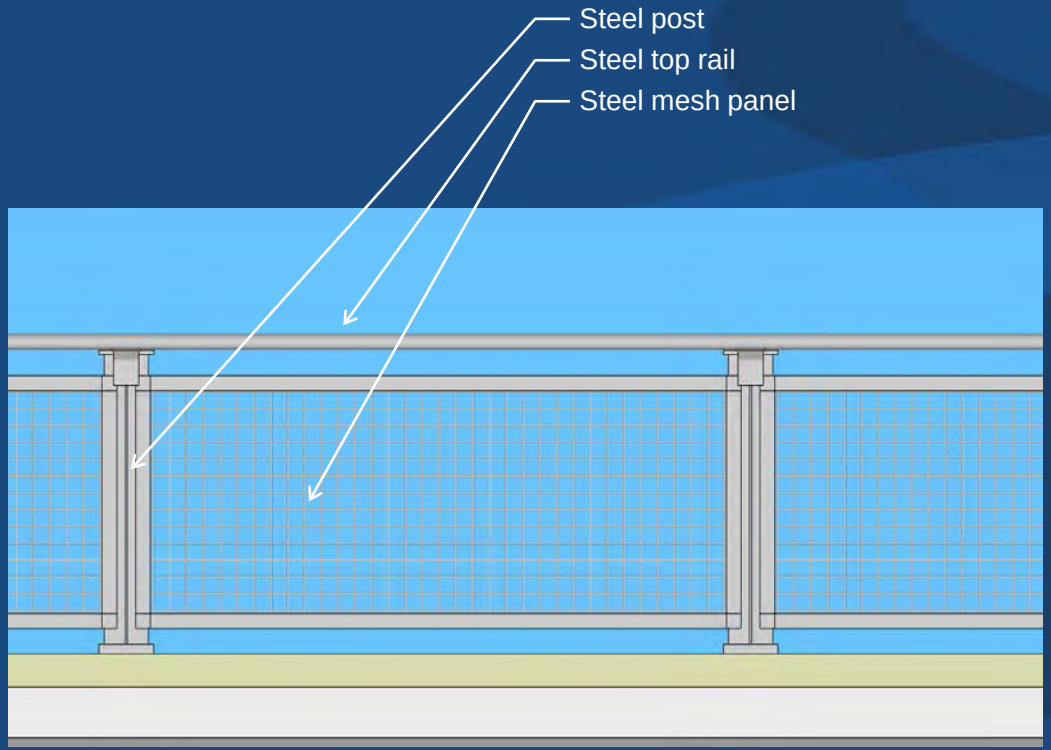
Barrier Railing (retaining wall)

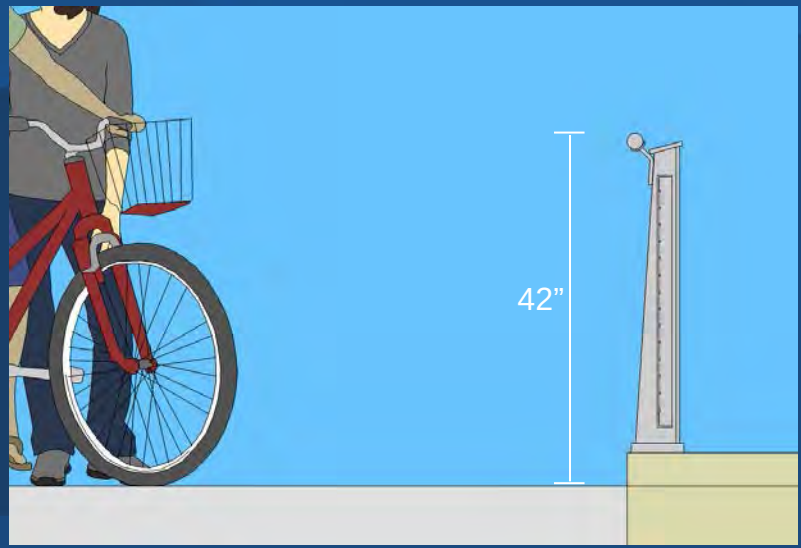




Railings

Pedestrian Railing (bridge, overlooks)





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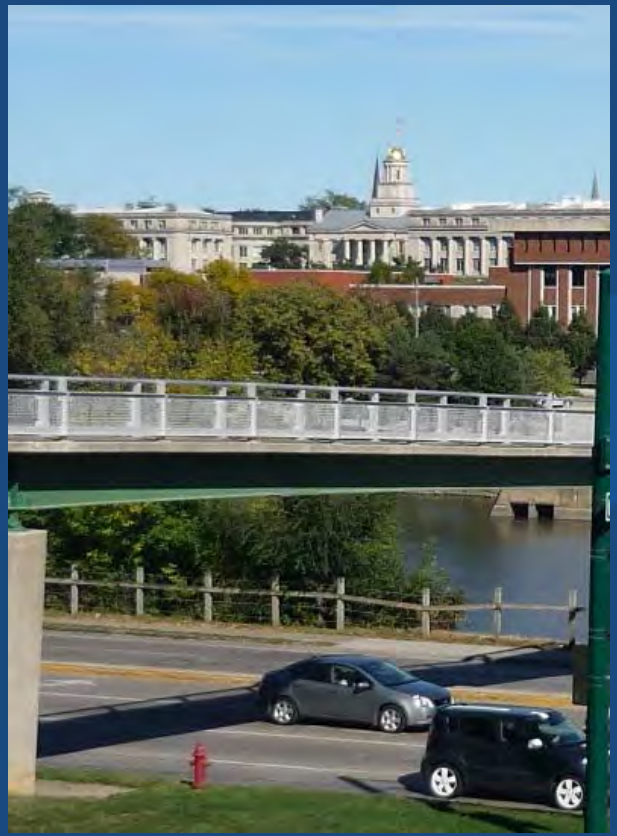

Railings

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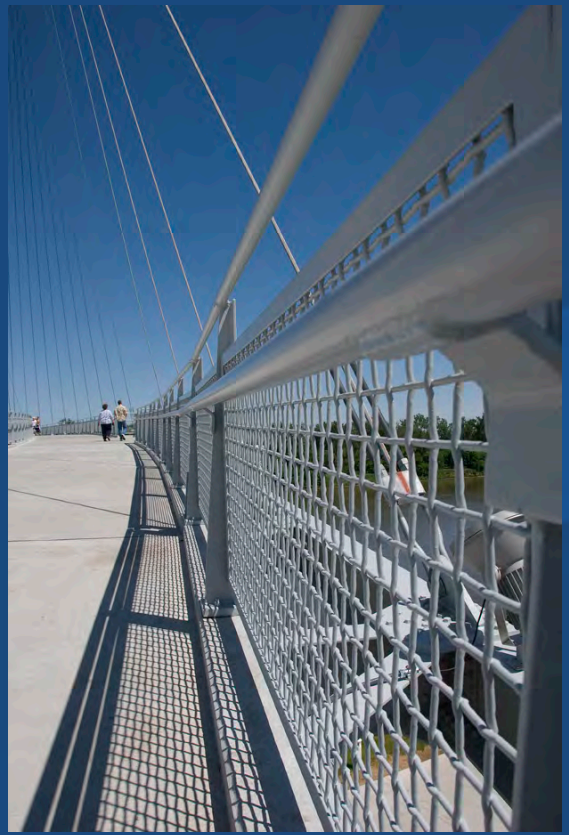


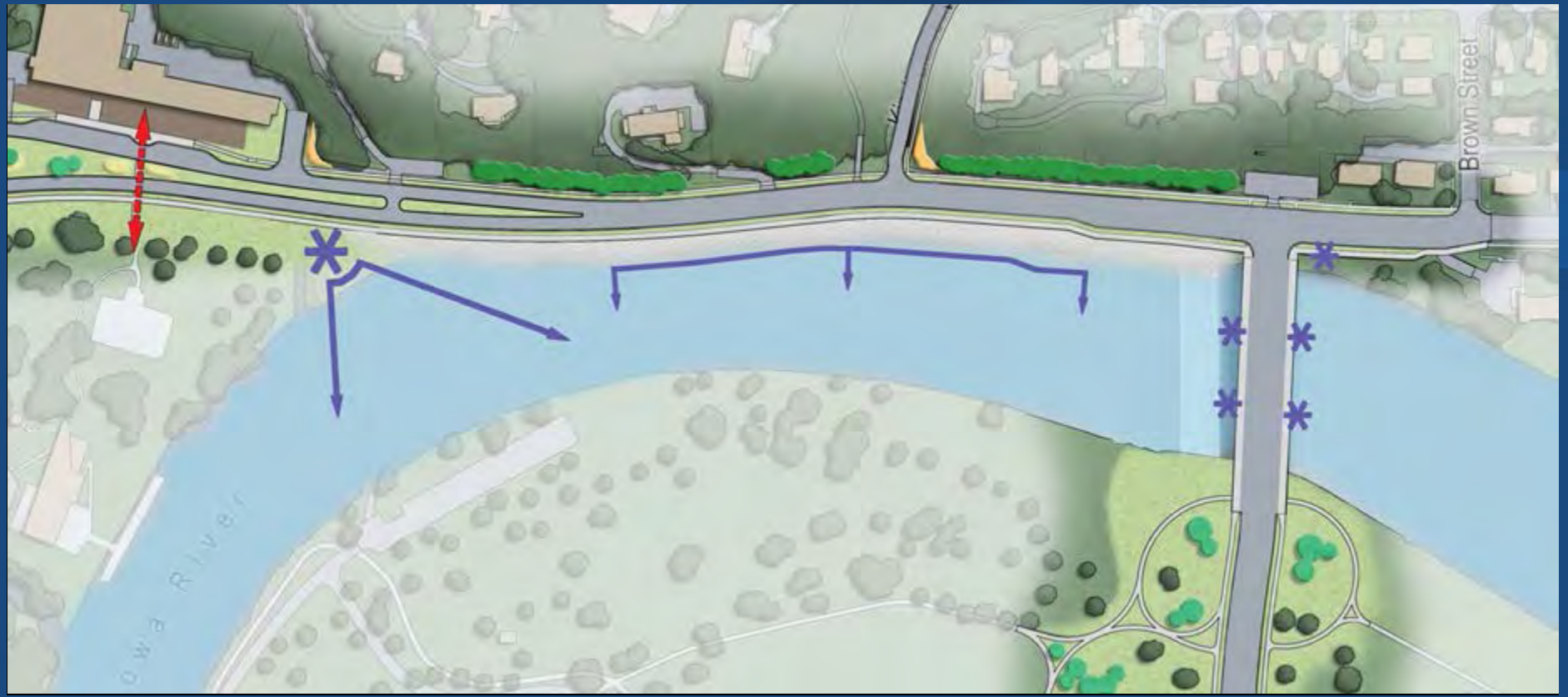
Railing Transition

Pedestrian Railing ← → Barrier Railing

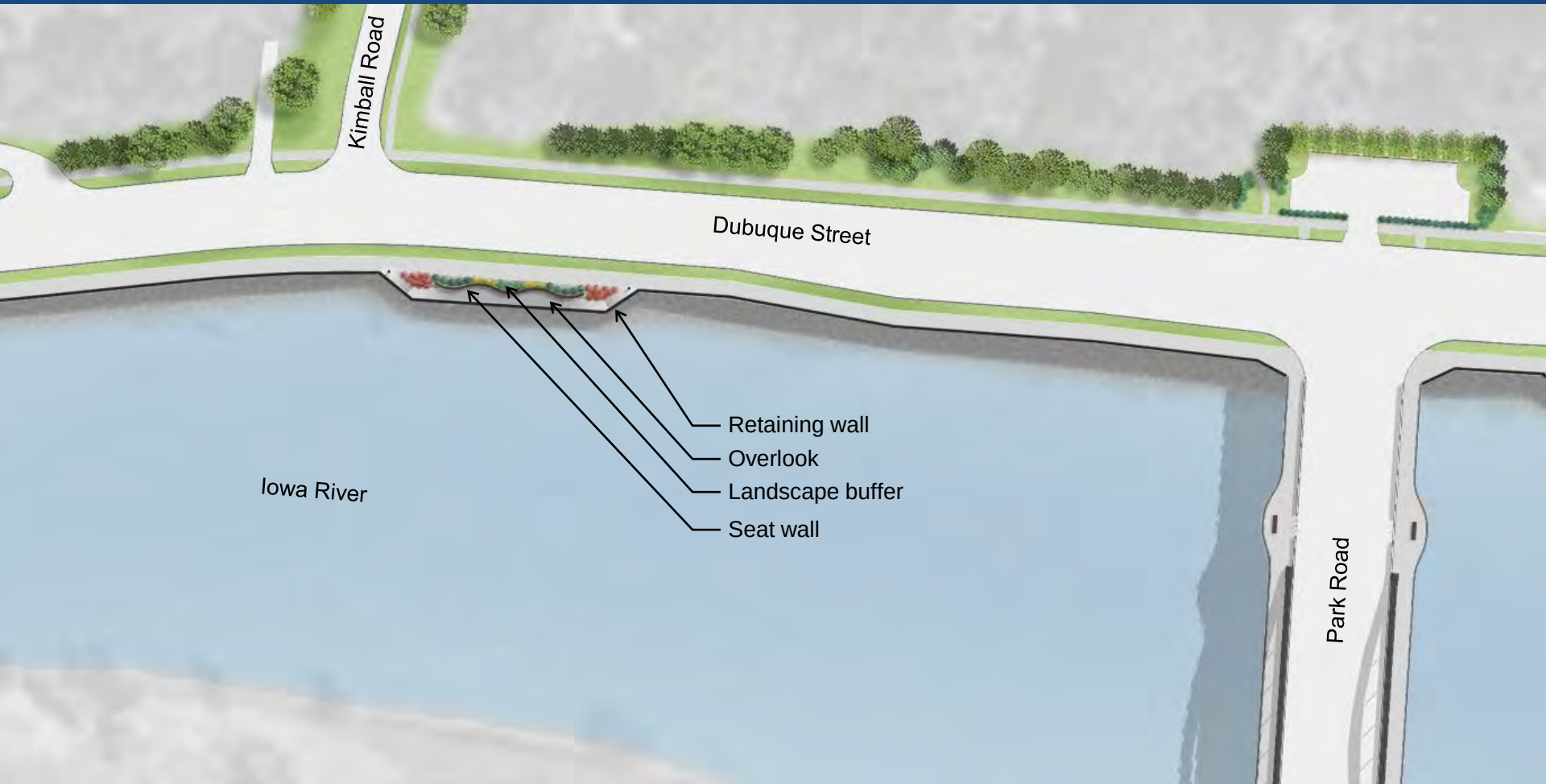
Bridge Aesthetics

Bridge Protection

Other Viewing Opportunities



Dubuque Street Overlook



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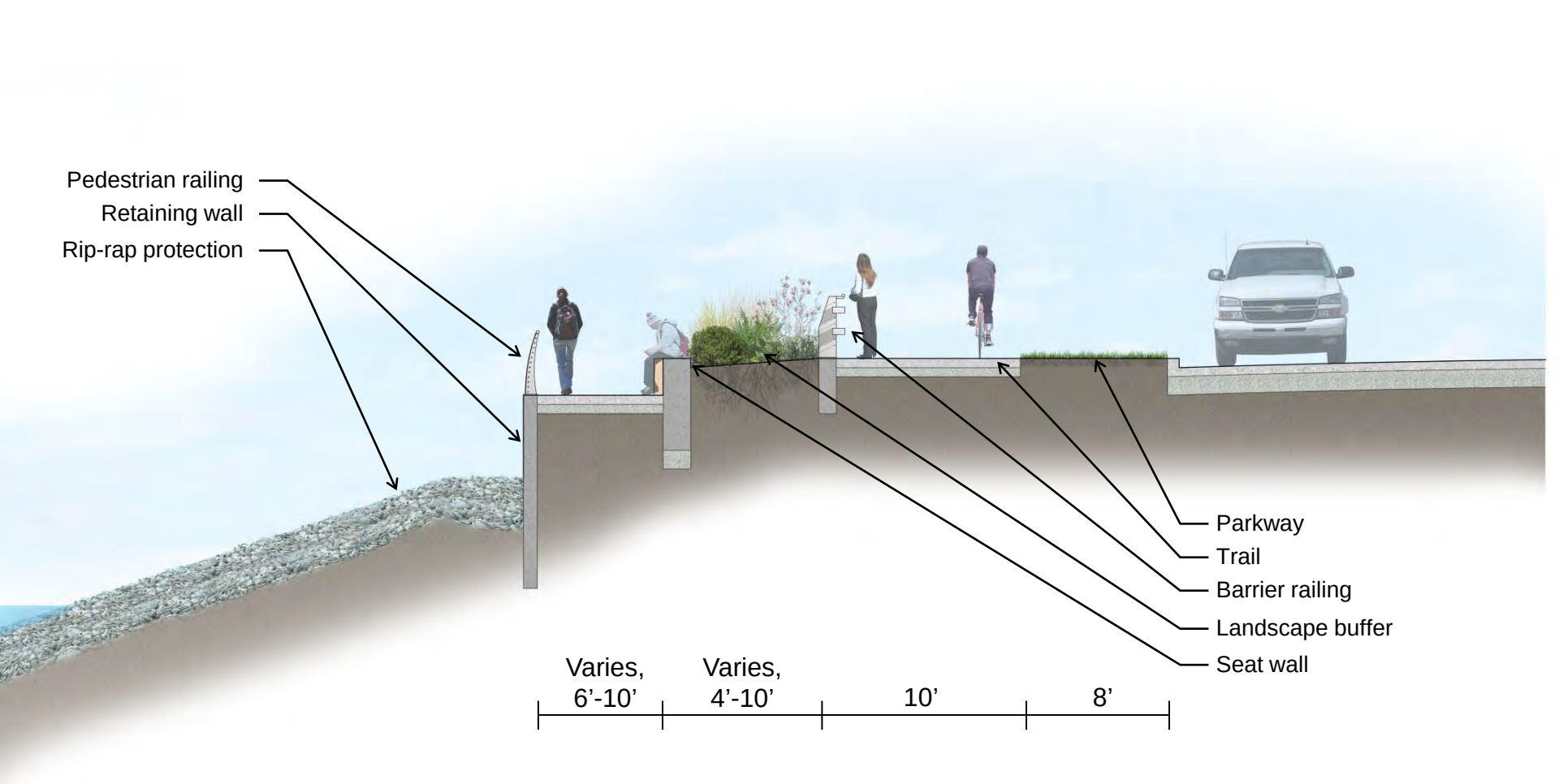
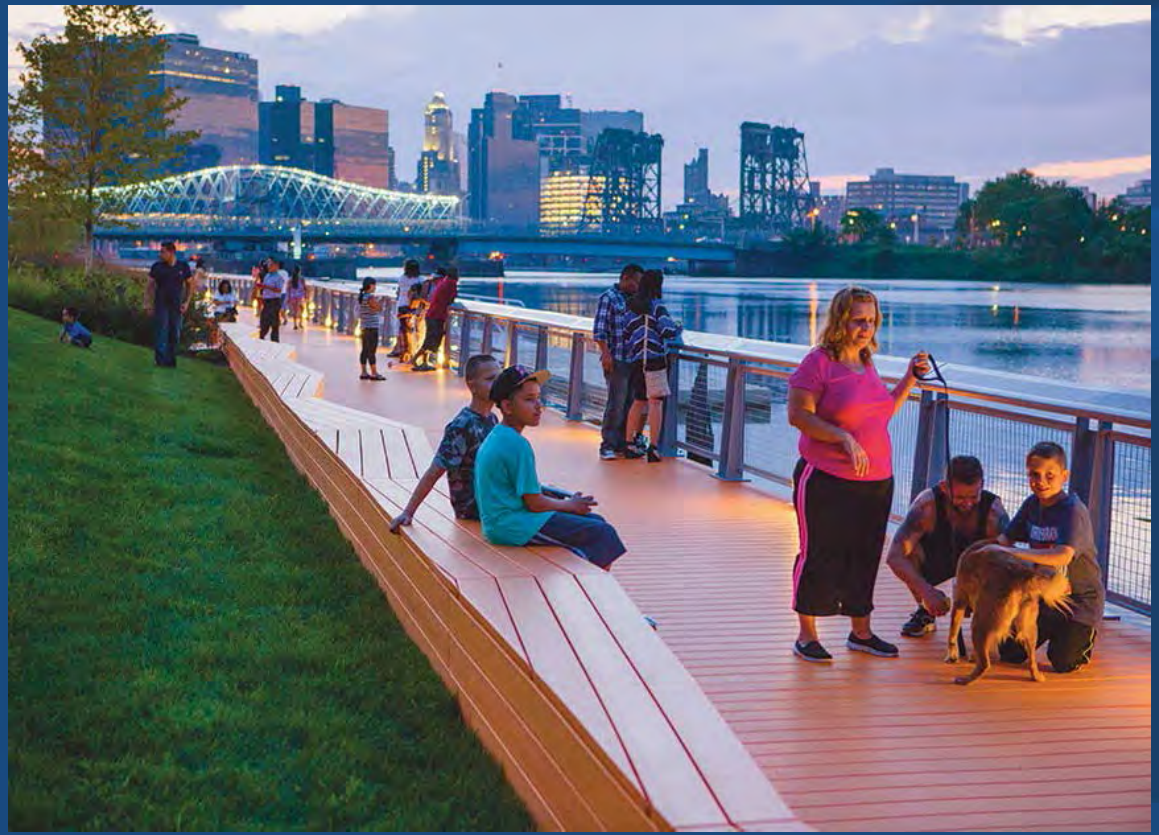
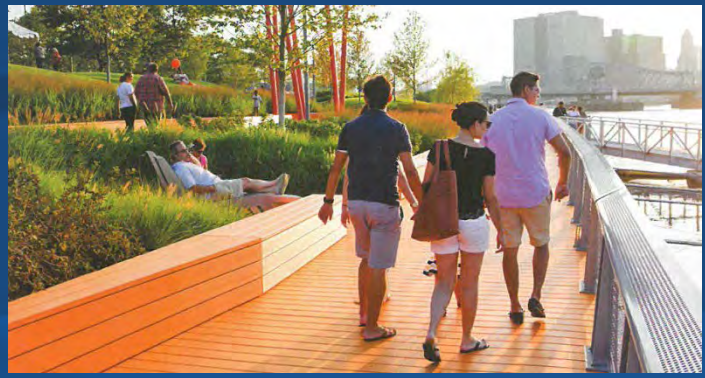
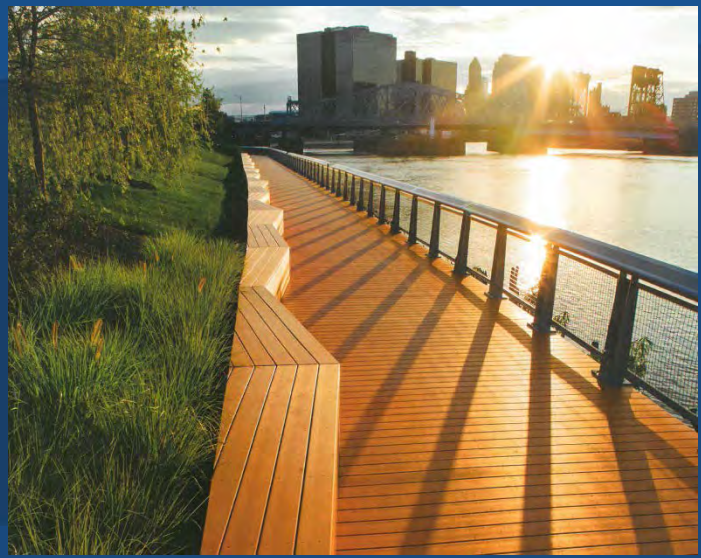


Dubuque Street Overlook

Newark (NJ) Riverfront Park







Trail Extension

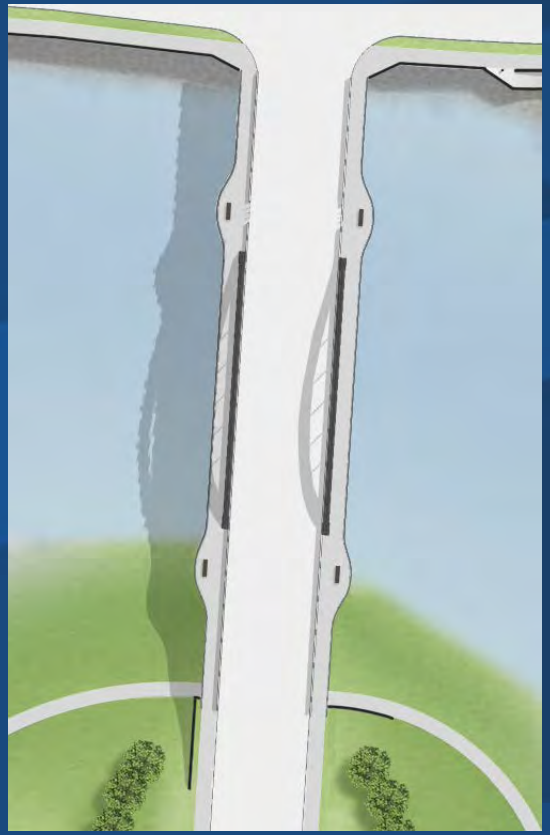
Site Furnishings

Benches

Barco Cassidy Series or similar

Proposed Locations:

- Bridge overlooks
- Adjacent to trail
  - Terrell Mill Park

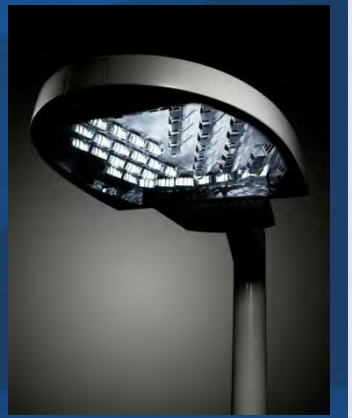


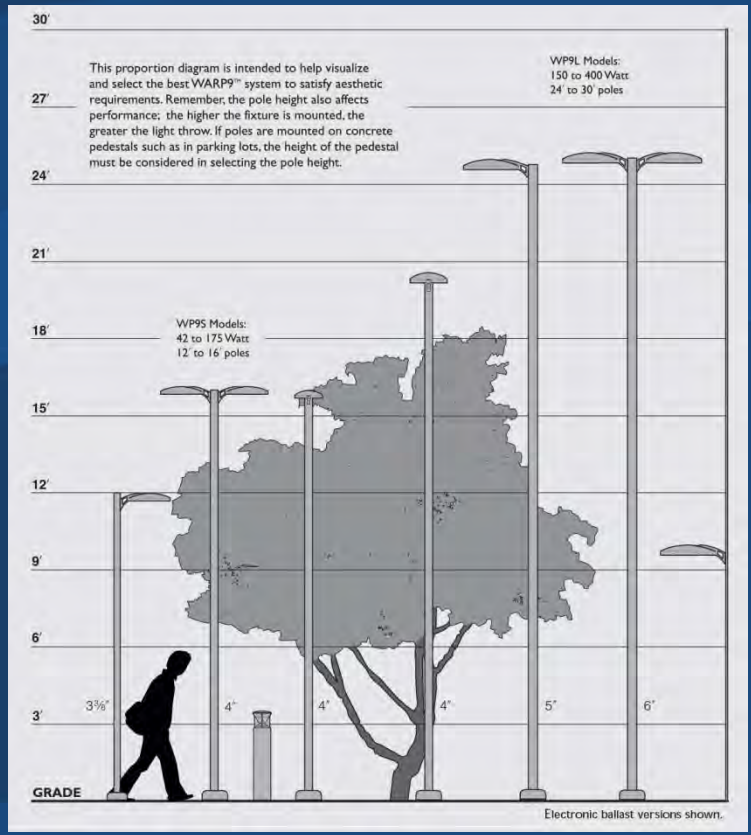
KIM Warp 9 LED or similar

Lighting

Options

Color/Finish



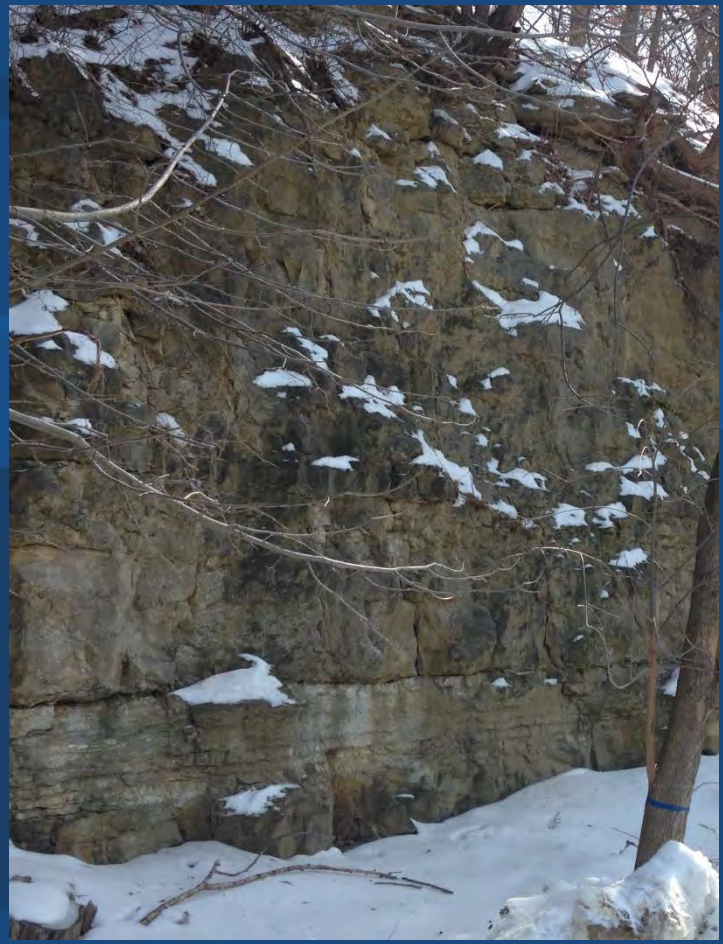


Lighting

Bluff Face

Lighting Intent:

- Uplight from ground
- Source hidden



Lighting

Bridge

Lighting Intent:

- Feature bridge architecture
- Provide street / trail illumination

Existing Corridor Amenities

Dubuque St.

Tree Survey

Purpose:

- Identification of trees to be surveyed and evaluated
- Determination of species, health, and quality by arborist