



Miami-Dade County, Florida USA
MIAMI-DADE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



Aesthetic Guidance and Action Plan for Transportation Projects



MIAMI – DADE COUNTY

January 2011

Process

- Eight Month long process
- Guided by Transportation Aesthetics Review Committee (TARC) and Study Advisory Committee (SAC members listed below)
 - Bann Williams, MDPWD, OCI (CIAB)
 - Paul Moss, FDOT
 - Lynda Westin, SFRTA
 - Alissa Escobar, Port of Miami
 - Felix Pereira, Port of Miami
 - Richard Johnson, MDX
 - Juan Toledo, MDX
 - Brandi Reddick, MD Cultural Affairs
 - Shailendra Singh, MDP&Z
 - Leandro Ona, MDPWD
 - Rolando Jimenez, MDPWD
 - Isabel Padron, MDT
 - Nardi Maria, MDPRD
 - Carlos Jose, MDAD
- Four Joint Committee Meetings (SAC and TARC) held:
 - June 23-24 2010 (two-day meeting)
 - September 14, 2010
 - November 3, 2010
 - January 19, 2011
- Final Report due by the end of February

- Basis for Aesthetic Guidance and Action Plan (TARC and CIAB)
- Research of Existing Guides and Manuals
- Aesthetic Guidance based on research of local guides as compared to some national standards (such as AASHTO Guide for Transportation Landscape and Environmental Design)
- Developing an Action Plan

Selected TARC Design Principles

- Make transportation projects friendly to commuters and community
- Create a sense of place
- Push standard parameters of materials and site
- Set new standards of design excellence
- Manifest the image of the city
- Utilize a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach



Source: TARC Design Principles

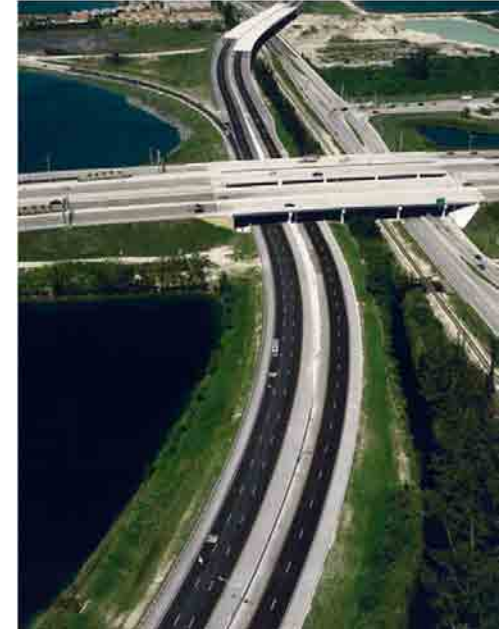
TARC Premises

- Aesthetics should be integral to the entire project design
 - Form follows function
 - Consider early and throughout project
- Incorporating Aesthetics does not have to cost more
- Can use ordinary materials creatively
- Good design is good business (and added value for Tourism)



Source: TARC

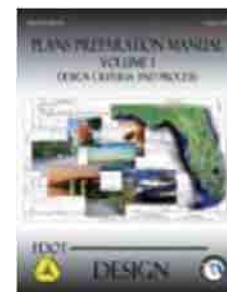
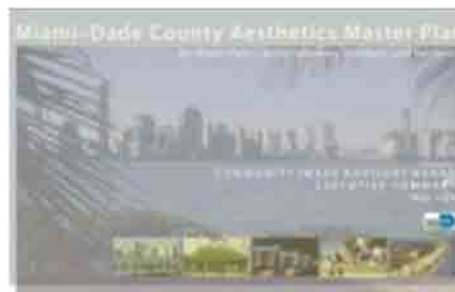
- January 2006 - County Commissioners approved a County Resolution and directed the CIAB to –
 - “develop a County Aesthetic Master Plan (AMP) that addresses landscaping and landscape maintenance of all public roadways and County Facilities”
- Overall goal of the AMP was to articulate the principles and standards for establishing a practical, sustainable beautification and greening process for County Corridors
- Among other things CIAB’s Aesthetic Master Plan addressed –
 - Gateways
 - Corridors
 - Facilities



Source: CIAB Aesthetic Master Plan

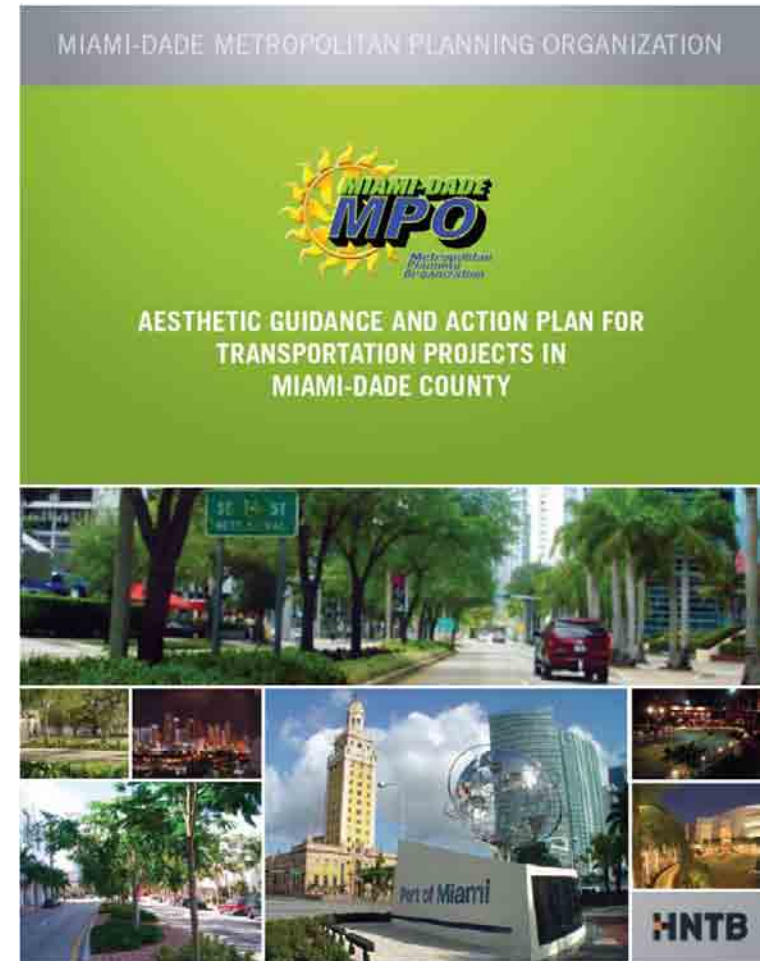
Existing Guides and Manuals

Existing Guides



Initial Aesthetic Guidance
Aesthetics Guidance and Action Plan

“What we need is a Guide to the Guides”



Source: Advisory Committee Meeting with HNTB June 24, 2010

Initial Aesthetic Guidance
Aesthetics Guidance and Action Plan



Aesthetic Guidance

Initial Aesthetic Guidance
Aesthetics Guidance and Action Plan



Defining the Context

- **Land Use and Urban Design Context**
 - Typical Roadway Section and Zoned Right-of-Way Study

- **Transportation Context**
 - CIAB's Aesthetic Master Plan Provided
 - Gateways
 - Corridors
 - Facilities



Elements in Transportation Context

Roadway

Geometrics
Pavement
Pedestrians
Bicycles
Transit

Roadway Structures

Bridges
Retaining walls
Medians
Wildlife Crossings
Guardrails
Lighting
Signs
Toll Structures
Public Art

Roadside Structures

Grading
Hydrology
Vegetation
Pavement edge
Rest Areas and Scenic
Overlooks

Outside the Right-of-way

Land use
Access management
View of the Road/ View from the
Road
Scenic Byways
Outdoor advertising
Park and Ride



		Roadway				Roadway Structures				Roadside		Roadside Structures		Outside the ROW															
		Geometries	Pavement	Pedestrians	Bicycles	Transit	Bridges	Retaining Walls	Medians	Midside Crossings	Guardrails	Lighting	Signs	Toll Structures	Public Art	Erosion and Drainage	Vegetation	Rest Areas and scenic Overlooks	Noise Abatement	Fences and Walls	Site Furnishings	Utilities	Community Gateways	Land Use	Access Management	View from/to the Road	Scenic Byways	Outdoor Advertising	Park and Ride
TARC	Design Mission Statement																												
TARC	Design Principles																												
CIAB	Aesthetic Master Plan																												
CIAB	Gateway Standards																												
CIAB	MDC Street Tree Master Plan																												
MDC	Comprehensive Development Master Plan																												
MDC	Landscape Manual																												
MDC	Urban Design Manual																												
MDC	Public Works Manual																												
MDX	Enhancements Manual																												
LYNX	Central Florida Mobility Design Manual																												
MDMPO	Typical Roadway Section and Zoned ROW Study																												
FDOT	Project Plans Manual																												

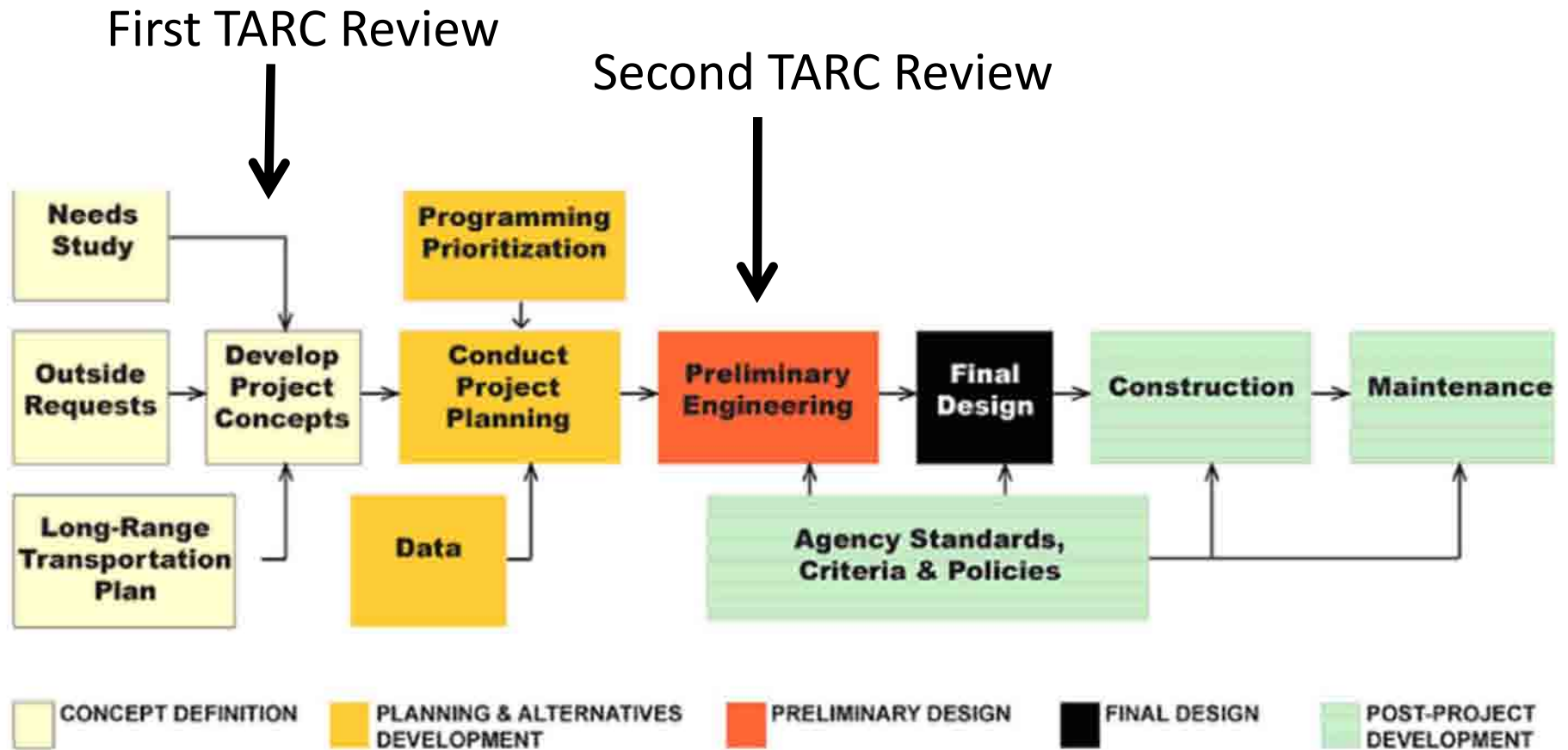
■	Current guides provides thorough guidance
■	Current guides provides some guidance, need some supplementing
■	Current guides provides minimal guidance, needs supplementing.
■	No current guidance, new guidance needed

Action Plan

Initial Aesthetic Guidance
Aesthetics Guidance and Action Plan

Action Plan

- Clearly identify the process to select projects for aesthetic review (identified by MPO Staff, lead agency staff, and TARC)
 - Projects above \$2 million cost, or
 - “High visibility” transportation projects
 - Or Both
- Streamline the review process
 - Clearly state when a project should come before the TARC
 - Once a project is selected, create a two-phase TARC review process—
 - Project to be reviewed at the on-set. Discuss major issues and agree to address those issues in the second meeting
 - Review it again to see how the issues were addressed



Source: AASHTO, A Guide for Achieving Flexibility in Highway Design

Source: AASHTO A Guide for Achieving Flexibility in Highway Design

Action Plan Approach

- Two-Phase TARC Review Process

- Defines the Land Use and Urban Design Context
- Defines the Transportation Context
- Discussion on Aesthetic Requirements and Aspirations

**First TARC Review –
Concept/Planning
Phase**

- Describes Tradeoffs
- Recommends Aesthetic Improvements
- Selects Aesthetic Treatments

**Second TARC Review
Preliminary Engineering
Phase**

Action Plan Approach

- Educate designers, consultants, board members, and various agencies staff about –
 - The design process
 - Currently available guides and their applications in different projects
 - Role of design in community building
- Organize regular education sessions on transportation aesthetics by incorporating them in local and regional engineering summits / conferences / workshops
- Create communications tools to clearly present existing resources –
 - Brochure / Handout
 - WebPages



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