Aesthetic Guidance and Action Plan for Transportation Projects

HNTB

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
Outline

• 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
Aesthetic Guidance
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roadway</th>
<th>Roadway Structures</th>
<th>Roadside Structures</th>
<th>Outside the Right-of-way</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geometrics</td>
<td>Bridges</td>
<td>Grading</td>
<td>Land use</td>
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<td>Pavement</td>
<td>Retaining walls</td>
<td>Hydrology</td>
<td>Access management</td>
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<td>Pedestrians</td>
<td>Medians</td>
<td>Vegetation</td>
<td>View of the Road/ View from the Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bicycles</td>
<td>Wildlife Crossings</td>
<td>Pavement edge</td>
<td>Scenic Byways</td>
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<td>Transit</td>
<td>Guardrails</td>
<td>Rest Areas and Scenic Overlooks</td>
<td>Outdoor advertising</td>
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<th>Lighting</th>
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<th>Park and Ride</th>
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<td>Toll Structures</td>
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**Initial Aesthetic Guidance**

**Aesthetics Guidance and Action Plan**
Elements in the Transportation Settings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARC</th>
<th>Design Mission Statement</th>
<th>Design Principles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIAB</td>
<td>Aesthetic Master Plan</td>
<td>Gateway Standards</td>
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<td>MDC Street Tree Master Plan</td>
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<td>MDC</td>
<td>Comprehensive Development Master Plan</td>
<td>Landscape Manual</td>
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<td>MDX</td>
<td>Enhancements Manual</td>
<td>LYNX Central Florida Mobility Design Manual</td>
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<td>MDMPO Typical Roadway Section and Zoned ROW Study</td>
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<td>FDOT Project Plans Manual</td>
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Legend:
- Green: Current guide provides thorough guidance
- Blue: Current guide provides some guidance, some need some supplementing
- Yellow: Current guide provides minimal guidance, needs supplementing
- Red: No current guidance, new guidance needed

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
Action Plan Approach

Traditional Process

First TARC Review

Second TARC Review

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
  - Describes Tradeoffs
  - Recommends Aesthetic Improvements
  - Selects Aesthetic Treatments

First TARC Review – Concept/Planning Phase

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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