Grade-Separated Trail Crossings How Do We Get Over There?

2008 National Trails Symposium

Rory Renfro, Alta Planning + Design Scott Belonger, Loris and Associates Peter Loris, Loris and Associates





PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Why grade-separated crossings?
- What barriers are we trying to cross?
- Decision-making process
- At-grade or grad-separated? Go over or under? Where to build it? Etc.
- Pedestrian underpass design considerations
- Bridge/overpass design considerations





WHY GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSINGS?

- Critical links in the bike/ped network: overcome barriers
- Provide bike/ped links where at-grade crossings are not possible
- Respond to a demand for safe crossings where they didn't previously exist
- Provide direct links where the surrounding transportation system offers limited connectivity
- More than just a transportation facility





What are the barriers?

What are we trying to cross?

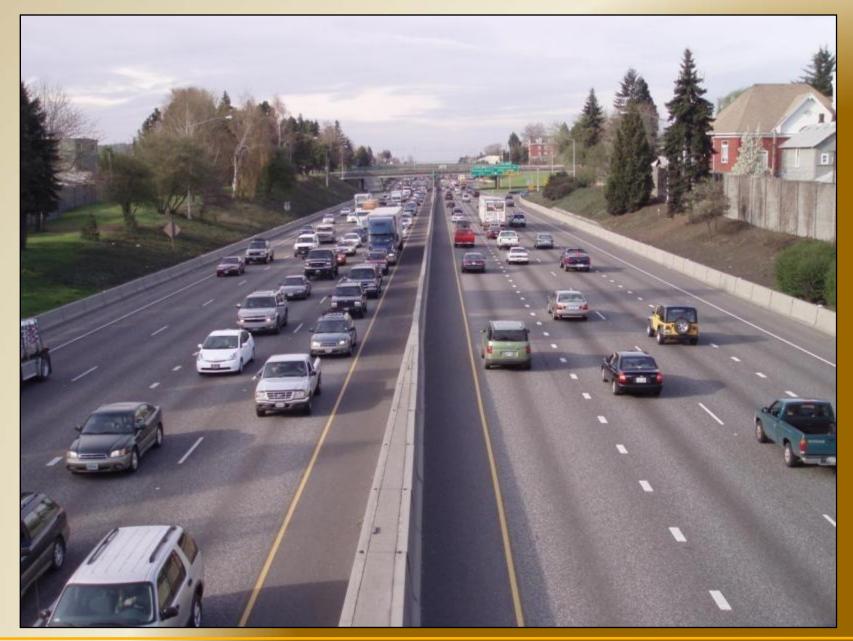






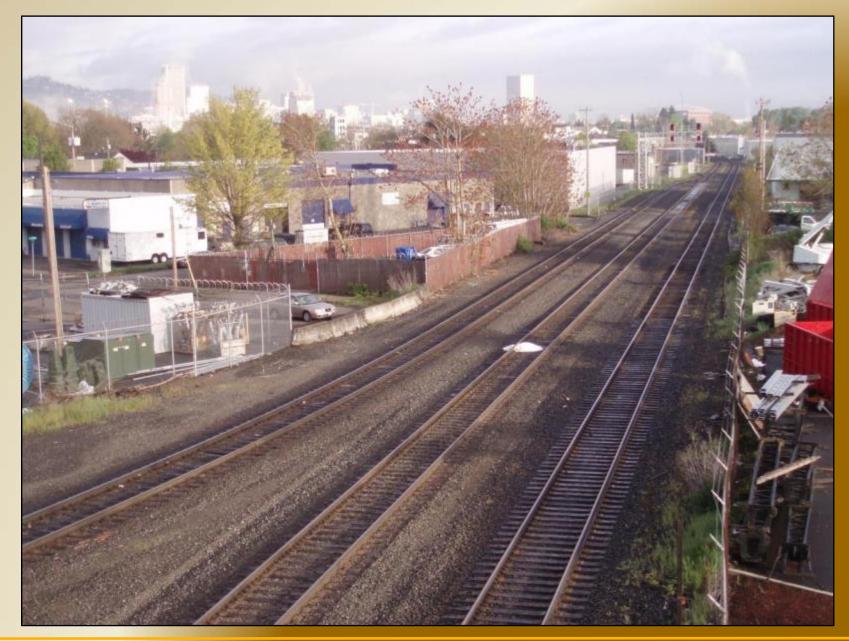






















Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities



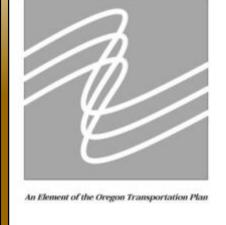
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Rails-with-Trails:









T OREGON DEMRTMENT OF TRANSPORATION

Design Manual

tos State Separtment of Traves rist and Engineering Programs

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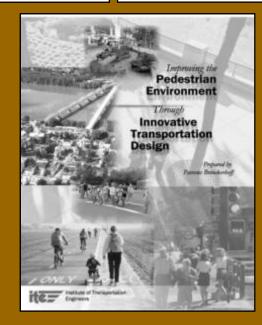
******** PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES GUIDEBOOK

Incorporating Pedestrians Into Washington's Transportation System

Sponsored by pre-State Department of Transport Proget States Hinghmad Couvell menty Road Schedelstration Deard News Letters of Weekington Chies

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HOW DO WE GET OVER THERE?

The decision-making process

- At-grade or grade-separated?
- Go over or go under?
- Where do we build it?
- What kind of access can/do we provide?
- What are the details?
- Can we afford it?





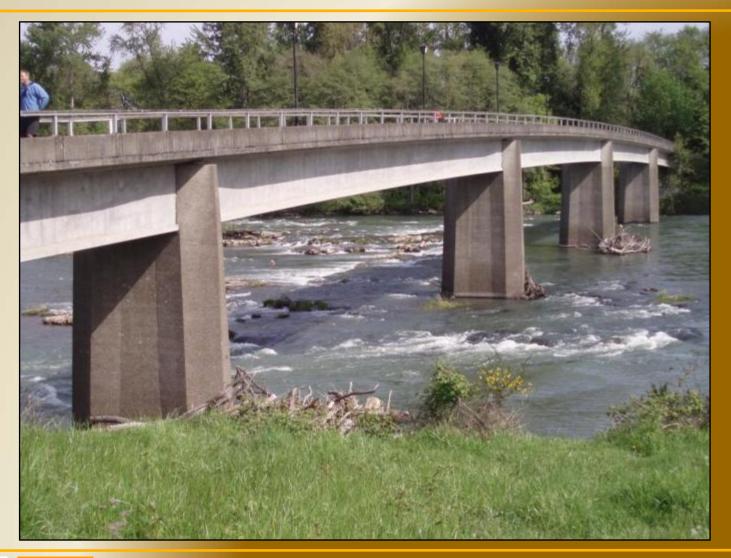
Question 1: At-grade or grade-separated?

Largely depends on the barrier being crossed





WATERWAYS







FREEWAYS







RAILROADS







MAJOR ROADS







The main dilemma: Getting across major roads (and to some extent, railroads)







USING A BRIDGE/TUNNEL VS. CROSSING AT-GRADE

User's decision based on:

- Bridge/tunnel location relative to desired travel route
- Availability of alternative crossings
- Elements precluding/discouraging at-grade crossings
- Perceived risk of crossing at-grade
- Distance/time needed to access and cross the bridge/tunnel





USING A BRIDGE/TUNNEL VS. CROSSING AT-GRADE

 Institute of Transportation Engineers Study (1998):

- 70% of peds would use a bridge/tunnel if travel time = at-grade crossing time
- If If bridge/tunnel travel time >50% of at-grade crossing time: Very low use
- Washington State DOT Design Manual:
 - Low bridge/tunnel use if walking distance for 85% of peds is ¹/₄-mile of at-grade crossing distance













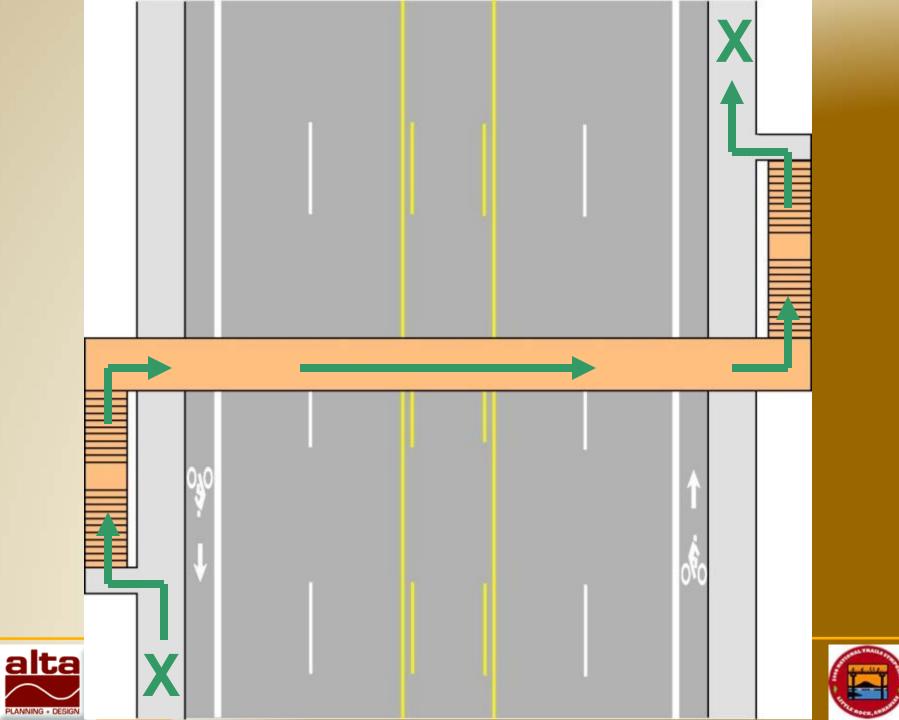


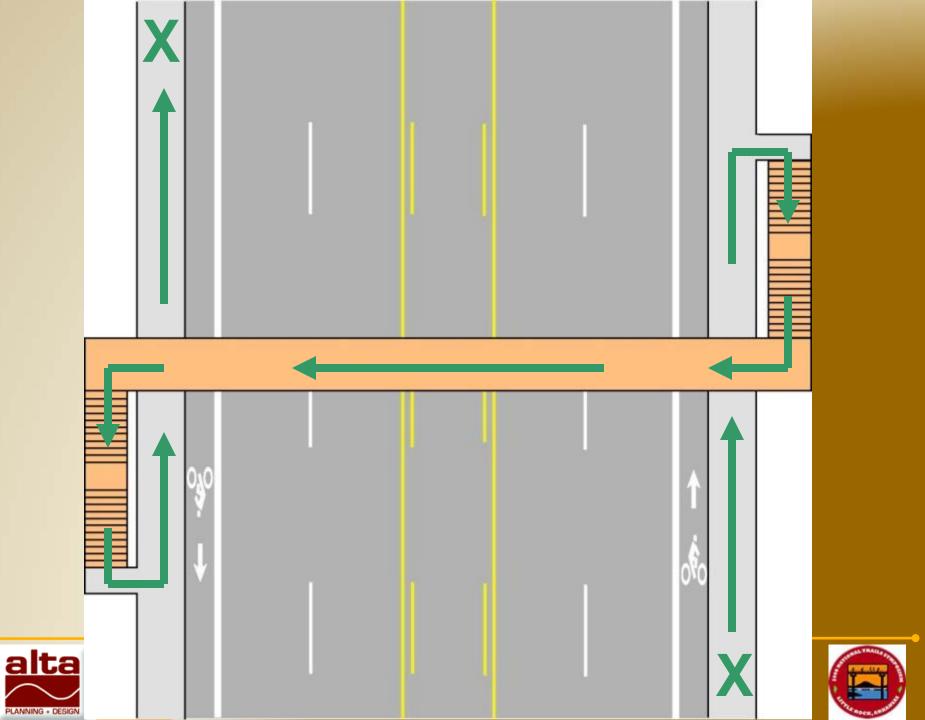




















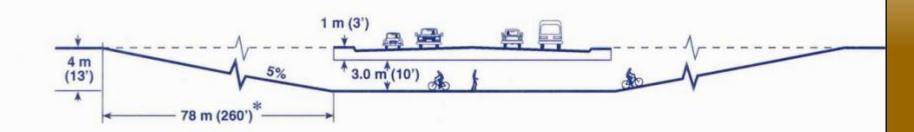
Question 2: Go over or go under?

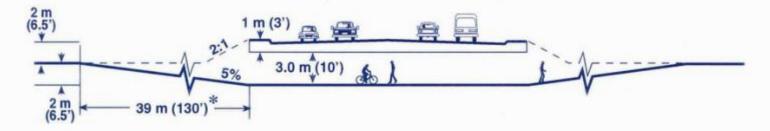
 Drainage, environmental impacts, adjacent property impacts, constructability, user safety and security, etc.

 Vertical ascent/descent necessary to reach bridge/tunnel

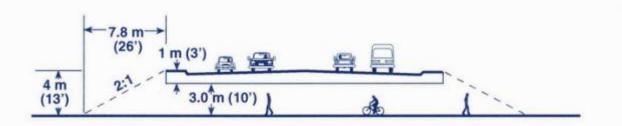








* not to scale



Source: Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan







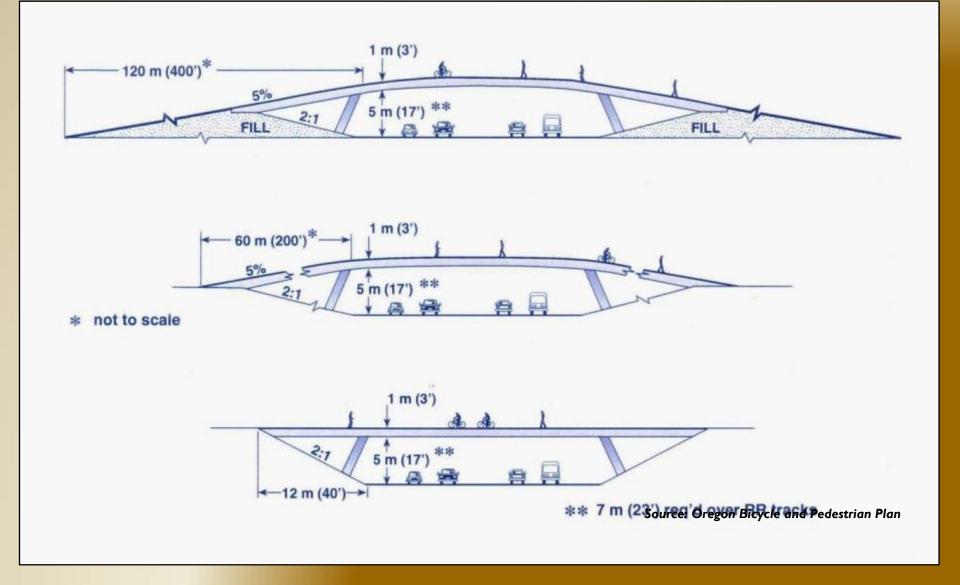






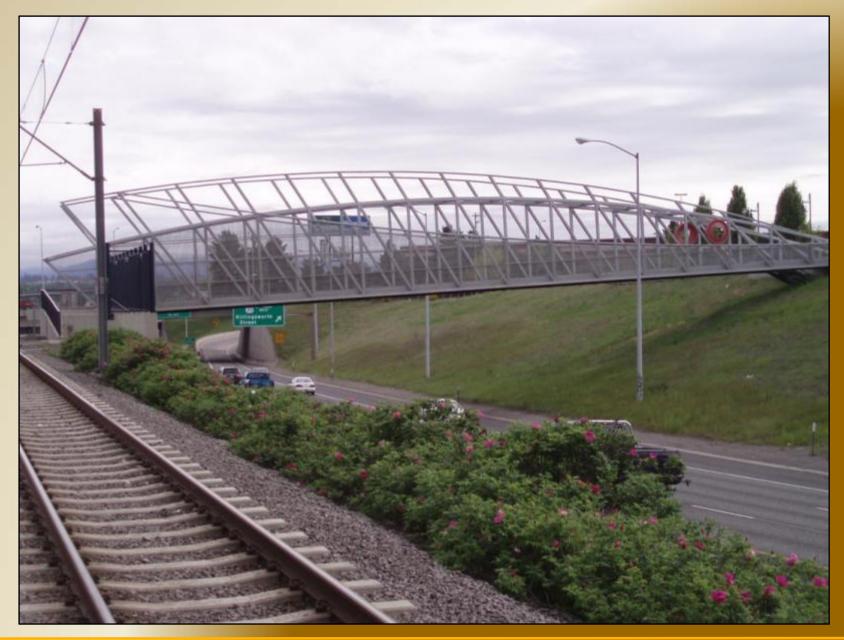












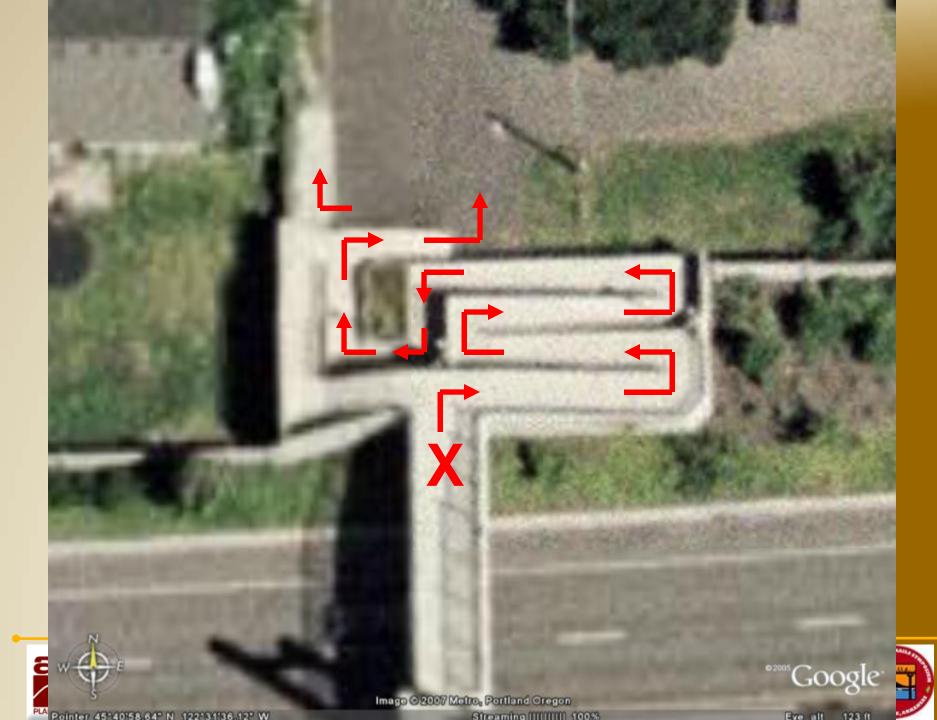


















Question 3: Where do we build it?

Bridge/tunnel proximity to:

- Surrounding pedestrian/bicycle facilities
- Logical walking/bicycling routes and destinations
- Alternative crossing opportunities





Surrounding pedestrian/bicycle facilities

- Good connections to surrounding facilities
 highly important
- Bridges/tunnels within an overall comprehensive network = potentially higher usage
- Wayfinding critical























DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- Logical walking/bicycling routes; Proximity to destinations
 - Should not require out-of-direction travel to/from a logical travel route or desired destination







DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Question 4:

What kind of access can/do we provide?

Depends on:

- Amount of necessary vertical ascent/descent
- Available "footprint" space

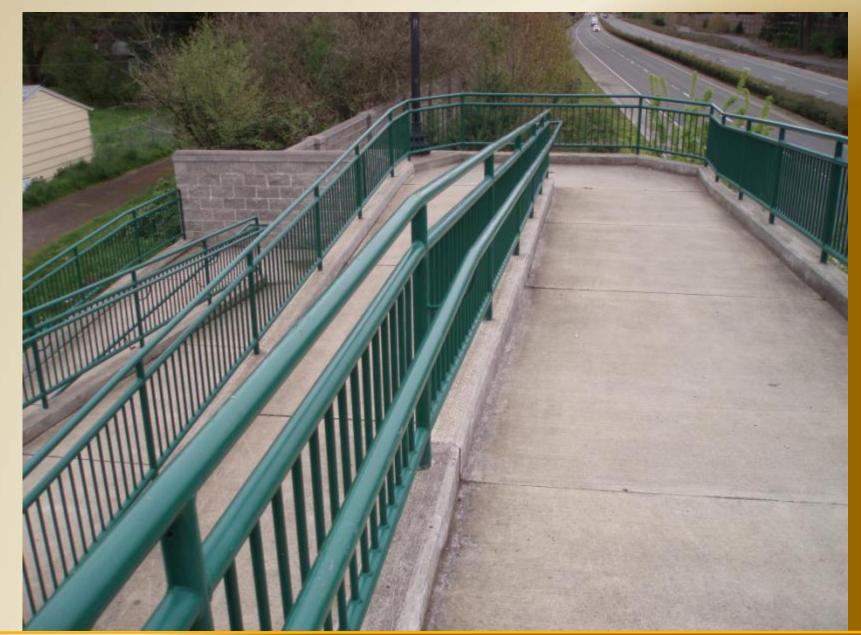






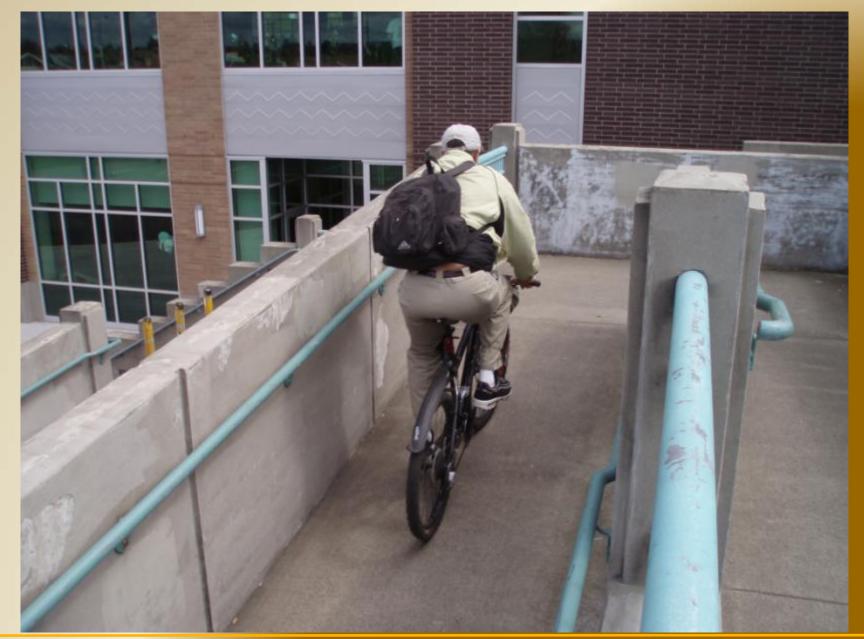






































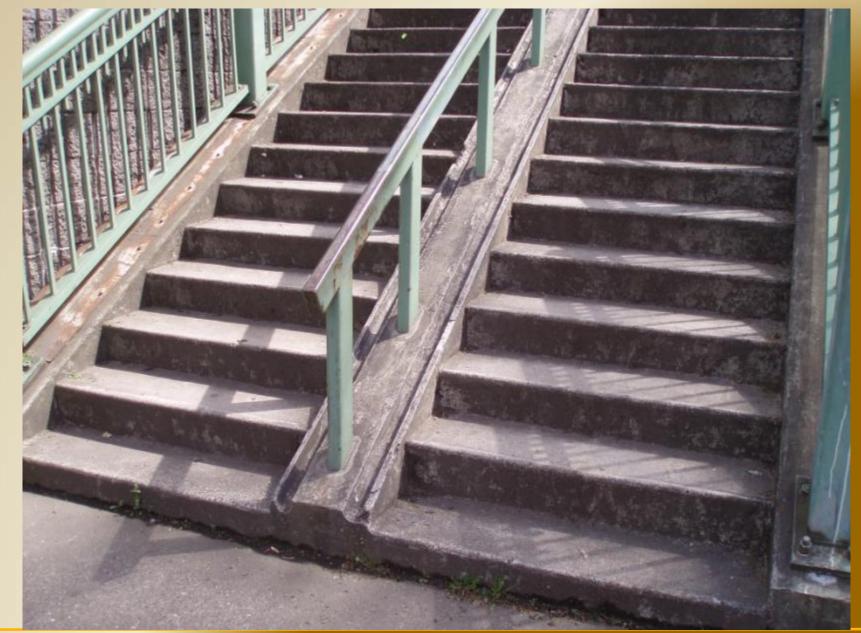






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DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- Bridges/tunnels serving multiple functions
 - Visual icons
 - Enhance user experience
 - Bridges as community gathering places
 - Tourism





DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Question 5: What are the details?

Pedestrian Underpass





UNDERPASS ISSUES

- FeasibilitySuccess
- Critical Issues
 - site constraints
 - constructability
 - structure selection
 - drainage
 - lighting
 - safety

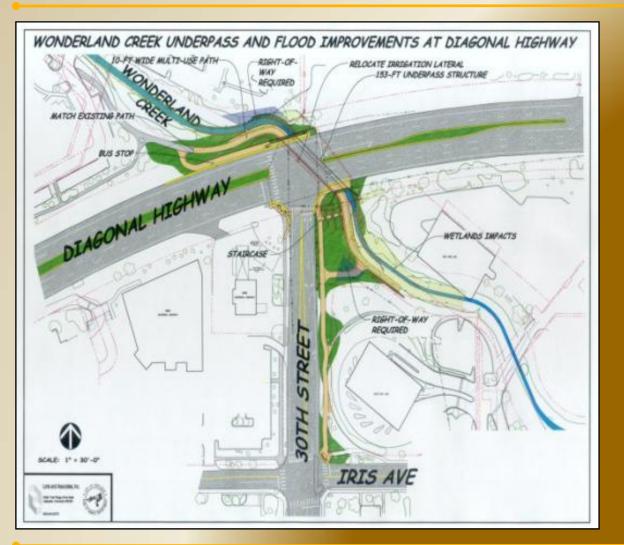








EVALUATING THE SITE



Utilities
 Right of Way
 Environmental
 Soil Conditions
 Traffic Control
 Drainage

At what cost?





UTILITIES

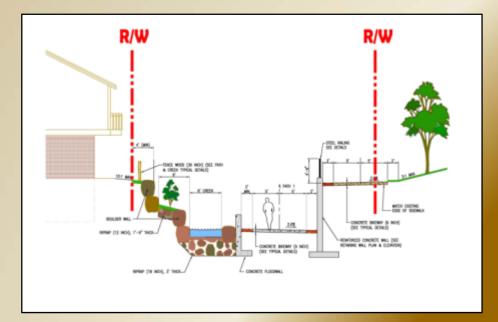


- Locate all utilities and coordinate with owners
 Pothole critical utilities
- Asbestos conduits require special treatment
- Avoid costly utility delays





RIGHT OF WAY





Identify available right of way
 Consider space required for construction
 Talk with property owners early
 Right of way negotiations can take time





SOIL CONDITIONS



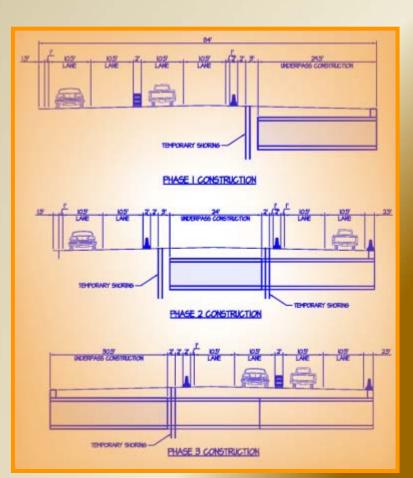


Hire a geotechnical consultant
 Identify groundwater elevations and soil conditions
 Plan for ground water during and after construction



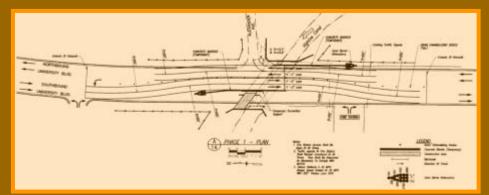


TRAFFIC CONTROL



Consider impacts to traffic during construction

- can the road be closed during construction?
 design speed?
- •number of lanes?
- •pedestrian and bikes during construction?







TRAFFIC CONTROL

Consider impacts to traffic during construction











TRAFFIC CONTROL

Don't forget pedestrians, bus stops, etc







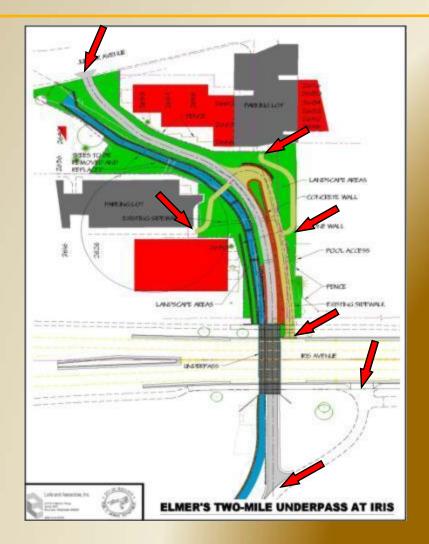
EVALUATING THE SITE



Site challenges have been identified







- Identify path connection to at-grade facilities (sidewalks, bus stops...)
- Determine approach grades
 - use ADA and AASTHO Bike Guide Requirements
 - provide 5% max if possible
 - **Provide horizontal curves**
 - consider sight distance
 - bicycle movements
 - maintenance vehicles

Consider ramps and stairs, depending on usage





- AASHTO Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities
 - 5 6% up to 800 ft
 - 7% up to 400 ft
 - 8% up to 300 ft
 - 9% up to 200 ft
 - 10% up to 100 ft
 - 11+% up to 50 ft

UNDERPASS







✓ ADA Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Facilities

- 1:20 (5%) any distance
- 1:12 (8.33%) up to 200 ft
- 1:10 (10%) up to 30 ft
- 1:8 (12.5%) up to 10 ft



Provide alternate routes







Provide alternate routes



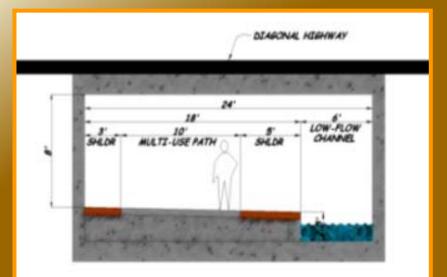


STRUCTURE SIZING



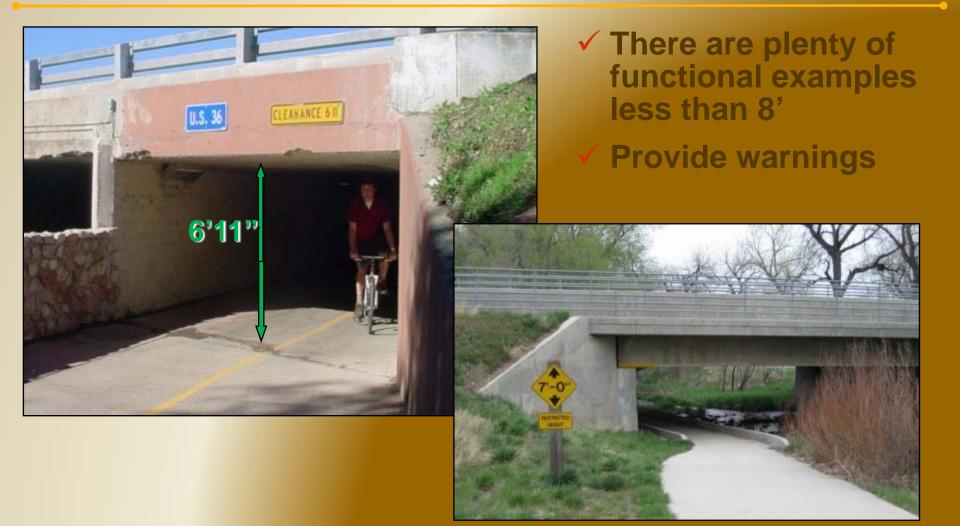
- ✓ AASTHO: 10-ft vert. clearance
- ✓ 8-ft Vert. is typically acceptable
- ✓ Horiz. clearance of 14-ft min.
- Consider impacts to utilities and drainage
- Size for flood conveyance if appropriate
- Additional height usually adds more to cost than width







STRUCTURE SIZING







STRUCTURE TYPES







Cast-In-Place Concrete

Precast Concrete

Corrugated Steel





CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE



Advantages

- can be "customized"
- no joints

Disadvantages

- longer duration of construction
- cost





CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE

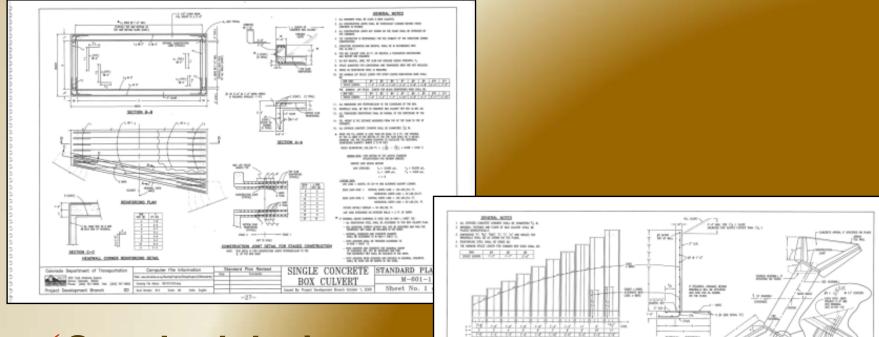


 Fabrication on site takes time
 Consider impacts to traffic and control of

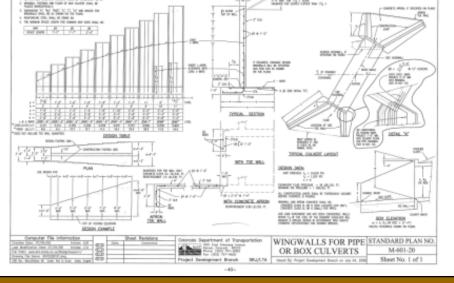
water





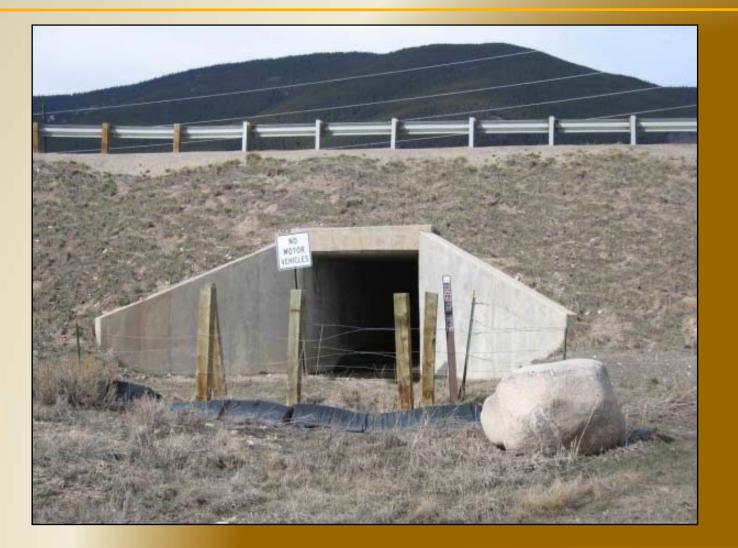


 Standard designs are available from many state DOTs















Combined hydraulic structure







Enhanced aesthetic structures







- Controlled
 Drainage
- Textured Surfacing
- Recessed Lighting







 Advantages
 quick installation
 Disadvantages

- less flexibility
- joints
- leakage







Three-sided arch structure







Three-sided arch structure

Spans up to 35'







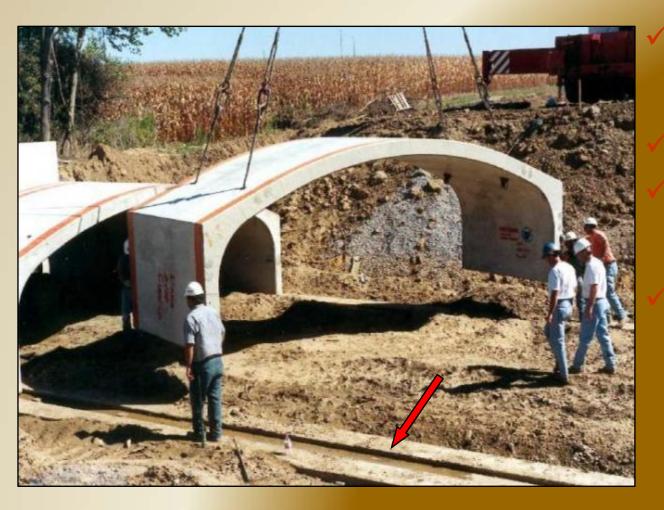
Delivered to the site in 4' to 8' sections

Spans up to 15'

Base preparation is important







3-sided structures used for longer spans Spans up to 35' Cast-in-place footings required Additional Vertical Clearance

Required













Asphalt paving with curb and gutter













Waterproof joints from the outside







Properly seal and waterproof joints in precast concrete structures Avoid using in wet locations







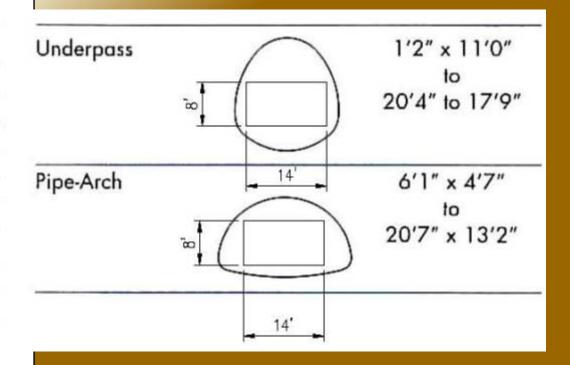
Advantages
quickest installation
least Cost
Disadvantages

- less flexibility
- geometric constraints
- more vertical clearance needed
- leakage
- aesthetics
- service Life





			STRUCTURE SHAPE GEOMETRY			
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H 20 Bridge	notacien	spars up to 150'	Courts, city parts, inclusival complement	х.	3	Hacry/Highw Bridge











Assembled on site and lifted in place







Circular pipe







Concrete collar required

✓ Vertical arch "underpass" shape







Threesided arch





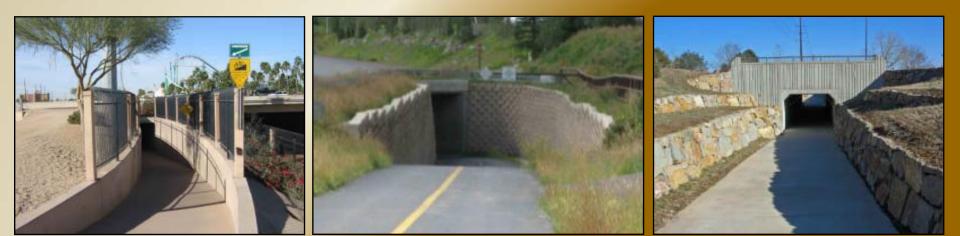


Surface mounted lighting





WALL TYPES



Cast-In-Place Concrete

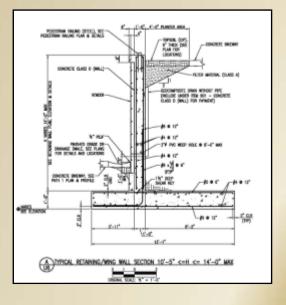
Mechanically Stabilized Earth

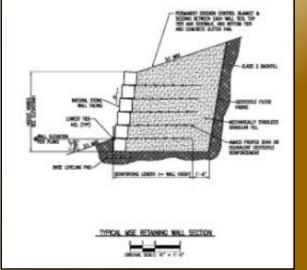
Gravity Wall

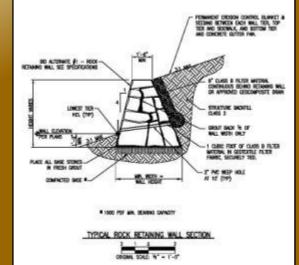




WALL TYPES







Cast-In-Place Concrete H = 20'+ Mechanically Stabilized Earth H = 20'+ Reinforcing Needed Rock Gravity Wall H= 4'-5' Multiple Tears





RETAINING WALLS



Consider constructability issues



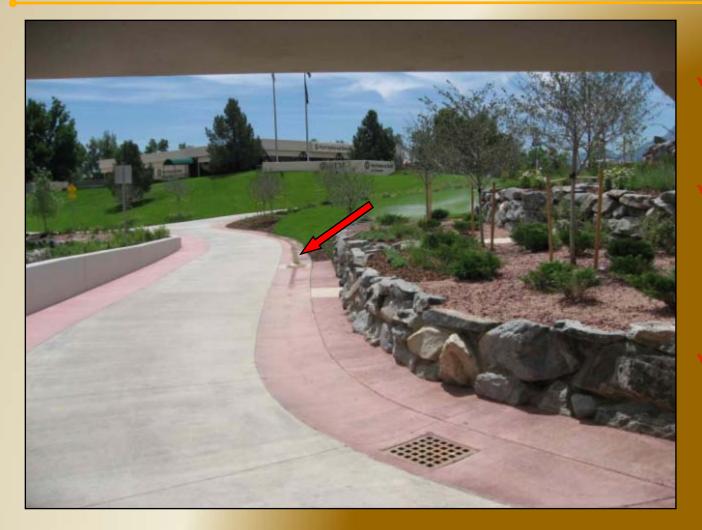




- Underpasses are low and dark
 - drainage is critical
 - Avoid cross-path drainage
 - Collect drainage before entering underpass
 - Consider icing issues







Direct water away from path

Control water, keep it from crossing path

 Locate inlets at low points, off travel way



















Better to control drainage and catch it outside the structure







Standing water and debris reduces user value







Must provide drainage outfall







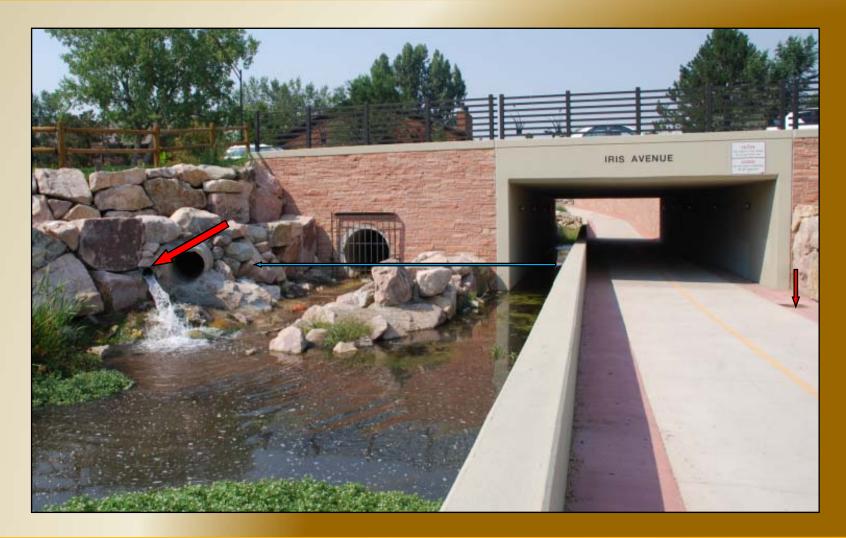


- ✓ Outfall location water surface must be below inlet elevation
- Consider back-flow conditions and flood wall heights



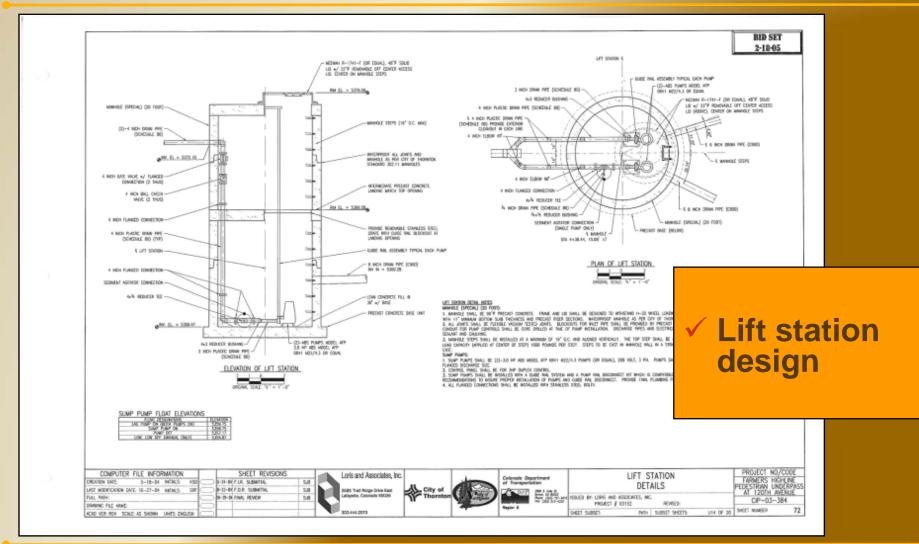


















Provide access to lift station and control panel





DRAINAGE













 Natural and artificial lighting

Balance interior and exterior light

Provide approach lighting

Vandal resistance & maintenance









Various levels of vandal resistance and aesthetics available









Lighting is most critical in long structures Bright interior col

Bright interior color helps









Skylights

- provide natural light
- brighten long underpasses
- Median required















- Safety Concerns
 •collisions / user conflicts
 •wipe-outs
- Safety Solutions
 -channelize / separate users
 -provide adequate visibility
 -control speeds
 -control water / ice / debris
 - provide slope protection (railings and barriers)

CONSIDER THESE THROUGHOUT THE DESIGN







Provide warnings and channelization



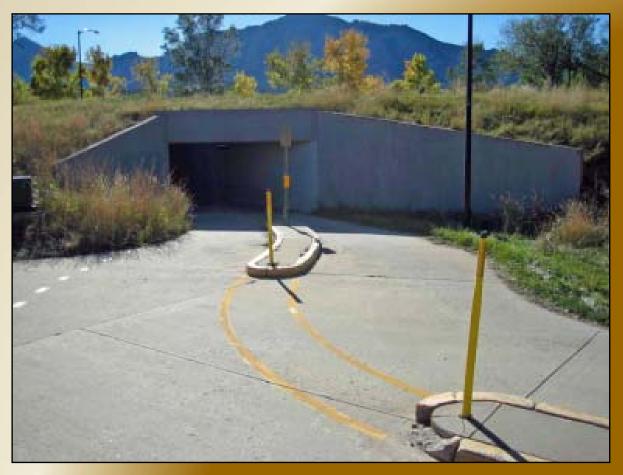




✓ Center striping







Island channelization to improve user separation















✓ Don't encourage conflicts







Enhance sight lines with mirrors









✓ Provide warnings







Control user movements







✓ Delineate edges







✓ Control speed







Consider visibility





ESTIMATING UNDERPASS COST

\checkmark	Underpass Structure \$100-\$200 / SF	14'x100'=\$140k - \$280k
\checkmark	Temporary Traffic Control	\$50k - \$200k
✓	Concrete Path \$4 - \$8 / SF	10'x600'=\$24k - \$48k
\checkmark	Drainage	\$5k - \$50k
✓	Lighting	\$5k - \$25k
✓	Pavement Restoration \$2 - \$4 / SF	100'x75' = \$15k - \$30k
\checkmark	Railings \$50 - \$200 / LF	x100' = \$5k - \$20k
\checkmark	Retaining Walls \$20 - \$60 / SF	15'x100' = \$30k - \$90k
\checkmark	Landscape	?????????
\checkmark	Utilities	?????????
\checkmark	Right of Way	?????????

UNDERPASS PROJECTS OFTEN COST \$500k TO OVER \$2 MIL





DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Question 6: What are the details?

Pedestrian Overpass





PURPOSE OF BRIDGE

Functional

- aesthetics don't matter
- low cost is everything

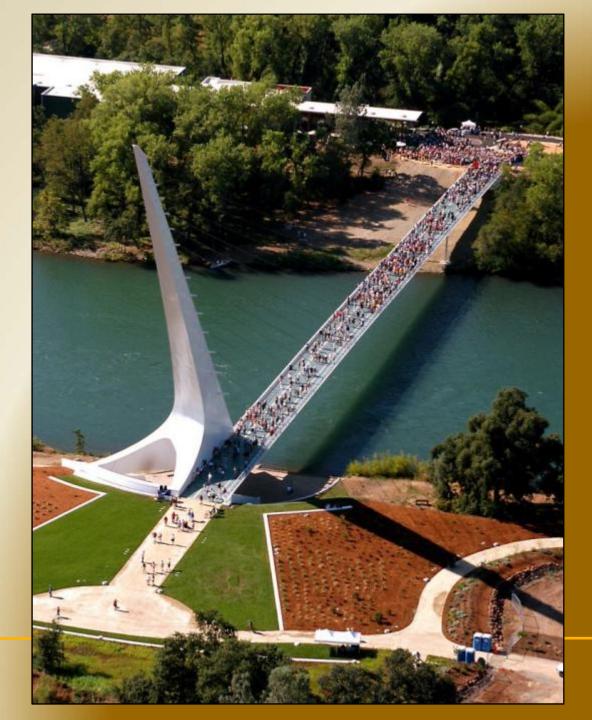
✓ Statement

- gateway
- community icon
- cost doesn't matter

On a system of Functional Bridges try to include a Statement Bridge every now and then!!!















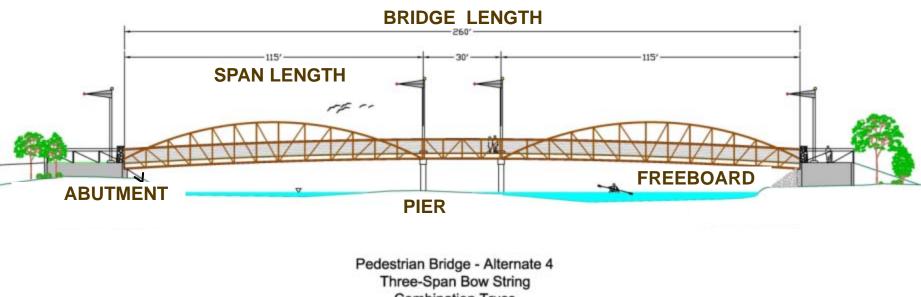








BRIDGE NOMENCLATURE



Combination Truss





TRAFFIC BRIDGE ISSUES

Critical Issues

- bridge selection
- ramp length & configuration

✓ Other Issues

- constructability
- railings
- lighting





RIVER BRIDGE ISSUES

Critical Issues

- bridge selection
- river impact
- constructability

Other Issues

- railings
- lighting





DESIGN LOADS

- ✓ Dead Load ~ Structure Self Weight
- Pedestrian Load
 - 85 psf AASHTO
 - reduce per span length (65 psf min)
- Vehicle Load
 - maintenance (10,000 lb typical)
 - emergency (54,000 lb)
 - Snow Cat (6,000 lb)
 - equestrian
- Snow, Wind, Thermal & Earthquake





CLEARANCES

✓ Vertical

- Street & Highway ~ AASHTO ~ 16.5'
- Railroad ~ AREMA ~ 25.0'
- River
 - Local ~ 2' min. over 100-year event
 - DOT ~ F=0.89*Q^{0.3}+0.26*V²

Horizontal

- Approach width plus 2' recommended
- Approach width plus 0' common









BRIDGE TYPES

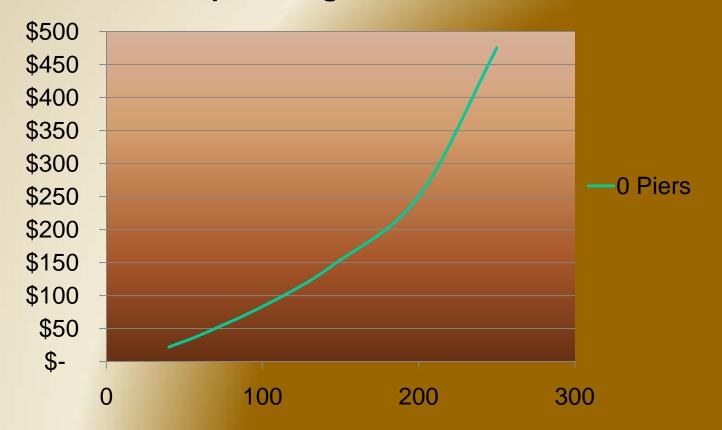
Girder	Short Spans5' to 100'
Truss	Medium Spans20' to 150'
Arch	Medium Spans50' to 300'
Cable Stay	Long Spans100' to 300'
Suspension	 Long Spans 200' to 500'





SUPERSTRUCTURE COSTS

Span Length vs. Cost







BRIDGE AESTHETICS

Integral to Bridge Structure

- truss
- arch
- cable Stay
- suspension
- Add-on aesthetics
 - railings
 - pilasters at abutments
 - veneers

Try to make the bridge crossing and viewing experience memorable!!!





GIRDER BRIDGE

✓ Material Types

- steel
- concrete
- timber

Advantages

- many fabrication & construction options
- unique identity with railing
- cost ~ \$75 \$150 / sf
- Disadvantages
 - girder depth & vertical clearance





















CONCRETE









TIMBER







TIMBER







✓ Material Types

- steel
- timber
- fiberglass (FRP)

Advantages

- fitting aesthetics
- railing integral with structure
- easy construction
- installs quickly
- cost ~ \$75 \$150 / sf
- Disadvantages
 - lead time
 - "common" look























Material types

- steel
- concrete
- timber

Advantages

- graceful aesthetics
- Iow below trail profile
- **Disadvantages**
 - cost ~ \$150 \$300 / sf







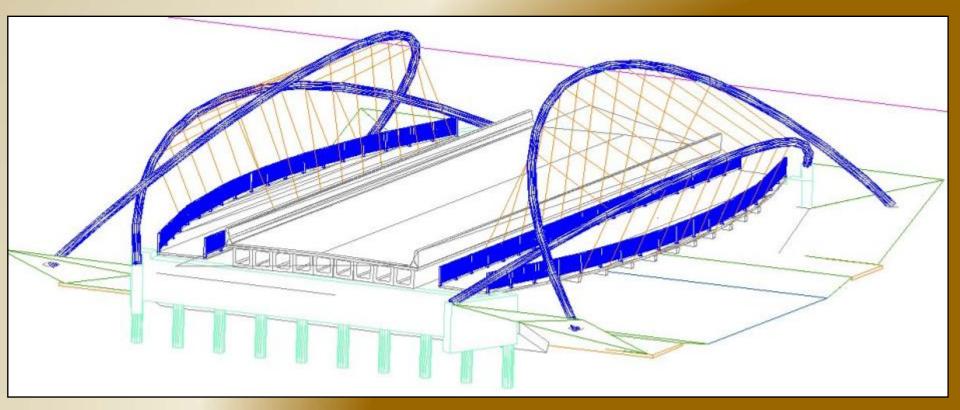
















CABLE STAY BRIDGE

✓ Material Types

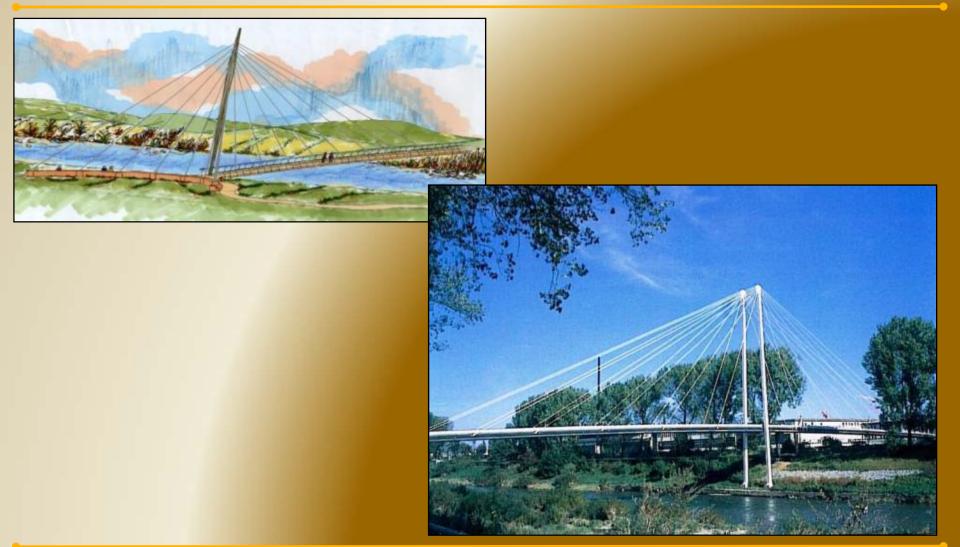
- steel
- timber
- concrete

- Advantages
 - aesthetics
 - long span
 - Iow profile
 - **Disadvantages**
 - cost ~ \$400 \$500 / sf
 - few contractors





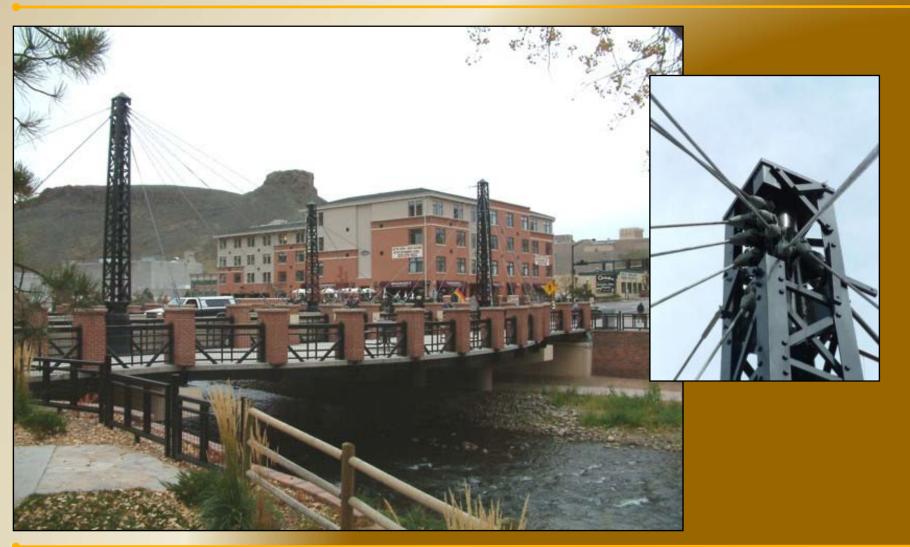
CABLE STAY BRIDGE







CABLE STAY BRIDGE







Material Types

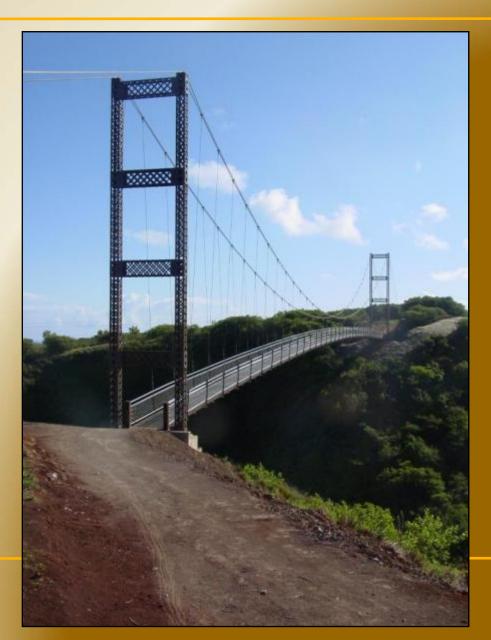
- steel
- concrete
- timber

Advantages

- long river crossings
- graceful aesthetics
- inaccessible pier locations
- **Disadvantages**
 - few contractors
 - cost ~ \$400 \$500 / sf







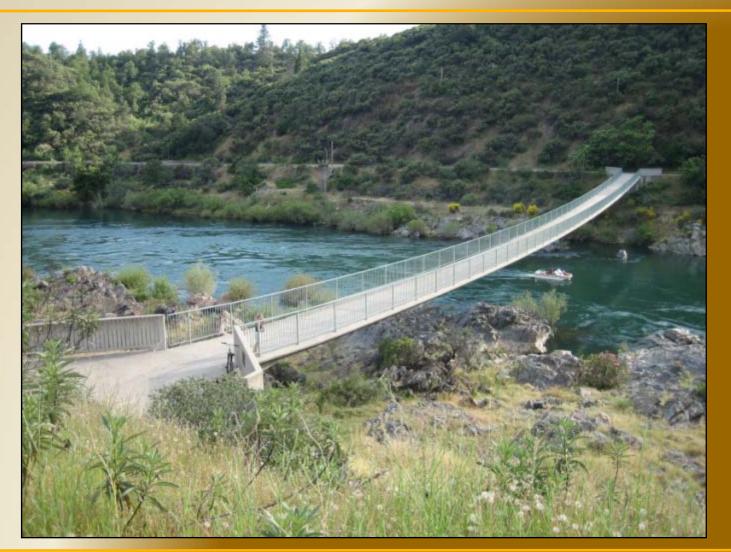


















- Use ADA Guidelines
- Long Ramps Due to Vertical Clearances
 - 370' at 5%
 - 225' at 8.33%
- Significant "Overlooked" Cost

























ABUTMENTS & PIERS

✓ Types

- footings
- piles*
- caissons*
- helical/screw

✓ Cost

- abutment ~ \$5,000 to \$15,000
- pier ~ \$5,000 to \$25,000
- Requires soils investigation & utility locates

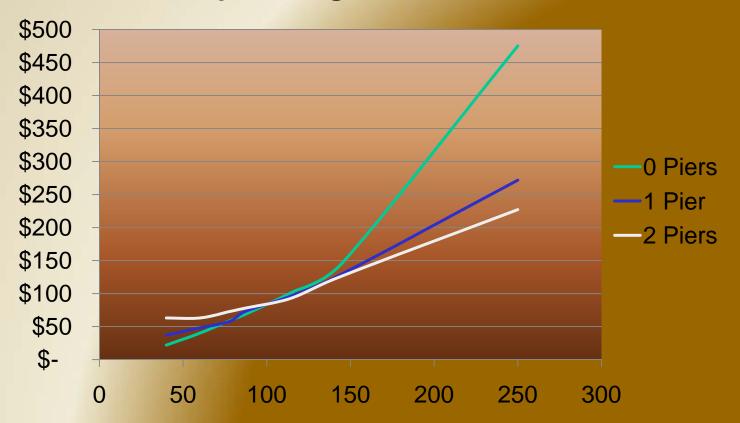
* Preferred when scour is possible





BENEFIT OF PIERS

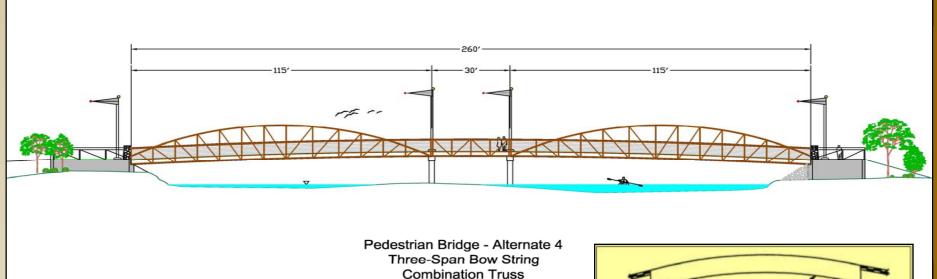
Span Length vs. Cost



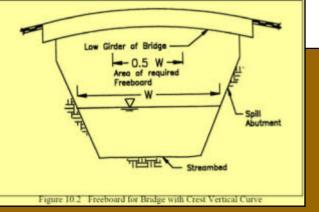




IMPACT TO RIVER



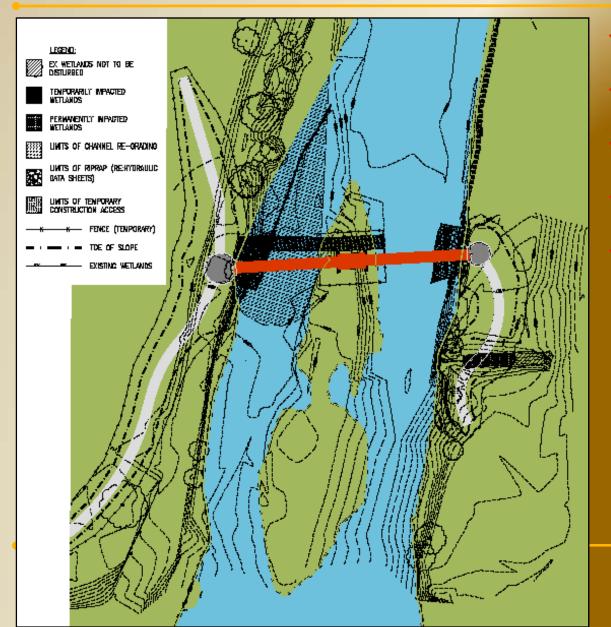
Regulatory Requirements
 Freeboard & Bridge Depth
 Approach Embankments







IMPACT TO RIVER



Number of Piers
 Scour Protection
 Construction
 Wetland Impact
 Mitigation



Urban & High Risk Areas *

- IBC-based
- 42" high
- 4" sphere to 34", 8" sphere above 34"

Highway Overpass

• 2" sphere to 7'-10"

* USFS Trail Bridge Catalogue

















Rural & Moderate Risk Areas *

- AASHTO-based
- 42" for peds & 54" for bikes + equestrian
- 6" sphere to 27", 8" sphere above 27"

* USFS Trail Bridge Catalogue























Remote & Low Risk Areas *

- OSHA-based
- 42" for peds & 54" for bikes + equestrian
- 15" between 2"x4" wood rails and 19" between steel rails

* USFS Trail Bridge Catalogue











Functional = Safe
Architectural
Human scale
Vandal resistant
Maintenance

LED use is revolutionizing lighting!!!































UNDERPASS VS. BRIDGE

CATEGORY	UNDERPASS	OVERPASS		
Safety				
Convenience				
User Experience				
Resident Impact				
Environmental Impact				
Aesthetics				
Constructability			Legend	
Cost			Clear	
			Advantage	
			Neutral	
			Clear Disadvantage	





COST CONSIDERATIONS

- Grading & Drainage
- Utility Relocation
- Traffic Control
- Retaining Walls
- ✓ Main Structure
- Secondary Structure
- ✓ Railings
- ✓ Street or River Repair
- Path Concrete
- Landscaping
- ✓ Right-of-way





Costs add up quickly. Don't get caught short.

SELECTION BASICS

Is crossing at-grade or separated

- Do you go over or under
- What is the best location
- How is it accessed
- Figure out the details
- Make sure you budget enough \$\$\$





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