Design Workshop D

Session Objective
Select a preferred alternative. Identify appropriate aesthetic and visual quality treatments for the proposed project and reassess how well multi-modal needs are met and community values are addressed.

Assignment (1 hour, 30 minutes)

1. Review work completed to date and select a preferred alternative.

2. On base map, identify opportunities where aesthetics treatments and/or landscaping could help the project “fit” the context. Consider:
   a. Bridges
   b. Retaining walls vs. slopes
   c. Medians
   d. Pedestrian or Bicycle facilities
   e. Lighting and boulevard treatments
   f. Intersections

3. Sketch materials, treatments or elements that would be used to make project fit its architectural and/or natural context. If needed determine bridge type.

4. Indicate areas where landscaping would be used on base map.

5. Identify how previous cross-section decisions might need to change in order to fully integrate streetscape and landscape treatments. Discuss whether additional design exceptions might be needed and how they would be justified. Discuss how the design process might have been different if streetscape and landscape issues had been incorporated earlier in the development of alternatives.

6. Discuss key context sensitive solutions used in the case study solution and how well they do or do not address multi-modal needs and community values.
Design Workshop D

Tool

Visual Impact Assessment Process

VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

environment synthesis people

inventory

visual resources
- natural
- cultural
- project

visual quality
- natural harmony
- cultural order
- project coherence

viewers
- neighbors
- users

analysis

scale of impact
- major
- minor

value of impact
- adverse
- neutral
- beneficial

extent of impact
- widespread
- localized

design

mitigation
- avoid
- minimize
- compensate
- enhance
- remove
- rehabilitate
- add

mitigation
- avoid
- minimize
- compensate
- enhance
- limit views
- improve views

GOAL: maintain or enhance existing visual quality

Design Excellence Through Context Sensitive Solutions
St. Paul, Minnesota
Fundamentals of Visual Design

**Form** – Shape, contour or structure of something

**Character** – Combinations of qualities or peculiarities that uniquely distinguish something

**Detail** – Secondary qualities that add interest, appeal and completeness to something as a whole

**Scale** – Relative relationships of size among elements

**Proportion** – Magnitude, number of degree relationships of parts to one another and to the whole

Visual Design Elements

- Paving treatments
- Bridges
- Retaining walls
- Noise barriers
- Grading
- Signing
- Lighting
- Trees
- Plantings and other landscaping
- Fencing
- Ponds and wetlands
- Transit facilities
- Pedestrian facilities
- Bicycle facilities
- Visual cueing
- Other?
Material Selection and Design Concerns

- **Functional and operational performance**
- **Financial feasibility**
- **Availability**
- **Constructability**
- **Life cycle analysis and costs**
  - Durability and service life
  - Repair and replacement requirements
  - Maintenance requirements
  - Maintainability and liability
  - Waste stream and environmental concerns
- **Commitment beyond the project – who preserves investments and design intent?**