Urban Design and Aesthetics Update
Presented to the
Corridor Advisory Committee
Prepared by Gruen Associates in association with URS
June 16, 2011

Topic Overview/History
## Overarching Enhancement Goals

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<th>Community Beautification &amp; Identity</th>
<th>Connectivity</th>
<th>Sustainability</th>
<th>Respectful &amp; Appropriate Infrastructure Design</th>
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<td>Highlight unique community identities within a unified overall corridor theme.</td>
<td>Strengthen physical connections, access and mobility within and between communities.</td>
<td>Implement best practices and new technologies to ensure maximum respect for the environment and natural resources.</td>
<td>Visually integrate built elements with surroundings; reduce massing of structures; design in scale with the size and speed of a freeway corridor.</td>
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## Overall Theme

*Unified theme for the corridor* through color, materials, structural elements and other design features that achieve a unified freeway corridor and *unique branding for individual communities*.

*Provides opportunity to:*

- Weave Transportation / LA River / Energy Corridors into the Communities
- Create a Sustainable Corridor
  - Transportation
  - Energy Generation
  - Water quality improvements
  - River restoration
  - Connections
## CSWG Input

- Combine elements of the L.A. River, Eco-Technology and Contemporary Art themes such as:
  - L.A. River as unifying element with interpretive signage
  - Solar panels on shade structures or sound walls
  - Art to depict uniqueness of communities

- Themes for gateways and bridges to help unify the corridor and express individual community identifications

- Consider drought-tolerant, native plants and plants that change with the seasons

- Provide greening, where possible including infiltration basins, landscaping between the freeway and neighborhoods and vines on walls where space is limited

- Consider screen walls as well as sound walls

- Strengthen pedestrian connections and safety and integrate with landscaping

- Use energy generated on the corridor for power

- Preserve existing vistas

- Provide for durability, especially as it relates to maintenance and graffiti

## CSWG Input on the Freight Corridor (6A & B only)

- Design railings, sound walls and structures to reduce apparent massing as viewed from the community
  - Thin cantilevered sections of viaducts
  - Curved sound walls and/or walls with varied shadow patterns
  - Perforated or translucent screen walls
  - Light colors and materials that blend with the sky
  - Graceful structural elements

- LED and colored lighting as accents

- Integrate with the LA River
Opportunity Areas for Enhancements

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<th>Screening</th>
<th>Energy</th>
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Freeway and Adjacent Areas:
Opportunity Areas for Greening / Landscaping

- Single Point Urban Interchange
- Partial Cloverleaf Interchange
- Freeway to Freeway Interchange
- Vacated Ramps & Excess R.O.W.
- Los Angeles River

Potential Landscaped Areas
Potential Water Infiltration / Retention Areas

Some areas may be landscaped; others could be used for alternate purposes.
Freeway and Adjacent Areas: Opportunity Areas for Greening / Landscaping

Community side of sound wall
- Leave five feet minimum for trees at end of local cul-de-sacs, if feasible
- Use vines when space is limited
- Consider easements on private property for trees

Freeway Landscaping: Concept A - Naturalistic / L.A. River

Informal, naturalistic patterns of native and L.A. River plants

PRELIMINARY PRIMARY PLANT PALETTE:
- California Sycamore
- Native Oaks
- Canary Island Pine
- Incense Cedar
- Flannel Bush (where little maintenance needed)
- Toyon
- Lemonade Berry
- Coffee Berry
- San Diego Marsh Elder
- California Lilac
- Coyote Brush
- White Alder
- Other native or L.A. River compatible plantings
Freeway: Landscaping Concept B - Sculptural

Contemporary masses of native and Mediterranean plants

PRELIMINARY PRIMARY PLANT PALETTE:
- California Sycamore
- California Pepper Tree
- Canary Island Pine
- Chinese Flame Tree
- Blue Palo Verde
- Italian Buckthorn
- Rosemary
- Acacia
- Lantana
- Coyote Brush
- Blue Oat Grass
- Other climbing vegetation

Freeway: Screening - Sound Walls with Vines

Base Concept - Textured masonry wall with vines

In selected locations only
- Potential design for masonry sound wall with color and texture enhancements

*All renderings and images in this presentation are examples and further details will be refined in later design phases of the project.
Freeway: Screening - Other Wall Options

- Slat wall with holes or slits and vines
- Textured concrete block with vines and panel screen wall
- Wire mesh fence backed by dense planting on private property
- Dense planting behind wire mesh
- Textured block with vines
- Textured block with vines
- Textured panel

• Screen walls to block industrial or unsightly properties adjacent to the freeway by private property owners

Freeway: Energy Generation*

*Examples are shown for information purposes only. Actual placement and type of facility may vary.
Freeway: Treatments of Bridges / Columns

Community Arterials: Landscaping

Distinctive street trees
**Community Arterials: Landscaping and Screening**

- Screen wall or retaining wall

**Community Arterials: Energy Generation**

- TAK Studio Hybrid Streetlight
- Panasonic K-RHS Streetlight, Japan
Community Arterials: Energy Generation

Community Arterials: Community Branding/Gateway
Community Arterials: Community Branding/Gateway

Freight Corridor: Landscaping

West elevation with green screen near L.A. River

Plan view of green screen near L.A. River, which allows for Caltrans inspection of structure
**Freight Corridor: Screening**

- Proposed Sound Wall
- Proposed Screen Wall

**Freight Corridor: Screening - Masonry Wall Alternative**

- Sound Wall with color and texture enhancements
- Screen Wall - Perforated sheet metal with colored acrylic inserts
**Freight Corridor: Screening - Curved Wall High-Tech Alternative**

- Sound Wall - Metal or precast concrete panels

**Freight Corridor: Screening - International Examples**

- A2 Sound Barrier, Bellinzona, Switzerland
Freight Corridor: Energy Generation

Urban Power Plant, Joe De Le Ree, Pathangay Associates

Freight Corridor: Masonry Wall Alternative
Freight Corridor: Curved Wall High-Tech Alternative

Next Steps

- Toolbox
- Visual Impact Assessment
- I-710 EIR/EIS
- Design
- Aesthetic Themes and Concepts Master Plan
- Community Participation