

**Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement Project
Design Aesthetic Advisory Committee Meeting #1
July 10, 2012, 6:30PM
Public Comments Transcription**

Comments are grouped by topic, and are listed in the following order, unless otherwise noted:

Resident
Organization
DAAC

Color Key:

Resident
Organizations
DAAC

How people use the bridge (walk, bike, drive, etc)

- **Concern:** We need this bridge to deliver more than just cars and can do more to deliver for people and bicyclists.
- **Concern:** Lack of it becoming a pedestrian friendly zone that will allow Boyle Heights and the arts district neighborhoods to be better bridged together and allow both young and old to visit the bridge.
- **Concern:** Would like to see areas where people can stroll and have the opportunity to stop, to look, to rest, and to see; a place that is user-friendly and has a viewing area.
- **Concern:** There is a lack of ideas for the “experience of aesthetics” and advocates a mixed use of uses from the public.
- **Q:** Will there be a gathering point on the bridge?
 - **Idea:** The overall experience is the idea the design needs to be revolved around.

Historic elements

- **Concern:** Historic significance of the bridge will be jeopardized and the design should complement the other historic bridges that span the L.A. River, so we can create something in its place that will not overshadow but will reflect an appreciation of the historic nature of the bridge. Complements BOE and hopes the design will reflect that.
- **Concern:** The bridge stays true to its predecessors and doesn't become a piece of pop art.
 - Remains as a collection in terms of compatibility and relationship and maintains as a priority.
 - We do not want a stand alone bridge that has no relationship to the other bridges.
- **Concern:** Bureau of Engineering needs to provide updates on the process and design of the bridge as the Cultural Heritage Commission is concerned that its historical nature will be compromised.

Bridge design

- **Q:** Have you proposed the design of the bridge match the other bridges in the area or will it be distinctly different? (as the current design shown has no resemblance of the others)
- **Q:** Will the design of the bridge have the option of connecting or integrating with the 5 or 101 highway in order to alleviate suburban traffic from and into dumping in the Boyle Heights area?
- **Concern:** Respects the old look of L.A. but would like a new look that will create a safe and new environment.
- **Q:** Who makes the ultimate decision in terms of design review?
- **Concern:** The design of the bridge fails to match the look film industries would use and would like a more aesthetically pleasing look.
- **Concern:** The new bridge shouldn't like it was built in the 20's or 30's but it should have references to its predecessors that "can sort of carry itself along with the other ones... yet at the same time it needs to be the flagship as it is a 400 million dollar opportunity to create a new attraction in Los Angeles...revitalize the downtown la area.
 - **Suggestions:** To include lights and "light up in a very special way". The yellow lights make it look dated and built in the 70's. There is such an advancement of LED and technology where the bridge can be lined or with the cords.
- **Concern:** Design needs to be innovative like Portland, Sydney, and specifically like the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao (where the bridge integrates into the building).
- **Concern:** The design shouldn't be minimalist as an icon will make the community a more pedestrian-friendly area.
- **Concern:** Making it an icon and an aesthetic of quality and comparing to what it stands as today. Afraid of making it a sculptural concept instead of something minimal as the bridge is known as today.
- **Concern:** for the interface between the river bank facing both sides of the 6th Street Bridge
 - Focusing on the river and the communities on both sides
- **Concern:** Concerned about the voids and volumes of the bridge that it will create.
- **Concern:** The underside of the bridge is unused and should be better utilized
 - Aim to do something under the bridge and bring attention to it via LED lights, art installation, etc. it will be invisible to those from far away but for the neighborhood underneath it can be something iconic
- **Q:** How do you develop an entryway that supports both sides?

Environmental issues (the physical environment and sustainability)

- **Concern:** The connections between streets from Mateo and Whittier blvd. There's an opportunity to make a "funnel" in which there can be a nice entrance into the bridge and can be something that will happen.
- **Concern:** Issue with the construction period as it will be shut off from public use as well affect the surrounding area.
 - **Q:** Where will the information on traffic mitigations be displayed?
- **Concern:** Enhance the L.A. River below and integrate it into the design process as it can be better sustained
- **Q:** Is there a way to revitalize pockets of L.A.?

Economic development, jobs

- **Q:** In terms of the landscaping, what is the construction time?
- **Q:** Has there been a development between Friends of 6th Street Bridge and Friends of L.A. River that can potentially fundraise for landscaping or aesthetics that the government agencies can't fund?
- **Q:** Will there be opportunities for employment?
 - **Concern:** The youth should be included and involved in the process. There should be an apprenticeship type of program.
 - **Concern:** Not just construction-oriented jobs but also services, vendors, copy centers, etc.
- **Concern:** for the budget in terms of the \$5 million dollars for 4 elements like landscaping, biking, and pedestrians as it only amounts to 1% of the total budget which is alarmingly low.
 - Response by Greg (mediator): Looking into other savings.
- **Concern:** Potential to increase the real estate and surrounding area on both sides of the bridge appealing—specific to filming possibilities, etc.
- **Concern:** The idea of a destination will benefit more businesses and restaurants in the surrounding area.

Iconic quality of bridge/tourist attraction

- **Q:** Will the design include film-friendly attributes such as power and lighting? As well as have we spoken with anyone from the film industry about these matters and give input to make it more user friendly?
 - **Concern:** The use of power generators would impact the surrounding area.
- **Concern:** We need this bridge to become the center, the focus of L.A and is ultimately a public project that will bring people together.
- **Concern:** Make sure the views from the east to the west are unobstructed and maximized.
- **Concern:** There needs to be an iconic quality of the bridge in which a destination restaurant could be on or under the bridge.
- **Concern:** There is a lack of a destination similar to what Hollywood sign offers.
- **Concern:** Important to bridge the communities (Arts district and industrial parts). His hope is that the committee is not constrained to make a sad comparison of recreation. This is an opportunity to create something.
- **Concern:** Would like to see the visual of the bridge as in the Boyle Heights direction, you can only see the freeways and it's not until past Whittier can you see the beauty of the bridge.
- **Concern:** The focus of a new icon will lead to a discussion and a new focus on a new paradigm that will include all the elements of walking, biking, stopping, and driving.

Other Topics

- **Concern:** The bridge project should integrate itself with the school system in terms of science, math, and engineering in order to benefit the youth.
- **Q:** Are any of these public comments going to make their way to the actual design of the project? Concern is that the public voice may not be heard and hopes that it is inclusive, and this information will make its way to the RFQ's