DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

I-494: Airport to 169
Visual Quality Manual & Context Sensitive Solutions Framework

February 8, 2022

Visual Quality Process

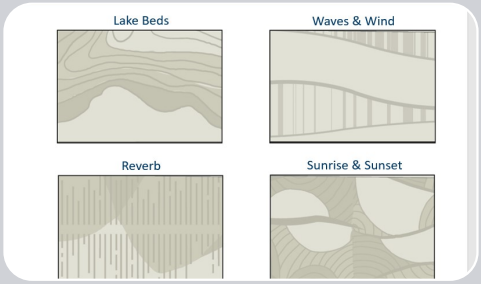
- Visual Quality Advisory Committee meets monthly
  - VQAC: MnDOT, Cities: Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina, Richfield; Hennepin County
- Public Input in Dec/January, February and March
- Consultants:
  - SEH Inc. - Landscape Architects
  - Forecast Public Art
- Deliverables:
  - Visual Quality Manual – architectural treatments for infrastructure and landscaping
  - Context Sensitive Solutions Framework – public art and placemaking

VQM Outreach
Phases of Engagement

PHASE 1
Dec-Jan

What is important?
History, culture, environment, connections

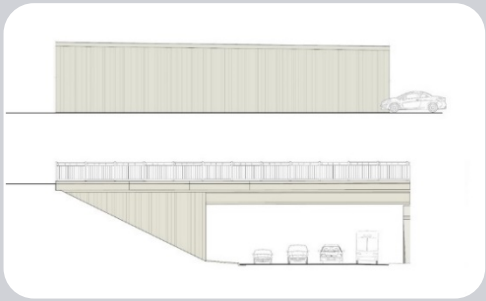
PHASE 2
February



Get Input on Design Options

Review design concepts and provide input

PHASE 3
March



Feedback on Locations

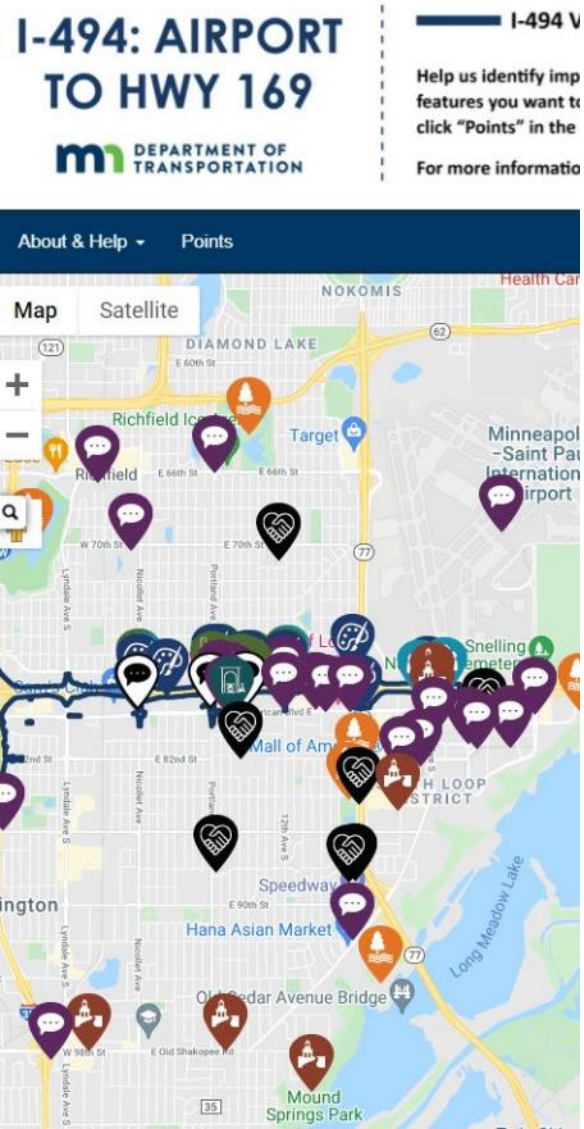
Provide feedback on design approach and locations for features

Phase 1 Engagement Recap

Engagement recap:

- Famers Markets/pop ups – about 130 people
- Social Media Survey – about 70 responses
- Virtual Listening Session – 25 participants
- Flyers – handed out 600 to gas stations, apartment buildings, restaurants

VQM Outreach
What we heard - interactive mapping



Important Places in the Community

- Community spaces
- Cultural diversity
- Parks + bodies of water
- Historic locations
- Commercial areas

Things we want in the Future

- Pedestrian facilities
- Public art + street amenities
- Wayfinding for peds and bicyclists
- Landscaping along corridor

VQM Outreach
What we heard – Phase 1 Outreach

How would you describe your community?

Online Survey Themes and Descriptors

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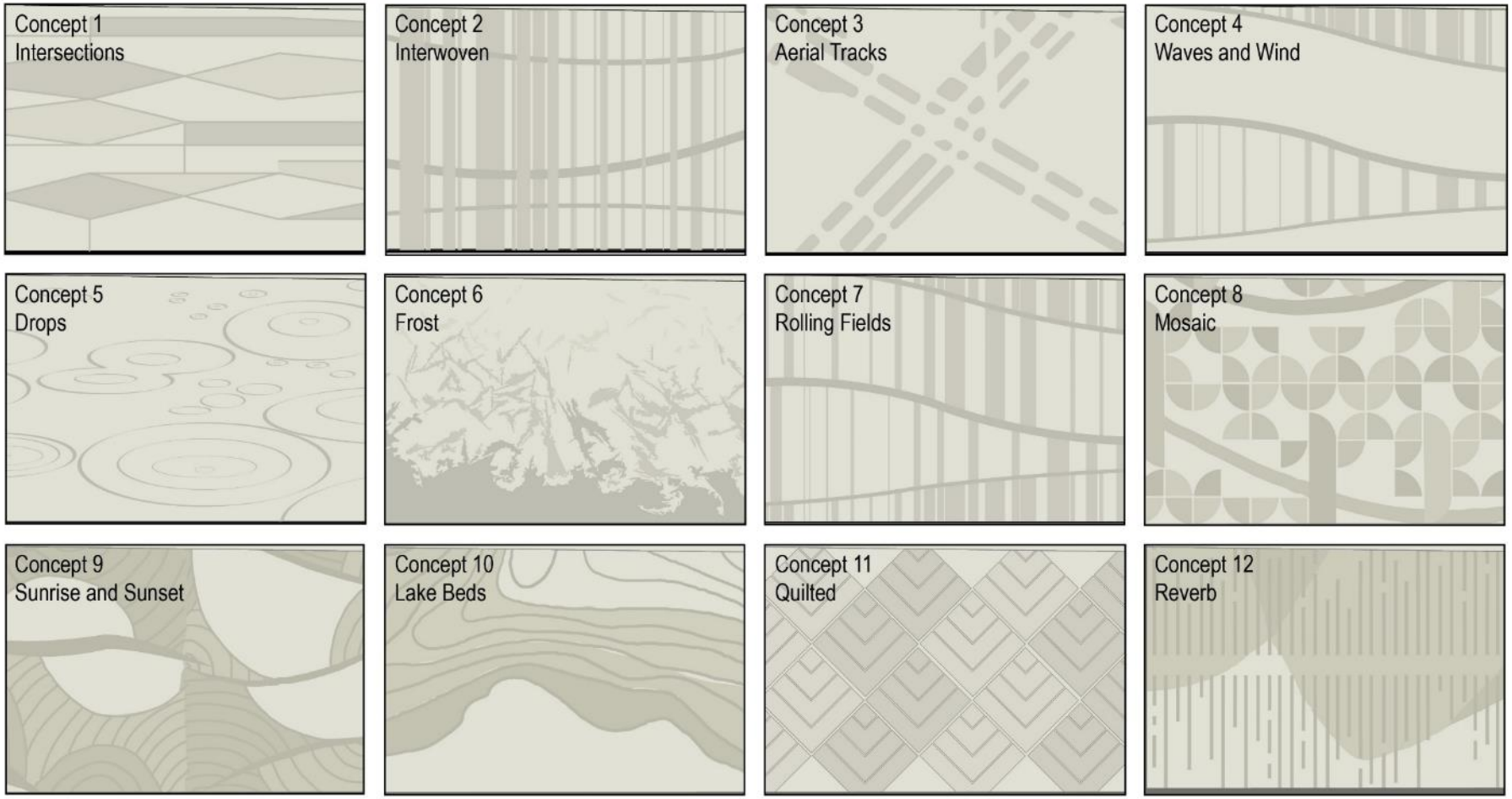
Themes

Clear Sky + Green Spaces + Blue Water

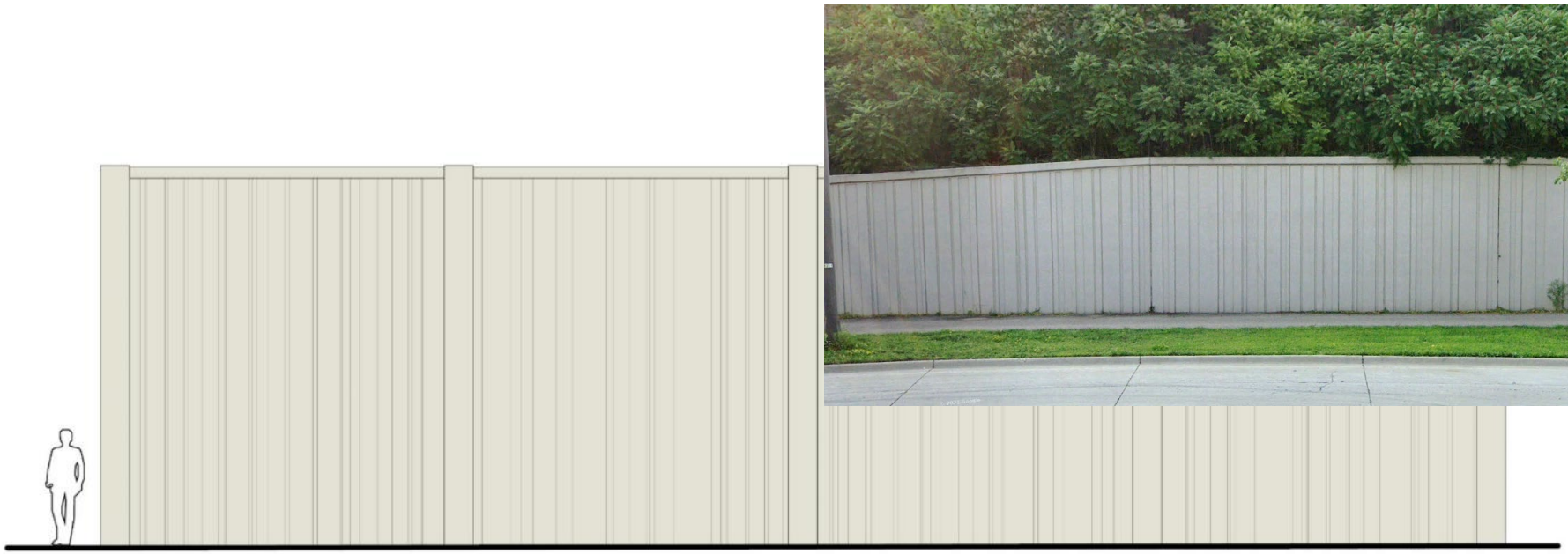
People Make the Place

Connections + Connecting + Connectivity

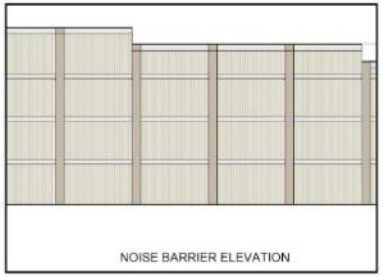
All Design Concepts



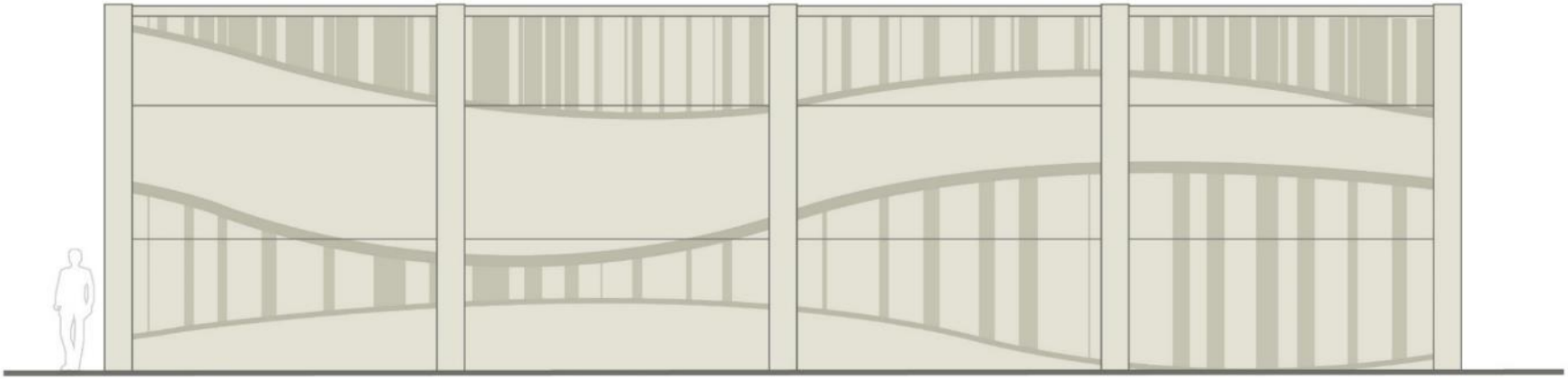
Existing Conditions



169 Interchange

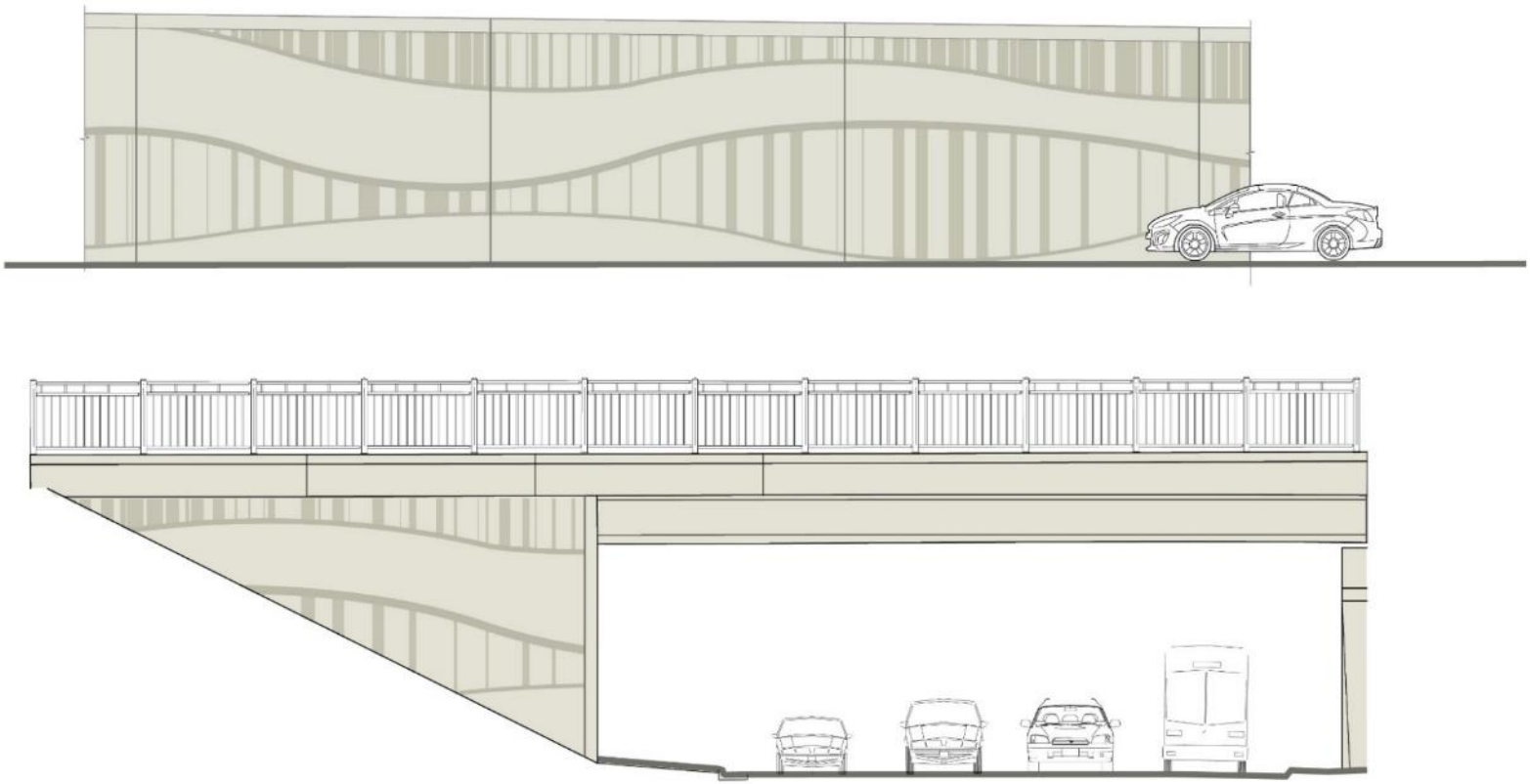


Waves and Wind

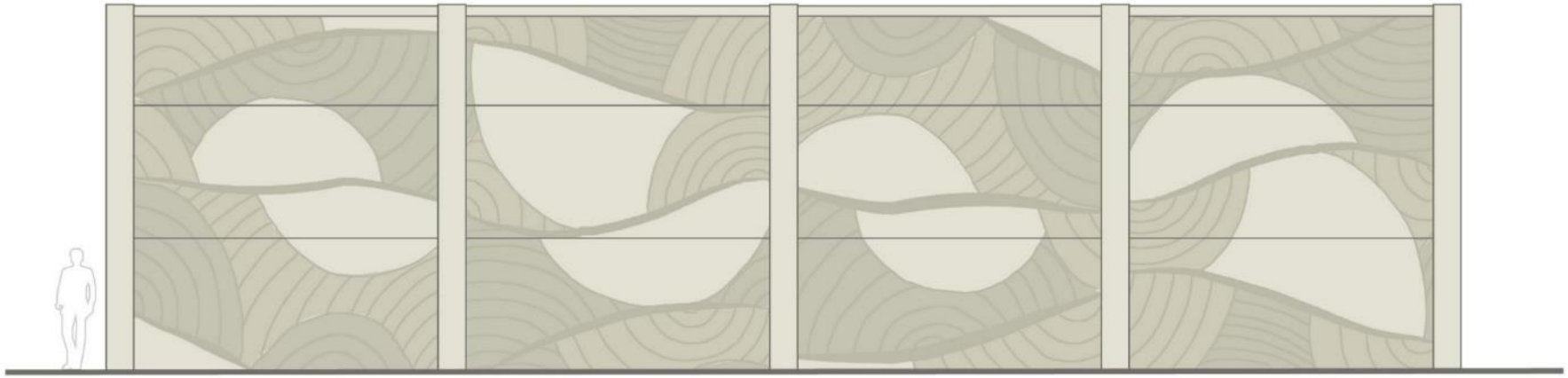


Inspiration Images

Waves and Wind



Sunrise and Sunset



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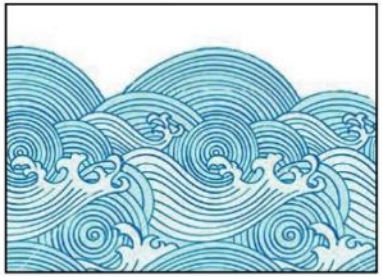

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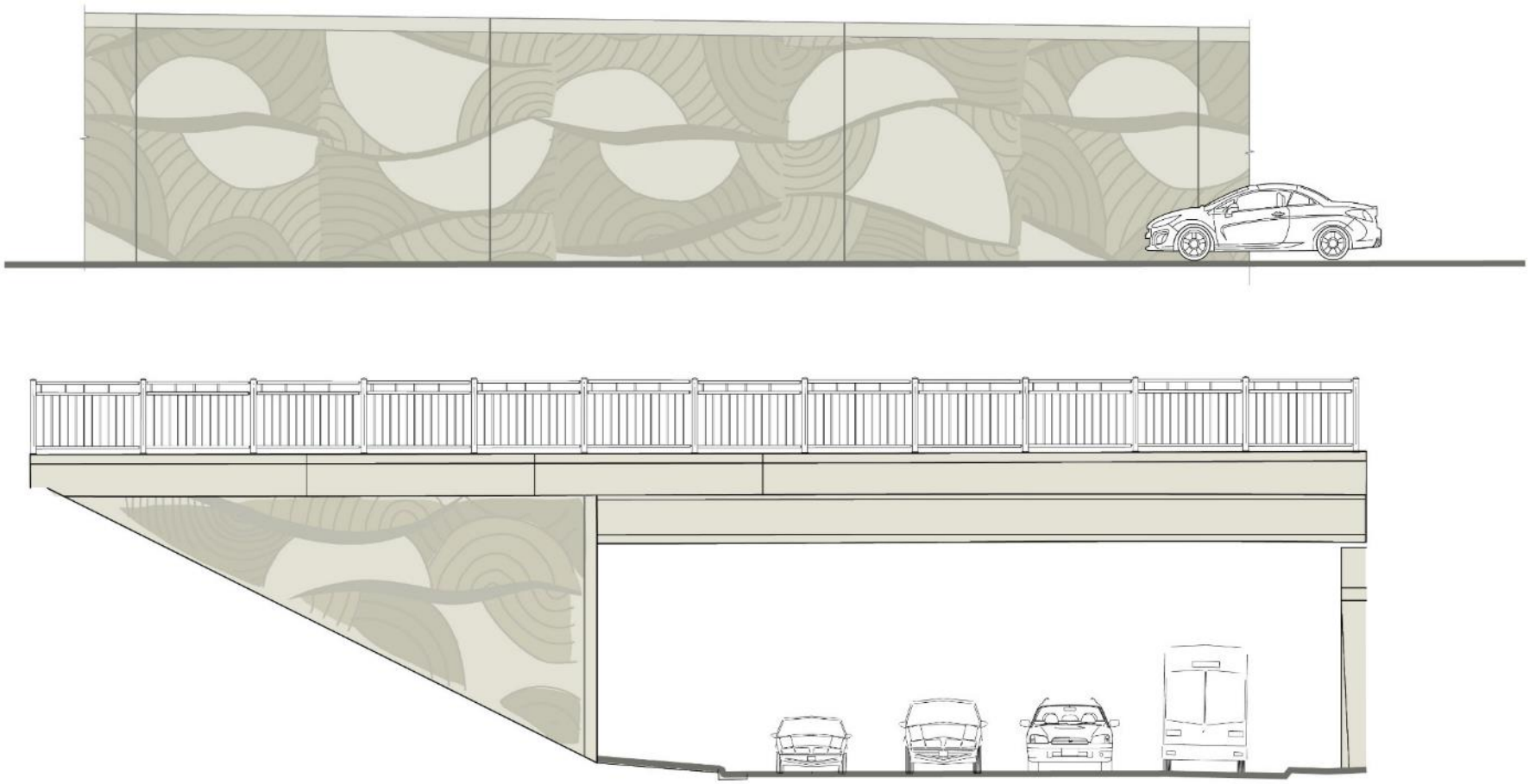
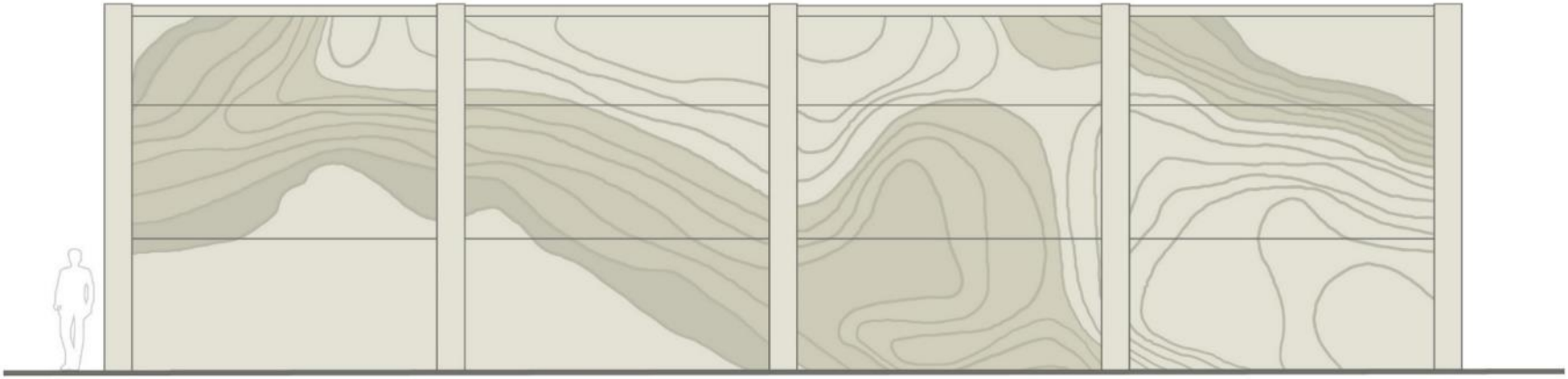


Lake Beds



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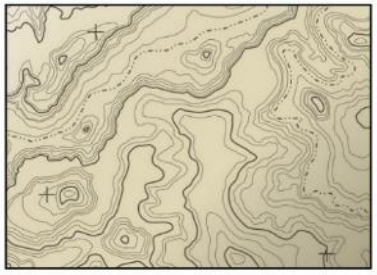

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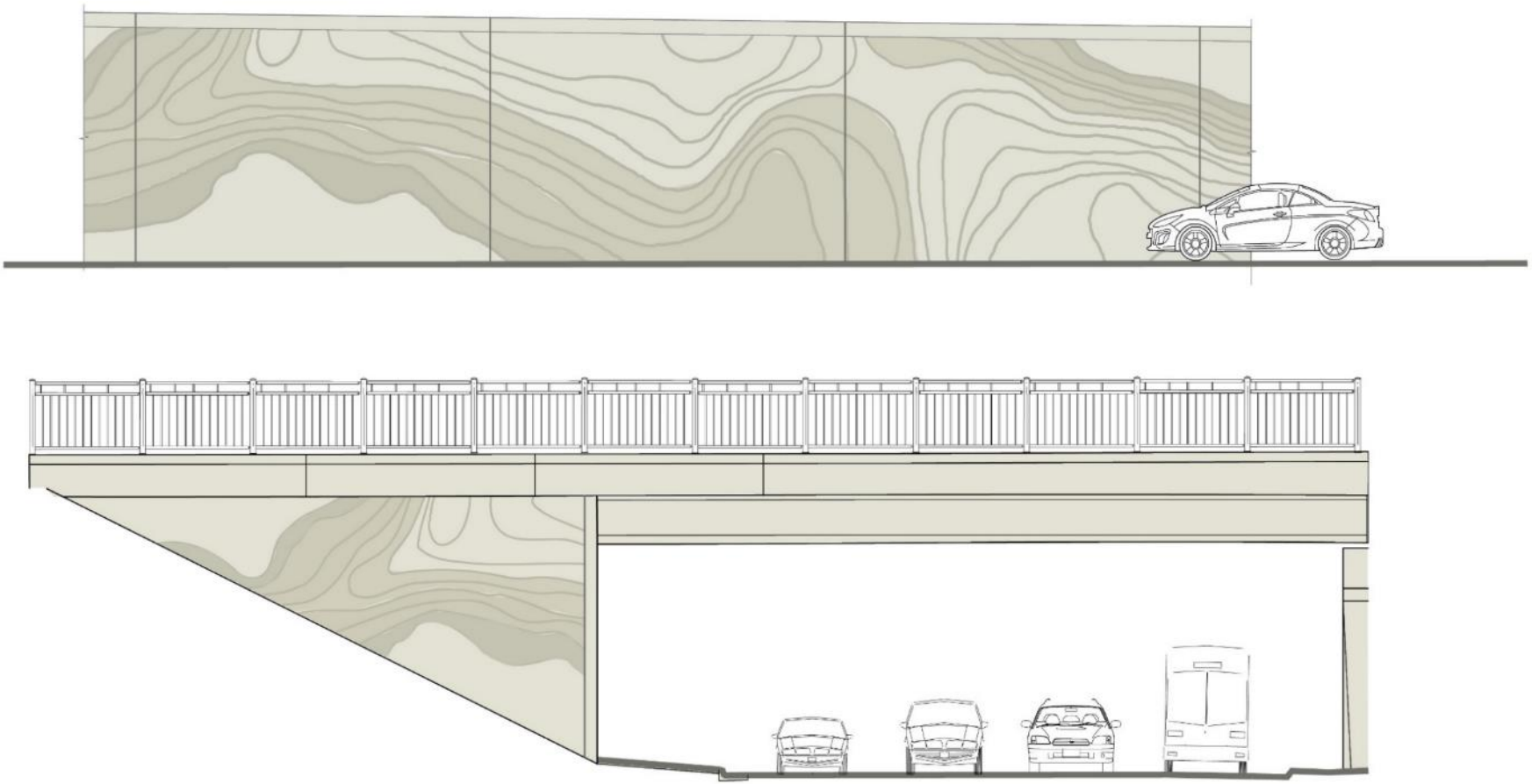
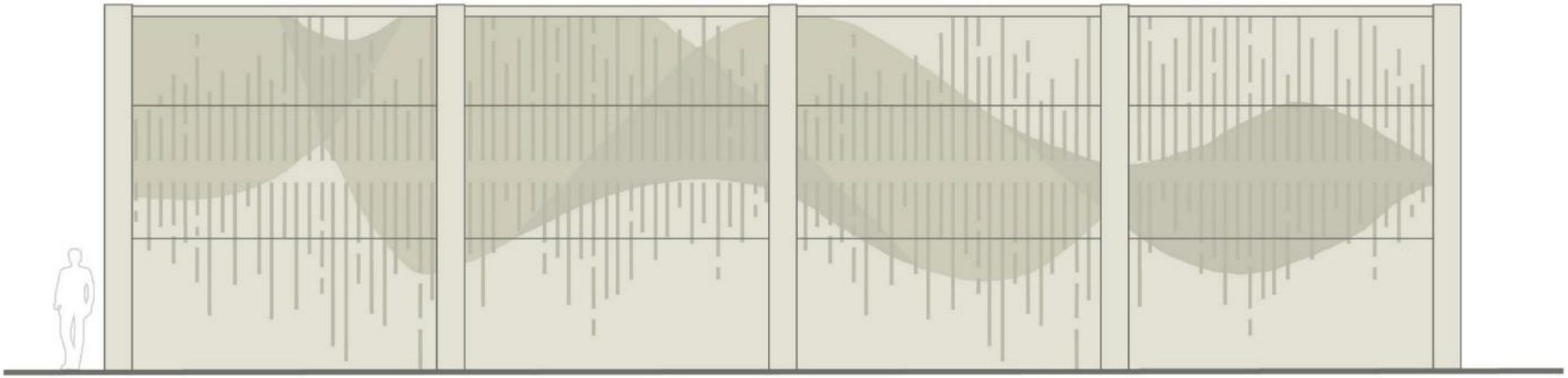


Reverb



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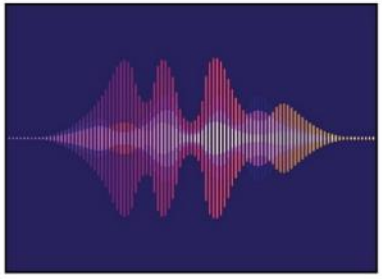

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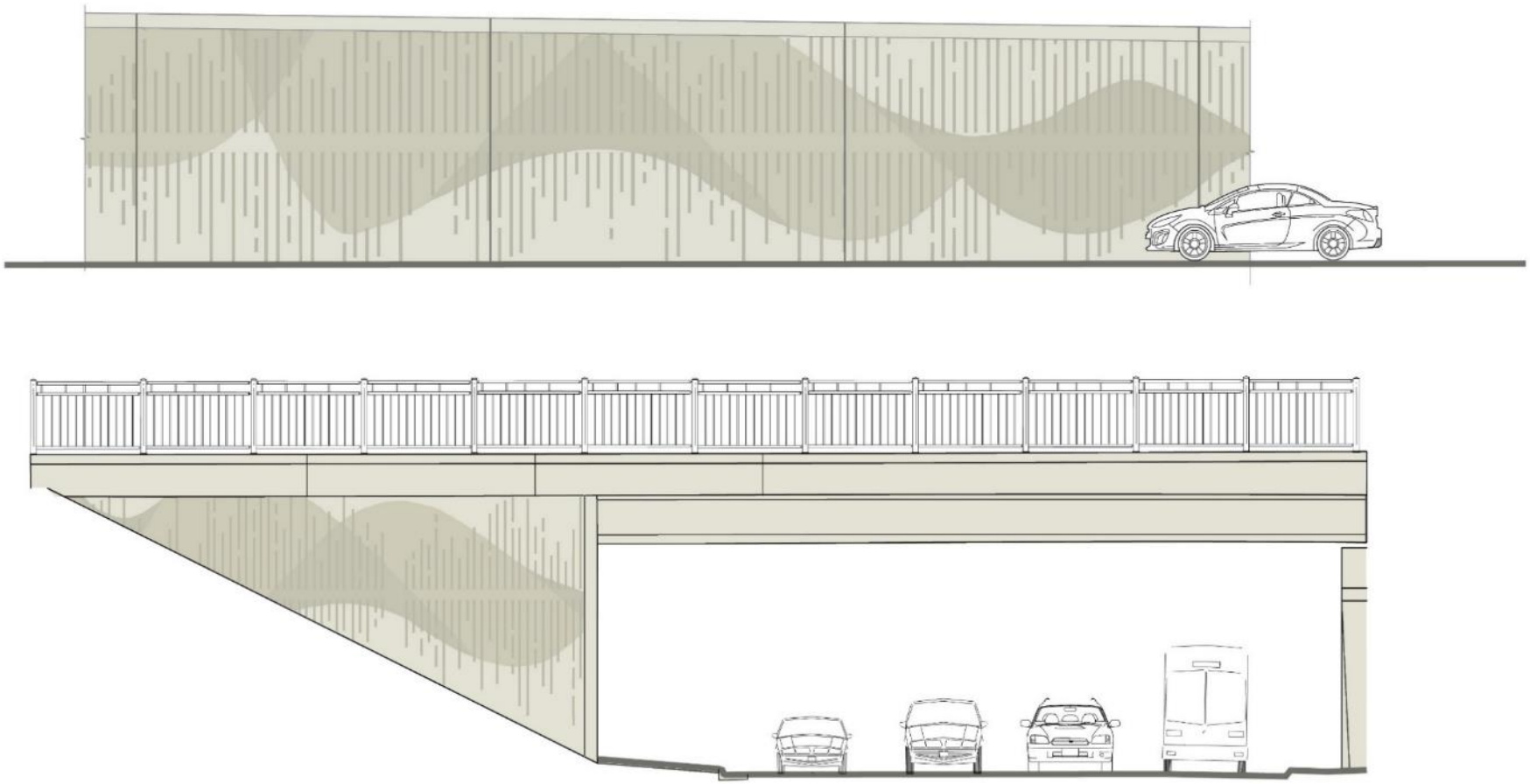


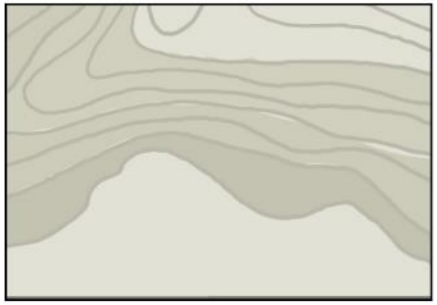
Design Concepts

What do you think of the concepts?

Do they reflect the values of the place and community?

If you had to pick your top two concepts, which ones would you choose?

Lake Beds



Waves & Wind

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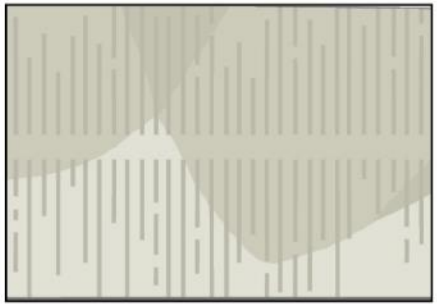


Sunrise & Sunset

Current Engagement

Virtual Listening Sessions

February 1st & March 1st

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Pop-up Events

February 5th - Menards

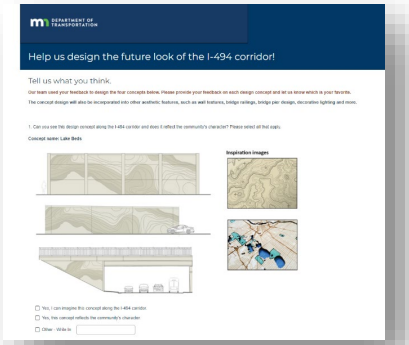
February 12th - Bloomington Farmers Market

More events in March

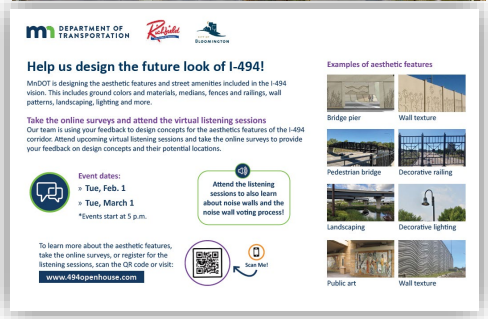
Flyers

Social Media

Online Survey



Postcards & Emails



VQAC Master Schedule

- **VQAC #5:** Thursday, Feb. 17, 11:00am to 12:30pm
  - Topics: Choose one theme. Prioritize locations & VQ elements, public art, adjacent public space, landscaping
- **VQAC #6:** Thursday, March 10, 11:00am to 12:30pm
  - Topics: Comment on draft Visual Quality Manual and CSS Framework Plan
- **VQAC #7:** Thursday, March 31, 11:00am to 12:30pm
  - Topics: Review Final VQM & CSS Framework Plan

Stay Updated

Visit the MnDOT I-494 website:
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i494-airport-hwy169/index.html

Visit the online open house website:
https://www.494openhouse.com/

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Thank you again!