



Design Considerations



Bicycle Facilities

Many people bike across the bridge each day. Some live or work nearby, while others travel the corridor as part of longer trips to work, to school, or for recreation. Enhancing the safety of bicyclists, regardless of skill level, is important.



Integrated or Complementary Design

Downtown and the neighborhoods that surround it have an abundance of destinations and prominent features. The focus of the new design should be ensuring that it blends in with its surroundings.



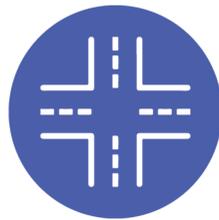
Pedestrian Facilities

As the main connection between downtown and neighborhoods to the south, Belmont Bridge sees hundreds of pedestrians every day. For this reason, a safe and comfortable pedestrian experience should be a priority.



Community Connectivity

Belmont Bridge provides a critical link between downtown and the neighborhoods that surround it. The bridge's role as a connector of places, both physically and culturally, should be enhanced through the new design.



Intersections and Approaches

While the bridge itself is important, we also need to consider nearby intersections and the function and appearance of 9th Street as it approaches the bridge.



Traffic and Travel Speeds

At its core, Belmont Bridge should address traffic needs to and from downtown, but in a way that limits excessive travel speeds. Special consideration should be given to traffic operations during the design process.



Community Gateway

While the bridge's location limits its role as a gateway to the city as a whole, Belmont Bridge is a prominent entrance to downtown and the front door to many neighborhoods. The design should emphasize the bridge's role as a gateway monument.



Landscaping and Public Spaces

How people experience place is significantly affected by the integration of landscaping and activation of public space. The new Belmont Bridge should emphasize the design of these important elements.



Aesthetics

Though the bridge is a functional piece of the city's transportation network, it also has the ability to enhance the visual appeal of the surrounding area. Opportunities for public art, like the graffiti wall, should be maintained or expanded.



Iconic or Landmark Design

Our city is one that holds architecture and good design in high regard. While the bridge design should address core functional needs, one of the key considerations should be ensuring the new bridge stands out among its surroundings.



Parking

For years, space beneath and near Belmont Bridge has been used for parking. The new design should recognize the need for this parking while balancing competing needs for the space and the cost to preserve it.



Scenic Viewsheds

In some ways, Belmont Bridge is where the urban structure of downtown begins to transition to the scenic mountains of the countryside. For this reason, views of Carter Mountain above and the working railroad below should be preserved.