



**Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements**

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# INSIGHT

**"Rebuilding for the Future"**

**Issue Six**

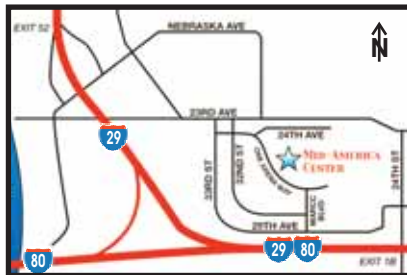
**August 2007**



## Public Information Meeting To Be Held

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) invites you to participate in a public information meeting for the Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements Project (CBIS Improvements Project). The meeting will be held Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2007, at the Mid-America Center from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the 24th Street bridge construction and the Aesthetics Master Plan and to gather public feedback. The meeting will be an open house format with a variety of materials available for viewing. Representatives from the Iowa DOT will be available to discuss issues and answer questions.



## Mark Your Calendars!

**Public Meeting  
Aug. 28, 2007**

**Where: Mid-America Center  
Room K-L  
One Arena Way  
Council Bluffs, IA**

**When: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Open House Format**



## Interstate Reconstruction to Start with 24th Street Bridge

Reconstruction of the 24th Street bridge over Interstates 29 and 80 (I-29 and I-80) is the first construction project of the CBIS Improvements Project. The bridge is being reconstructed to make it longer in preparation for full reconstruction of the I-29/I-80 overlap section. The longer bridge would allow for the additional lanes on I-29/I-80 to pass underneath. In addition to reconstruction of the bridge, the project includes reconstruction of 24th Street from just south of 27th Avenue to the I-29/I-80 eastbound ramp intersection.

Contract letting is scheduled for Fall 2007 and construction will be completed in Fall 2008. Upon completion, 24th Street will include two through lanes in each direction with accommodation for left-turn lanes at the interstate on-ramps.

Pedestrian access will be provided on both sides of

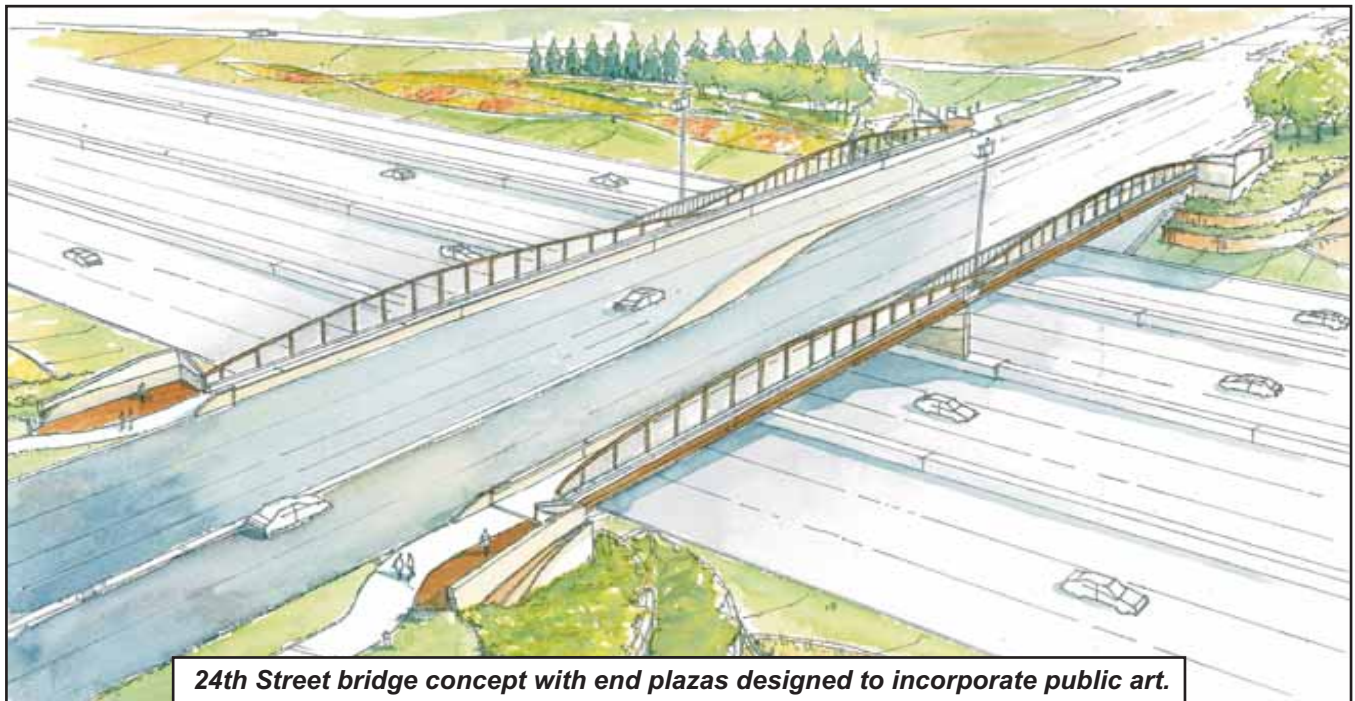
the 24th Street bridge. A multi-use trail will be constructed on the west side of 24th Street and a sidewalk will be provided on the east side.

During construction, one lane of traffic will remain open in each direction and left-turn lanes will be provided along 24th Street; however, construction activities will require some overnight closures of I-29/I-80. During this time traffic on I-29/I-80 would be redirected onto the 24th Street ramps. Additionally, 24th Street will require an overnight closure to complete the median section of the bridge.

The overall CBIS Improvements Project includes an Aesthetics Master Plan to incorporate visually pleasing elements into the reconstruction of the interstate. The 24th Street bridge is planned to be the signature element of the corridor. Additional details about the aesthetics plan are discussed on pages 2 and 3.



## The Interstate Can Be More Than Just a Road

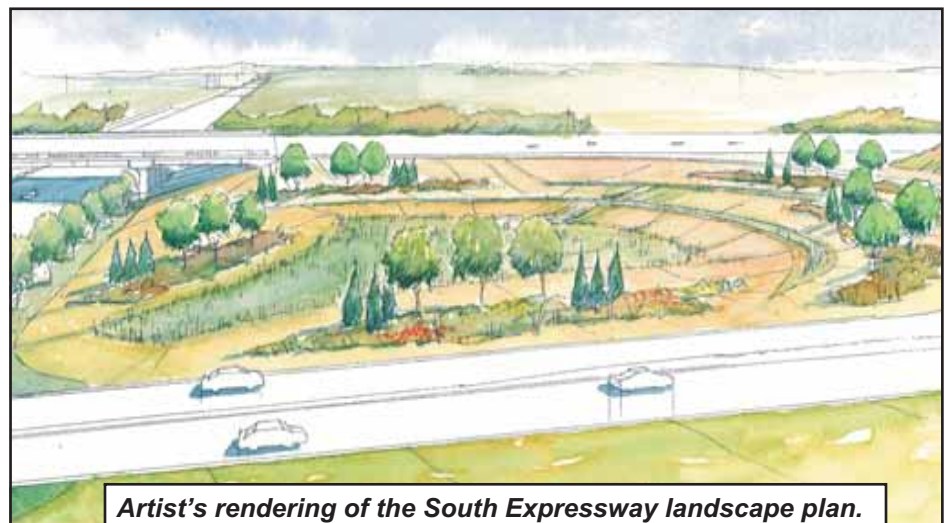


**24th Street bridge concept with end plazas designed to incorporate public art.**

Interstate highways are major features in the communities they serve and often eclipse the visual landscape of an area. Interstates 29 and 80 (I-29 and I-80) in Council Bluffs are no exception. The Iowa DOT recognizes that the reconstruction of the interstate will affect the visual landscape of Council Bluffs and has initiated an aesthetics master plan to establish a consistent, attractive corridor theme that compliments the character of the existing landscape. In order to develop a plan that reflects the character and values of the Council Bluffs community, members of the community participated on an Aesthetic Subcommittee tasked with tying the plan to local culture, landscape, and other planning initiatives. This plan for visual enhancements is known as the Aesthetics Master Plan.

The intent of the Aesthetics Master Plan is to create a cohesive interstate corridor that is attractive and easy to navigate for daily commuters as well as first time visitors. As shown in the Design Palette graphic, the plan

draws heavily on the natural environment including natural curves intended to represent the rolling hills surrounding the city. Simple curves in various forms are found in all aesthetic treatments, including built elements and landscape design. Structures incorporate curved forms reminiscent of the loess hills in warm, natural earth tones to convey the idea of natural materials and to blend into the surrounding countryside. Interchange landscape design picks up the natural theme by layering native



**Artist's rendering of the South Expressway landscape plan.**

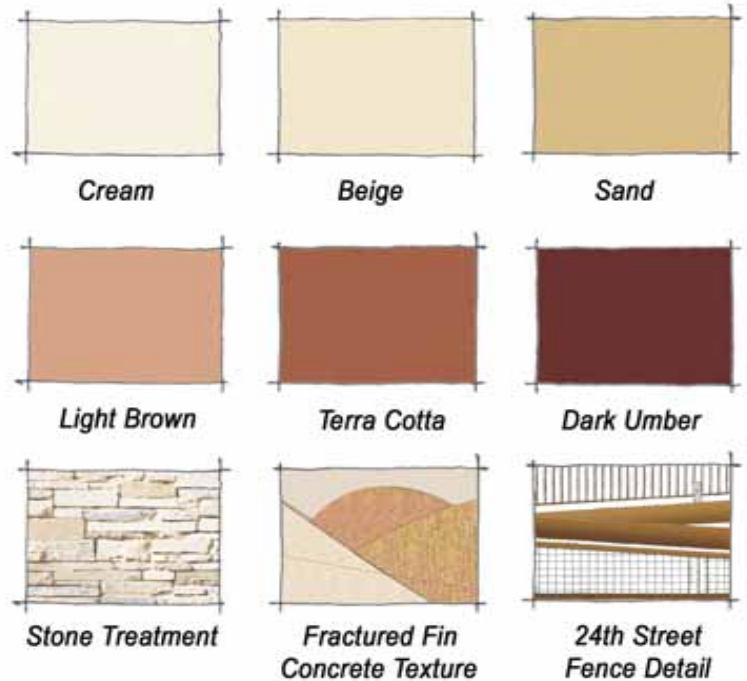


prairie grasses, shrubs and trees into a natural, flowing design, as shown in the South Expressway landscape image.

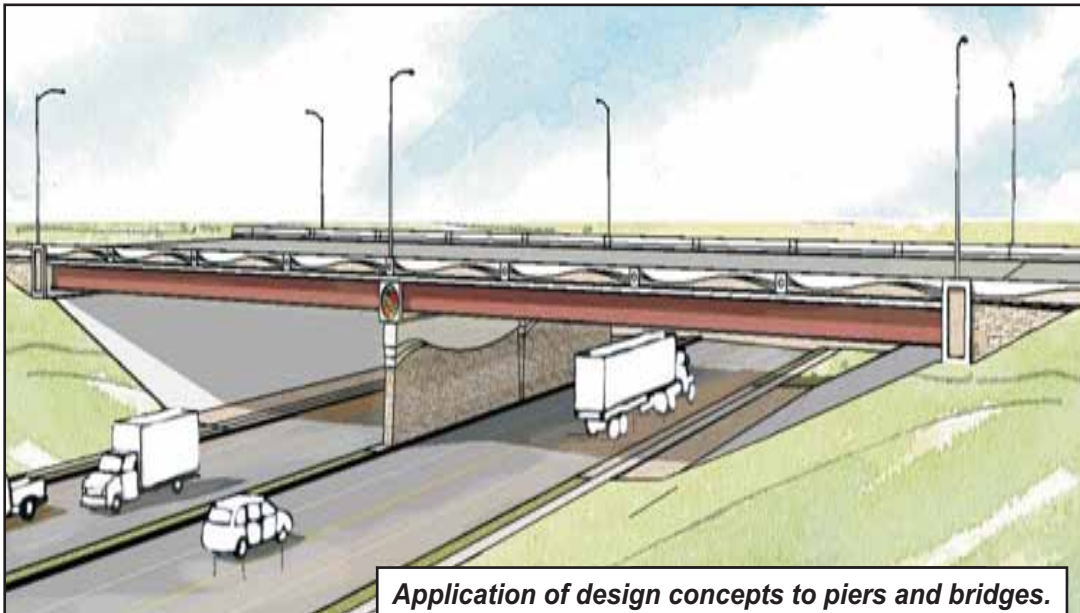
The 24th Street bridge is the signature element of the CBIS corridor. Its design is representative of both the natural landscape and contemporary values of the City of Council Bluffs. Opportunities for public art are prominently featured at plazas at the ends of the bridge. The rolling hills are represented in the wall pier and railing. The bridge's abutments and terrace walls include a limestone appearance with the warm, natural creams and browns shown in the Design Palette. The proposed landscape design at 24th Street will blend native and ornamental grasses with trees and perennials to create a layered landscape that distinguishes the bridge as a significant entrance to the city while still reflecting the natural setting.

Iowa DOT is committed to enhancing the visual appeal of the interstate corridor in a way that reflects Council Bluffs' community values and natural assets. By doing so, the Aesthetics Master Plan complements the CBIS Improvements to preserve and enhance the distinctive features that contribute to the quality of life in Council Bluffs. Due to the many transportation needs across the

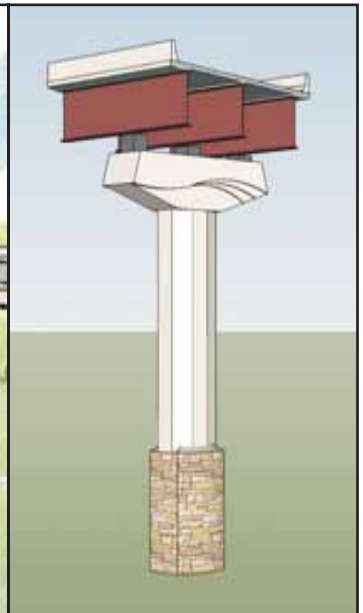
**Design Palette**



state and the limited availability of funding, the level of enhancements for the Council Bluffs corridor will be dependent on state and local partnerships to provide additional contributions for the enhancements.



**Application of design concepts to piers and bridges.**

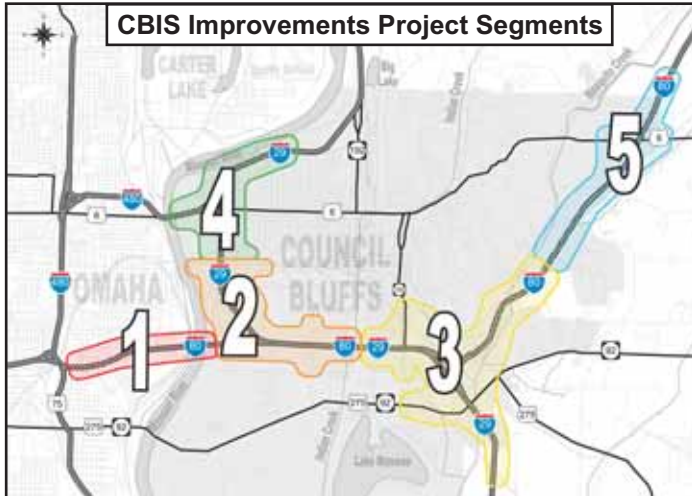


# Future Public Involvement Opportunities

Public involvement is an important part of the CBIS Improvements Project. There will be several opportunities for the public to get information about the project and provide input in the coming months. A public hearing will be held in 2008 to present the preliminary design and gather public input for improvements to Segments 2 and 3 (I-80 from the Missouri River to Mosquito Creek and I-29 from Nebraska Avenue to U.S. 275).

The project Web site ([www.cbinterstate.com](http://www.cbinterstate.com)) contains the latest information about the project and will include details about construction once work on the 24th Street bridge begins. As the project progresses, there will be opportunities for business groups, neighborhood groups and property owners to meet with the project team to discuss the project.

For more information, please contact John Carns (information below), or visit [www.cbinterstate.com](http://www.cbinterstate.com).



## Contact Us



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