Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

Community Advisory Group
Equity Advisory Group
Workshop

August 27, 2025

Welcome and Presenter Introductions

Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, CAG Facilitator

Lynn Valenter, CAG Co-chair

Closed Captions in English and Spanish

English closed captions are available within Zoom and YouTube.

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Subtítulos disponible en Inglés y Español

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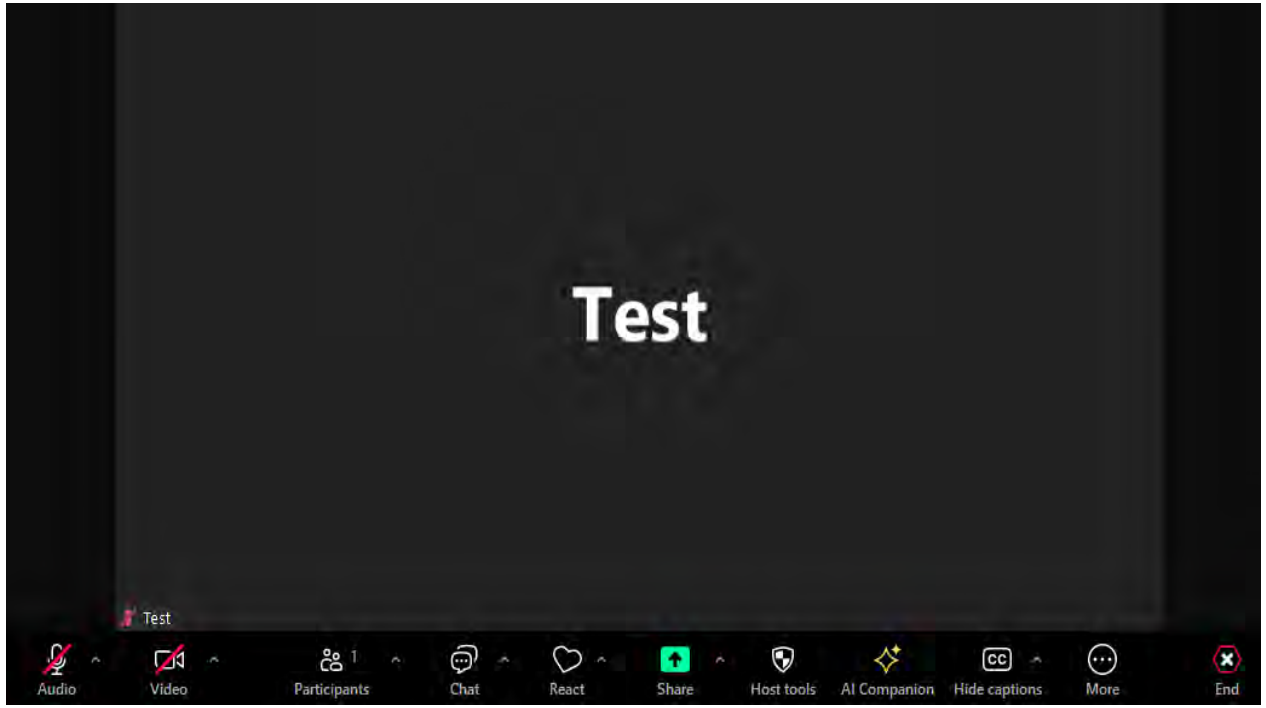
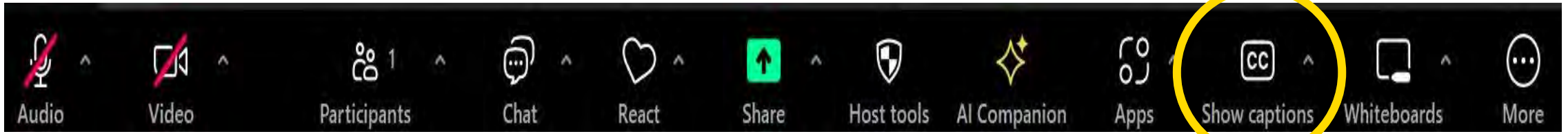
How to access closed captions



1. At the bottom middle of your screen, you should see a menu of options. If you can't see the menu, hover your mouse over the bottom middle of the screen.
2. Click the square "CC" icon towards the right side of the menu to toggle captions on.
3. Click the submenu ^ arrow to access more settings including language, font color and font size.



Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

ASL Interpretation

- There is an ASL interpreter in addition to closed captioning.
- To make sure the interpreter is always visible please right click their video and select spotlight video.
- For those watching on YouTube, when we screenshare, you will be able to see the slideshow, closed captioning and the ASL interpreter. You will still be able to hear different people speaking but may not see them.

Public Input Instructions

- **There will be an opportunity to provide brief public input later in the meeting (around 2:30PM).**

- **Verbal public comment will be welcome in the Zoom Webinar during the designated time, with the option to turn on your web camera.**
  - Please use the link located in the meeting description on the YouTube meeting page or on the IBR CAG+EAG meeting webpage.
  - Commenters will not be allowed to share their screens and will be removed from the room once the public comment period concludes.

- **To comment by phone:**
  - Dial: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968
  - Enter meeting ID: 897 7533 8358, passcode: 701942
  - Dial *9 to raise your hand
  - After you are invited to speak, dial *6 to unmute yourself

Architectural Elements Overview

- **Topics today:**
  - Overview
  - Cultural Representation
  - The Process
  - Shared Use path
  - Roadway and Corridor Wide Land Structures
  - Wall
  - Landscape Design

Architectural Elements Overview

Casey Liles, IBR Delivery Manager

Shilpa Mallem, IBR Design Manager

Architectural Elements Overview

- **What this process is:**
  - Identification of a program-wide vision and guidelines for architecture and aesthetics
- **Building on previous work**
  - CRC Architectural Guidance process
- **Overarching goal of the workshop series**
  - Communicate the program's current work and obtain feedback
  - Feedback will inform program-wide guidelines on architecture
  - Guidelines will be incorporated into design and construction documents

Architectural Elements Overview

- **Caveats:**
  - Examples in the presentation show a single-level fixed span bridge configuration
  - However, the guidelines would apply to the program elements irrespective of the bridge type or configuration selected through the NEPA process.
- **What this process is *not*:**
  - Selection of a bridge type or configuration
- **Timeline and future architectural opportunities**
  - Potential future engagement opportunities during design and construction phases of individual construction packages

Cultural Representation

- **Integration into the IBR program**
  - Placekeeping
  - Forms & patterns
  - Materials & colors
  - Artwork
    - *Applied or integrated*
    - *Independent of infrastructure*
  - Themes & narrative elements
    - *Local history & culture*
    - *Plants (eg camas, cedar)*
    - *Animals (eg salmon, leather-back ducks)*
    - *Cultural practices & traditions (eg canoes, baskets)*

Columbia River Art

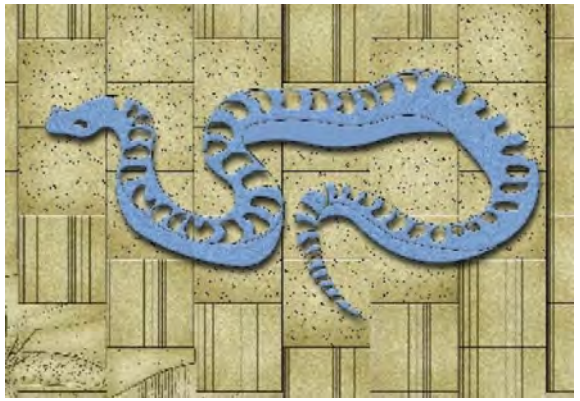
Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

Cultural Representation

- **Identify expectations:**
  - Places of significance
  - Experiences & activities of significance
  - Themes for integration
  - Locations for integration
    - *Structural form*
    - *Piers*
    - *Walls*
    - *Paving*
    - *Wayfinding*
    - *Landscape & planting*
    - *Gateways*

Tilikum Crossing – Portland, Image from CTGR

US-95 – Las Vegas



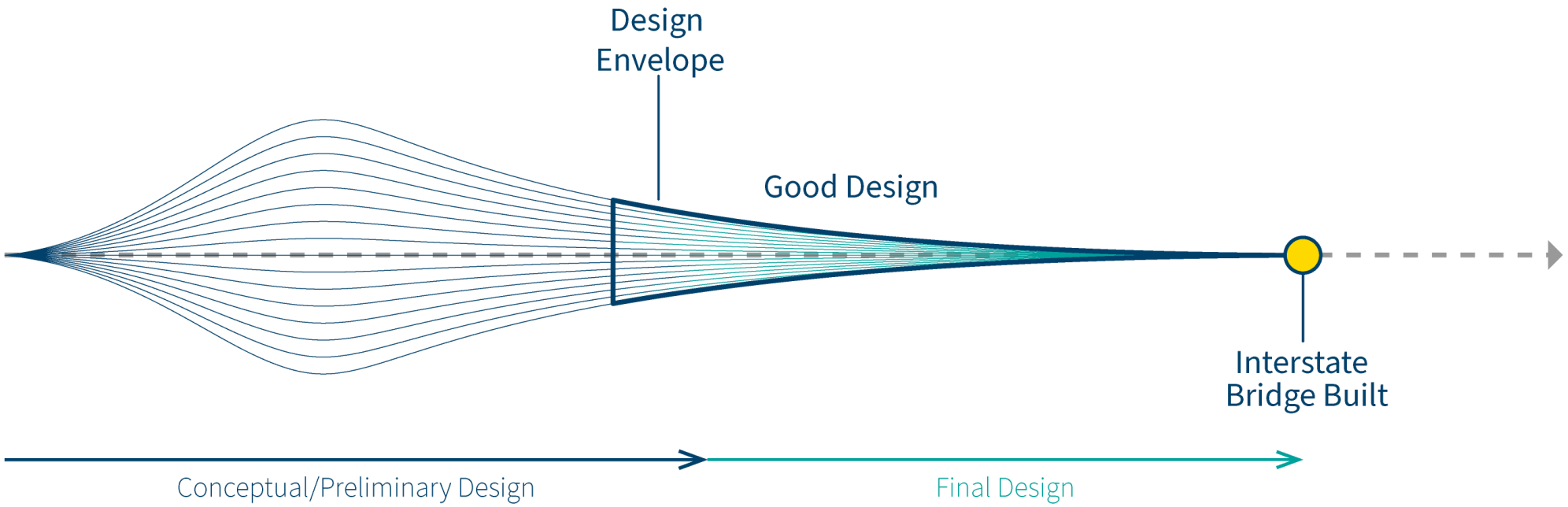
US-31 – Hamilton County

The Process

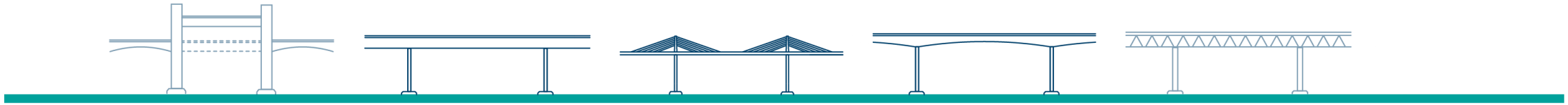
Arianna Levantesi, IBR Architect

Tom Osborne, IBR Architect

Where we are


Design
Envelope
Good Design
Interstate
Bridge Built
Conceptual/Preliminary Design
Final Design

Round 1 Recap – Main Crossing



Note: this exercise is not intended to determine bridge type or configuration. Bridge configurations included in the SEIS are single level, double level, and moveable span.

Round 2 – Approaches

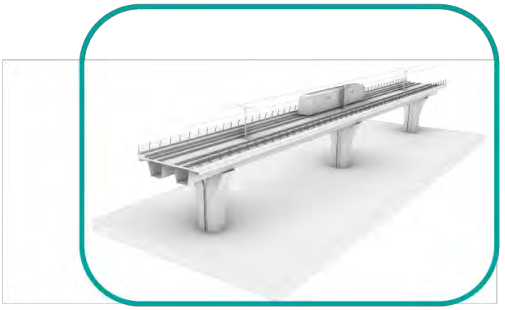
Note: this exercise is not intended to determine bridge type or configuration. Bridge configurations included in the SEIS are single level, double level, and moveable span.

Components

SUP

Components

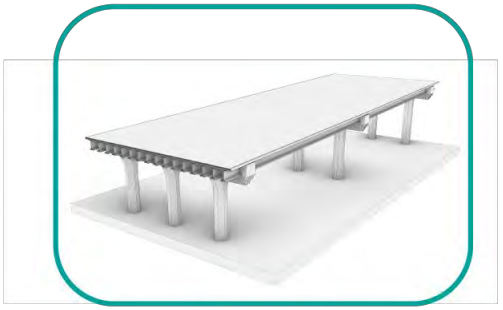
SUP



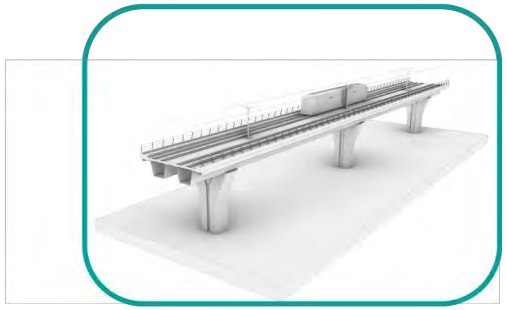
LRT

Components

SUP



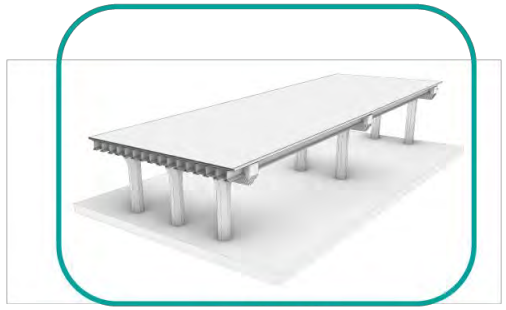
ROADWAY



LRT

Components

SUP



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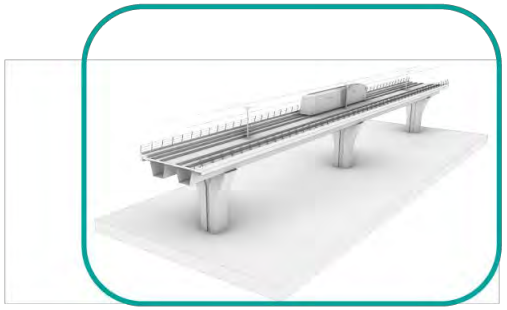
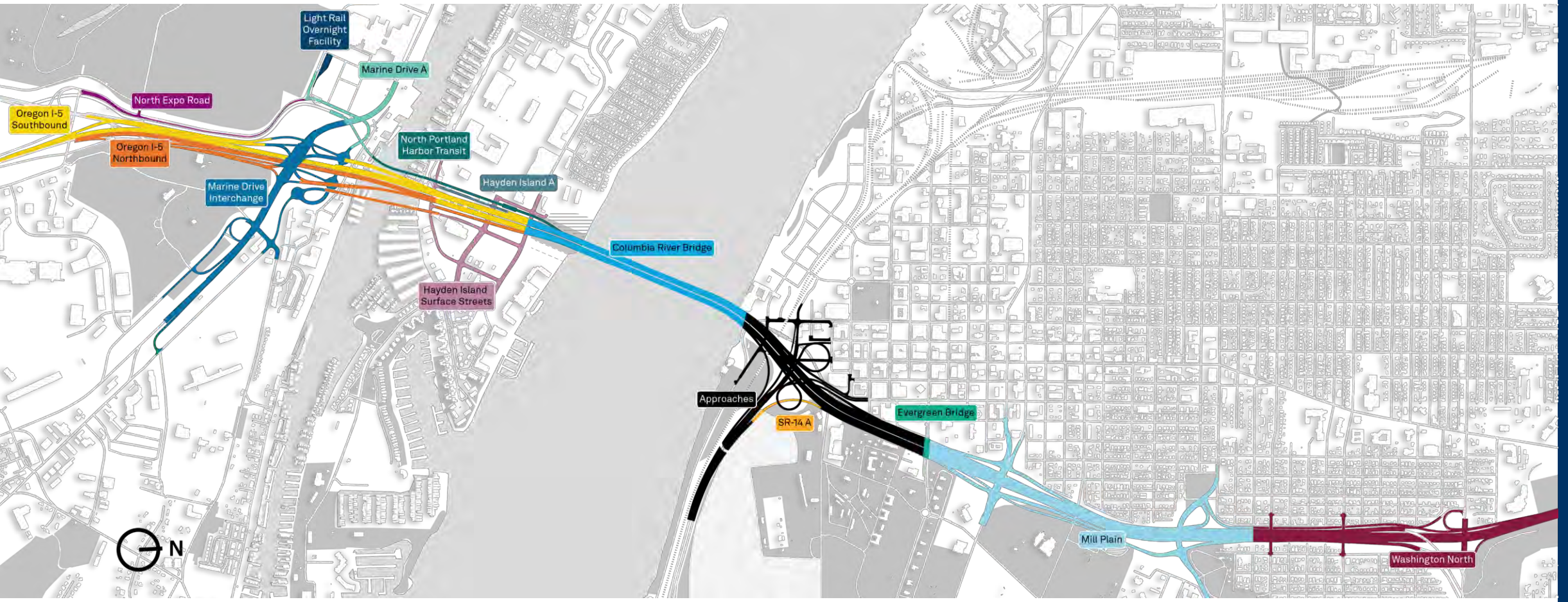


LRT

WALLS

LANDSCAPE

Family of Structures



Family of Structures

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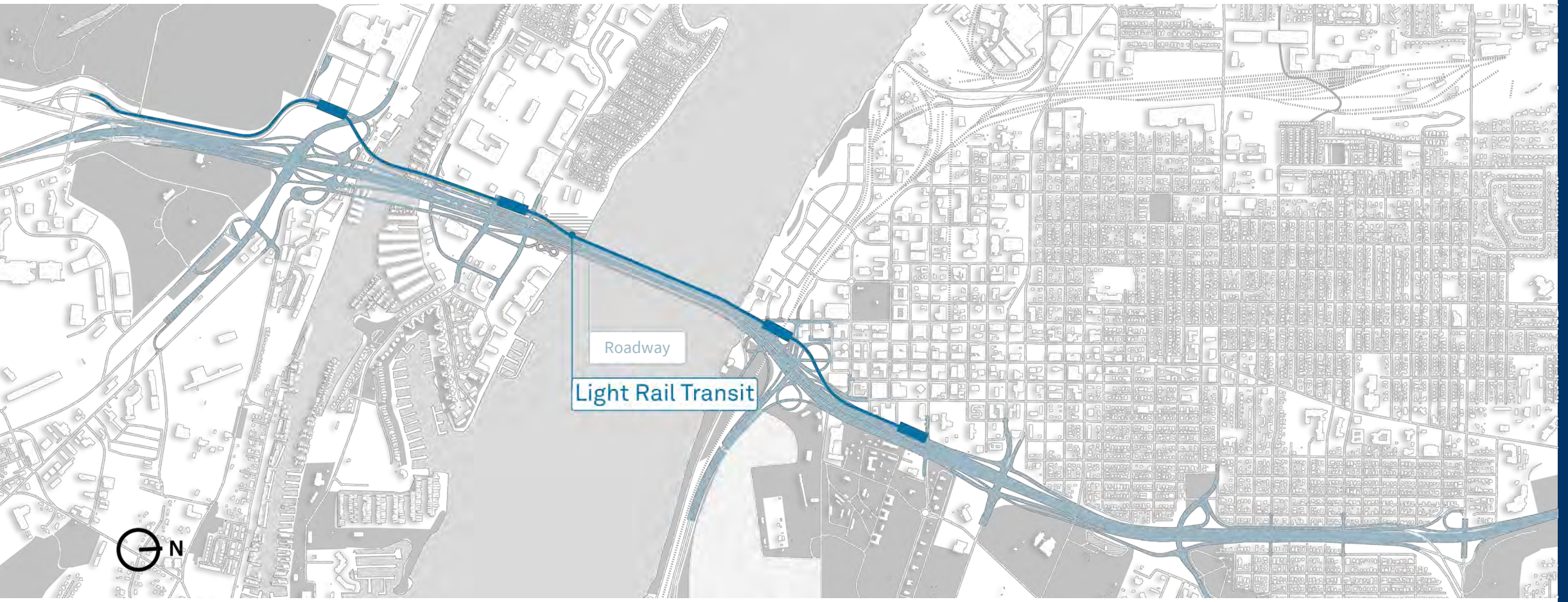
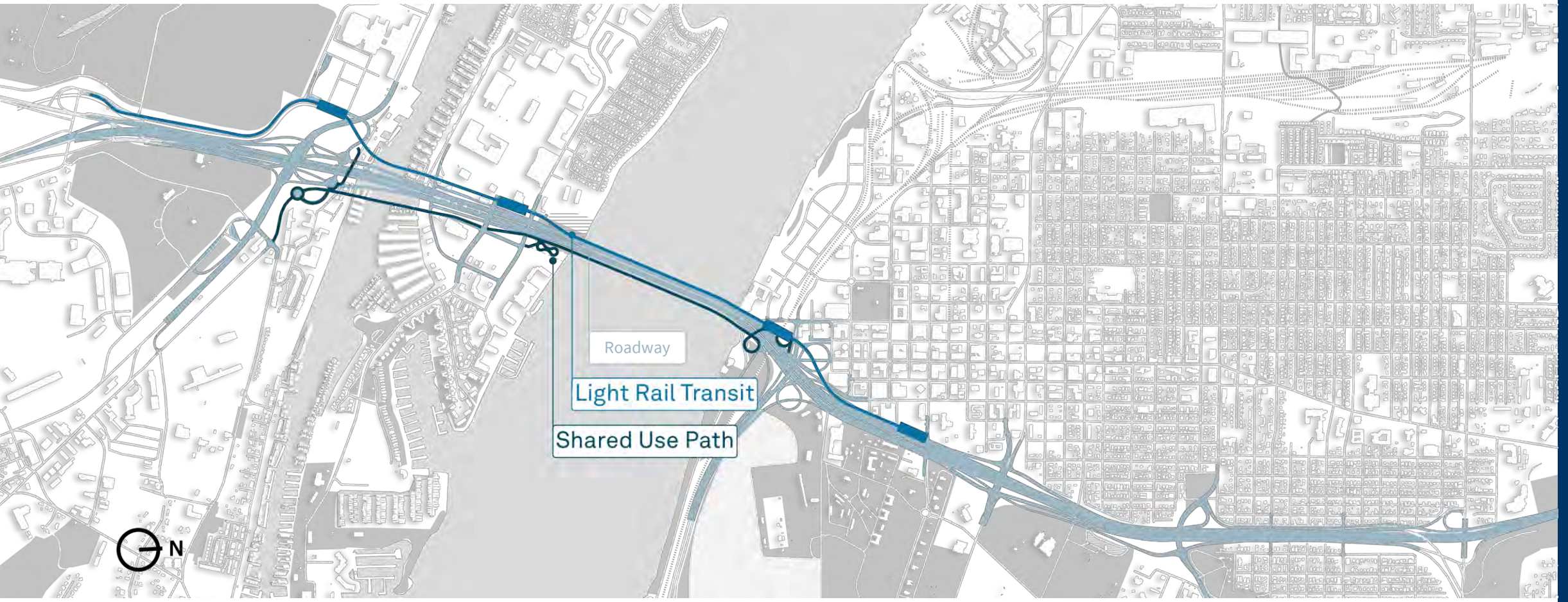


Family of Structures

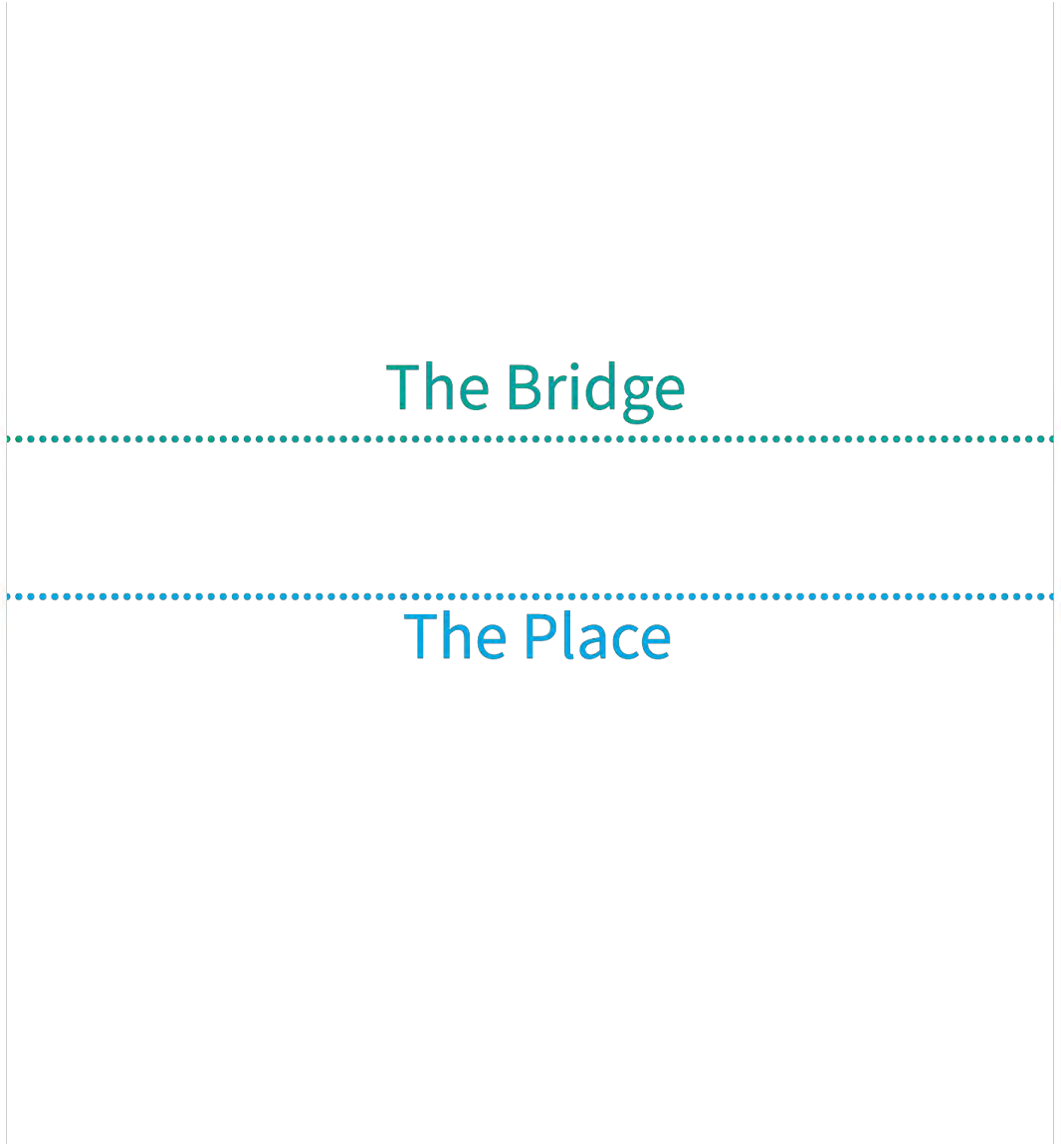


Responsiveness

The Bridge

The Place

Responsiveness



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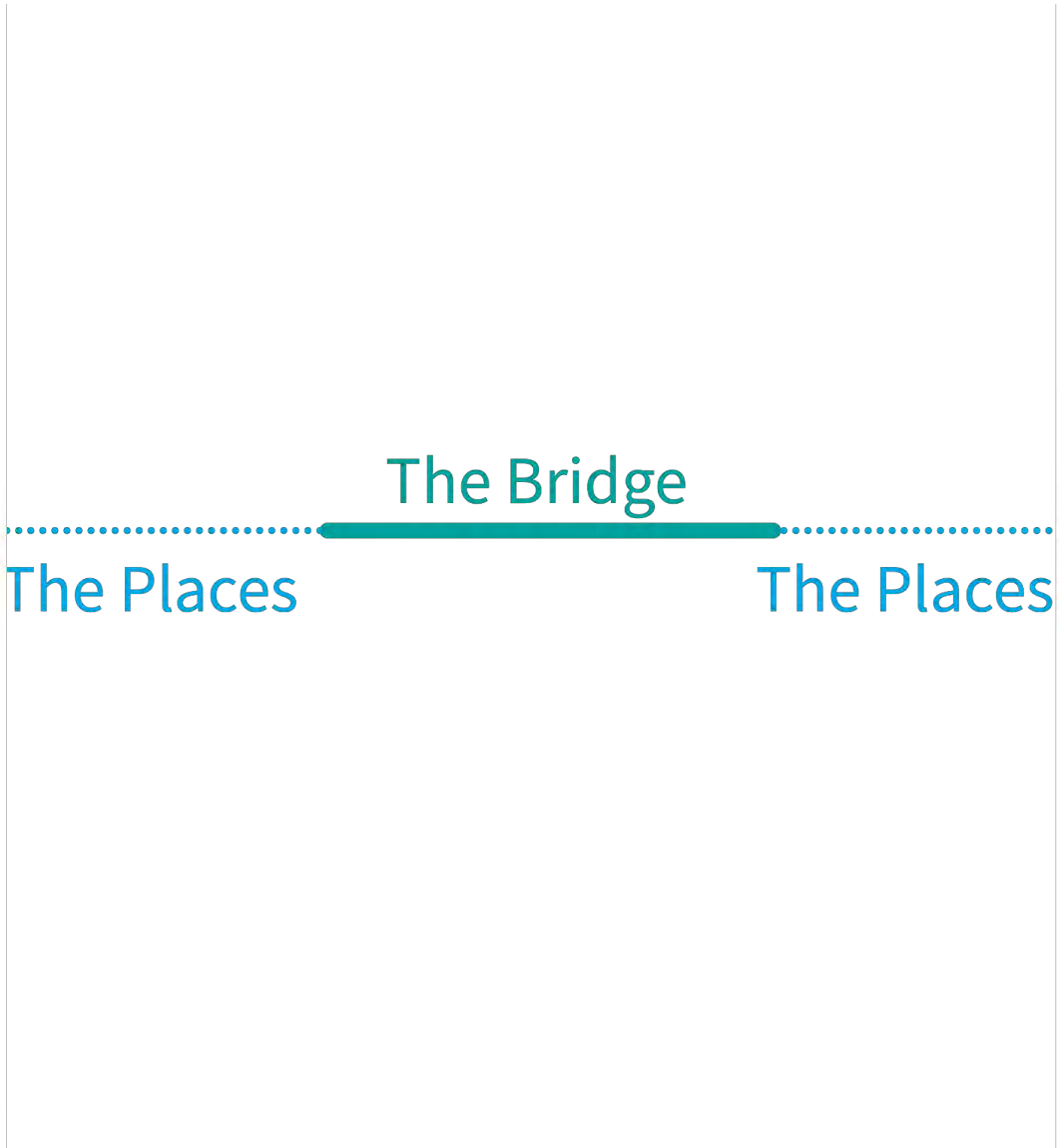

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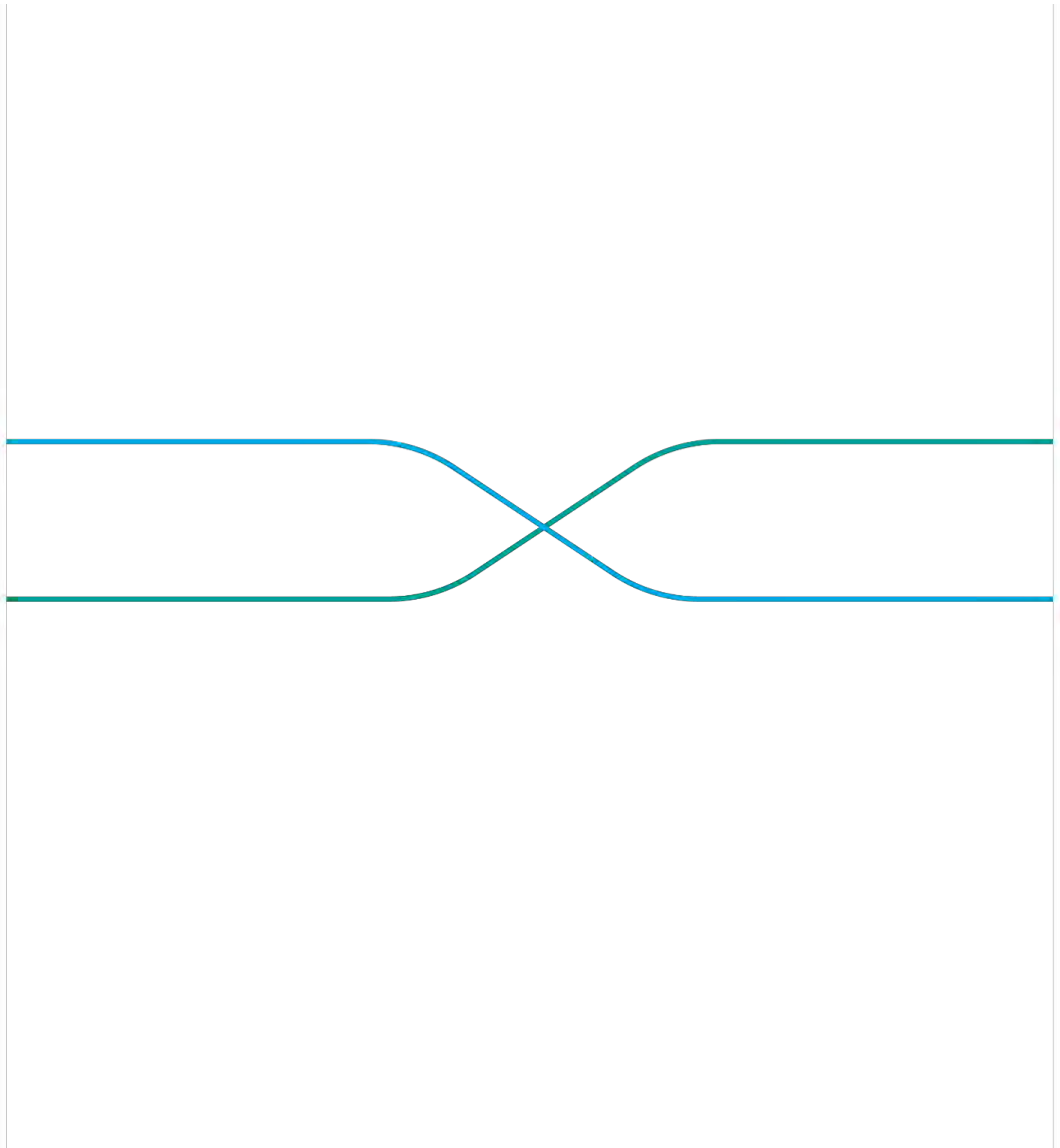

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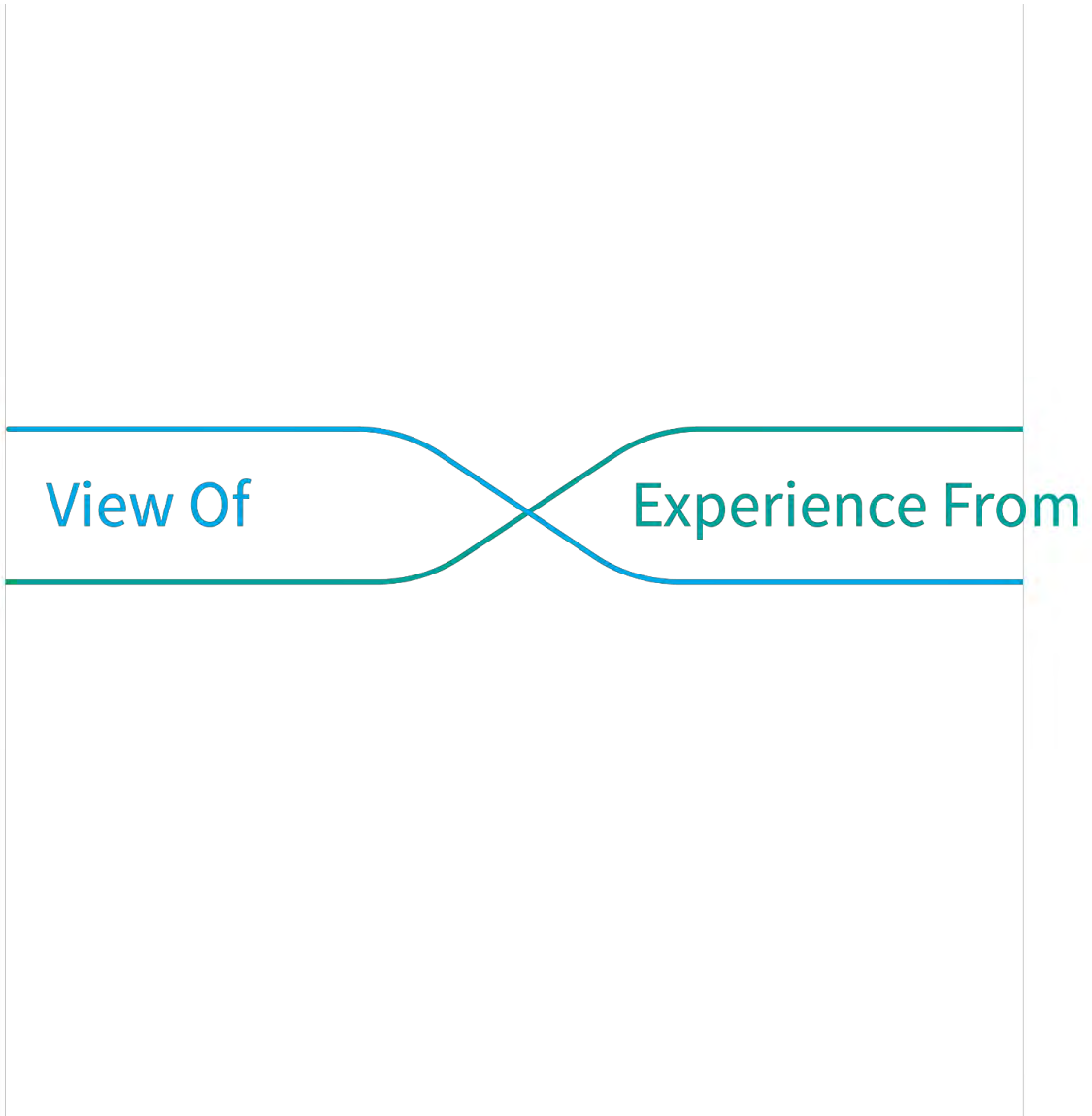

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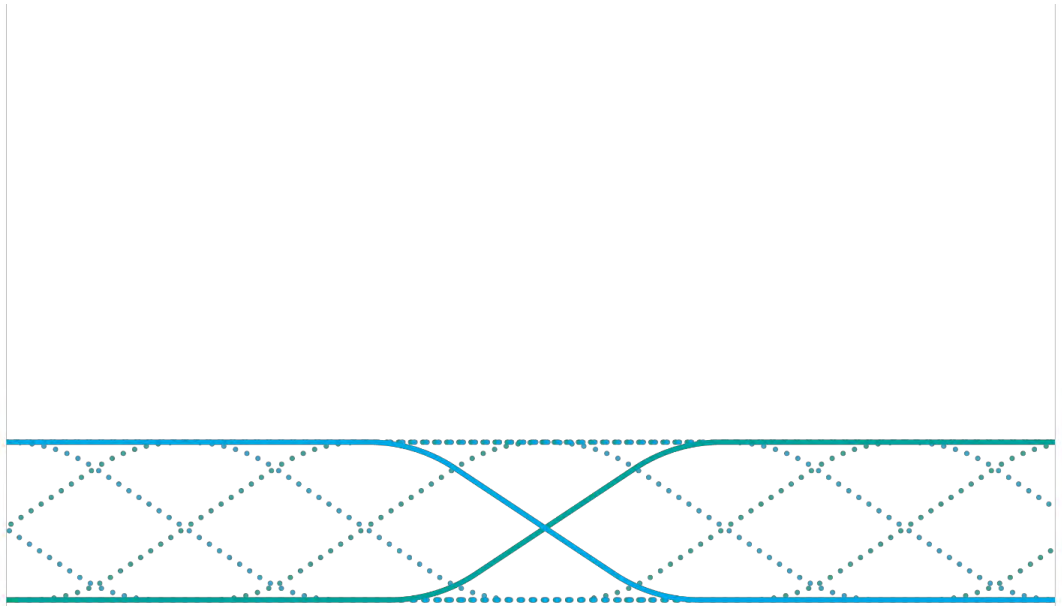

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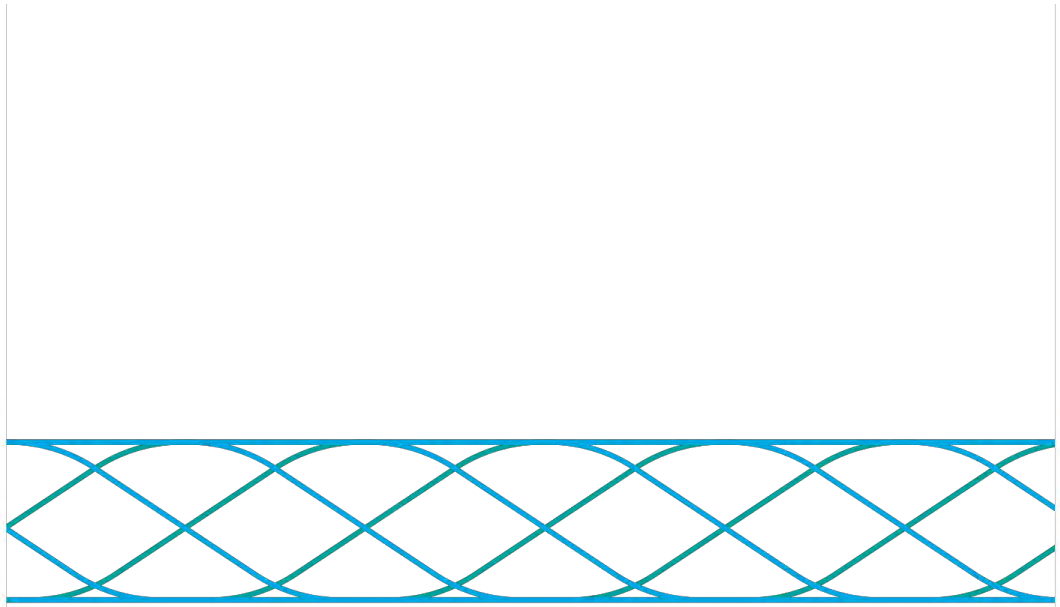
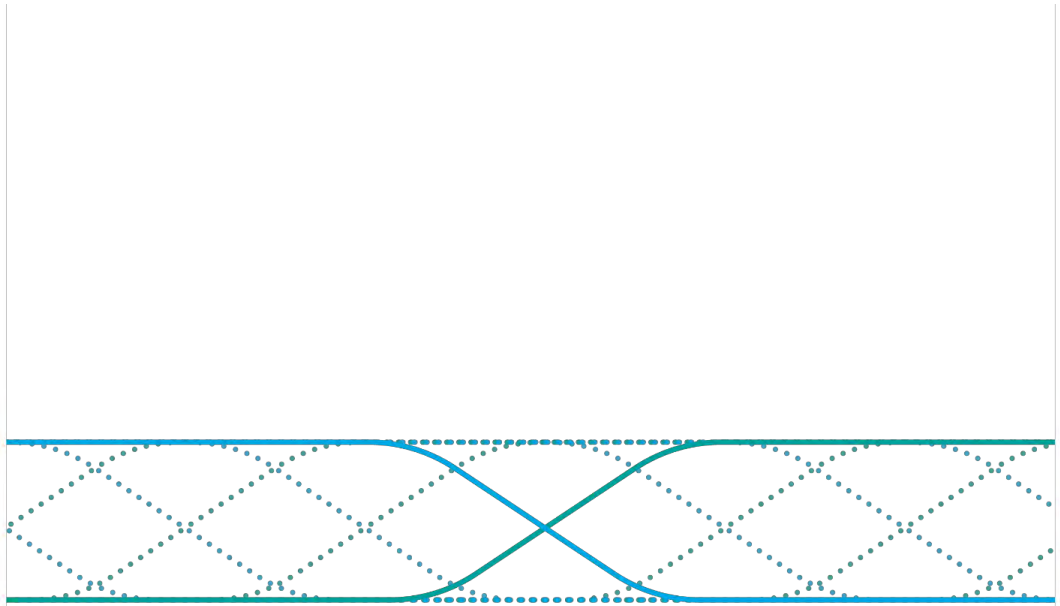


Sandwich Concept



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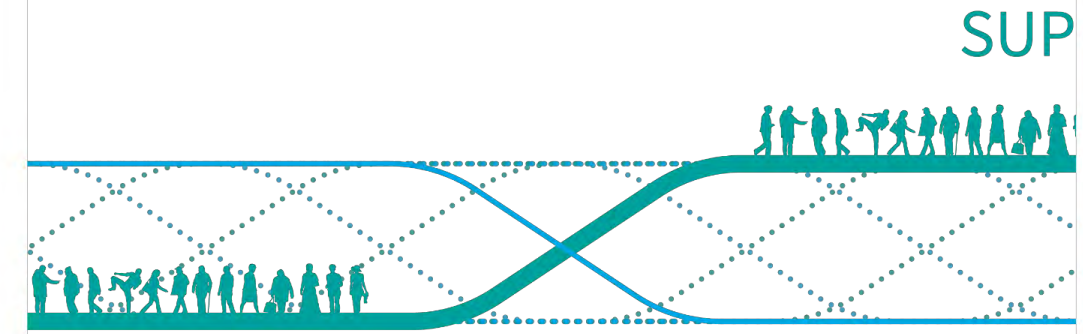

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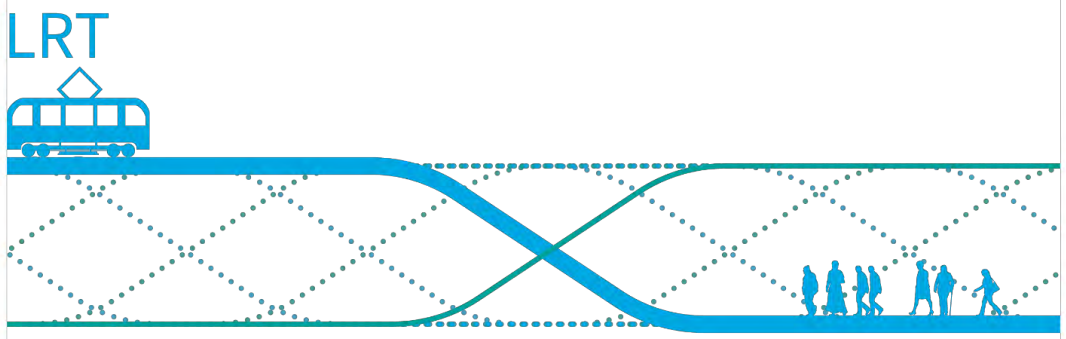


Sandwich Concept

Shared Use Path (SUP)

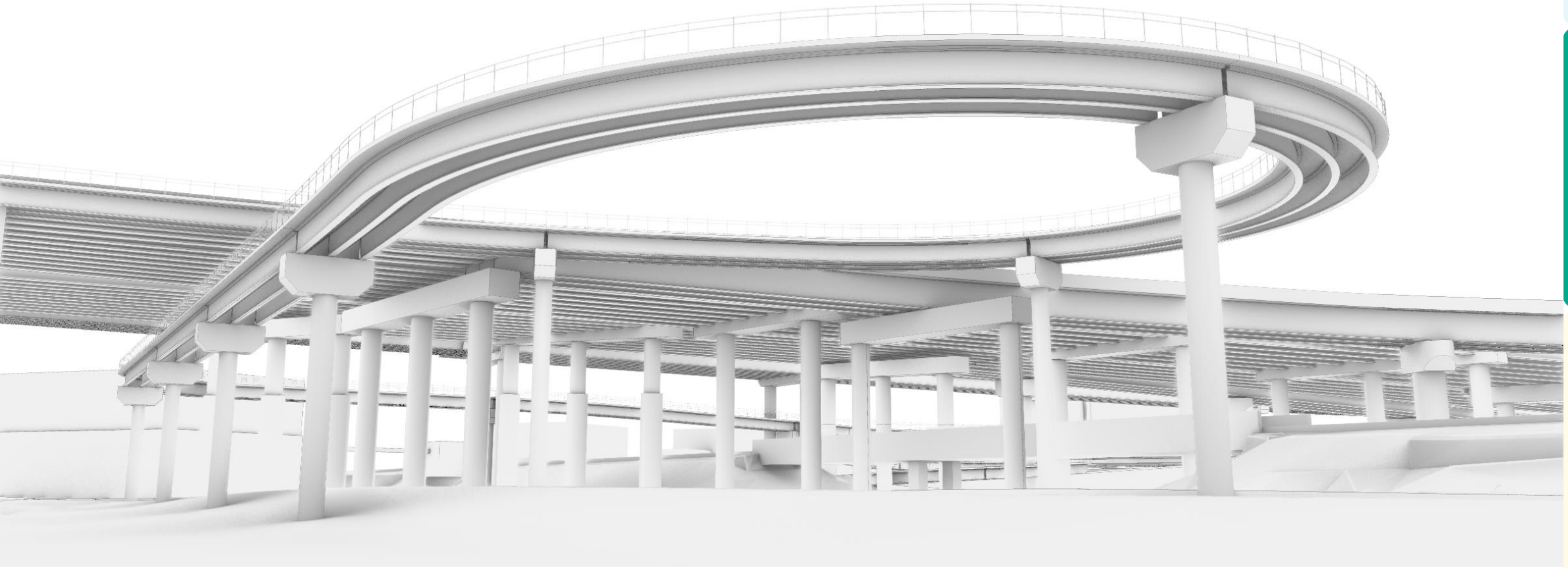
Design Process

Attractor:

The SUP's fundamental goal is to create a safe, comfortable, and welcoming crossing to encourage its use and promote active mobility.

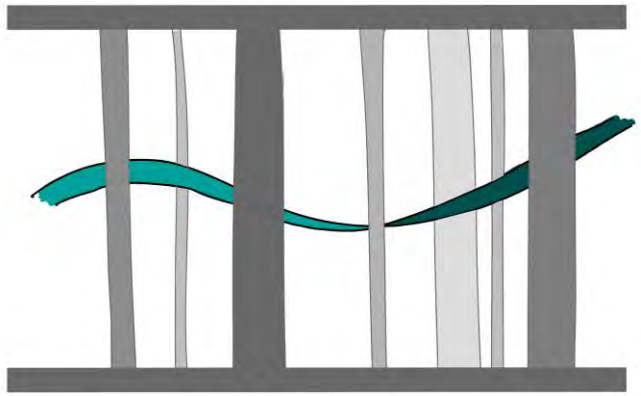
Attractor Despite its Length

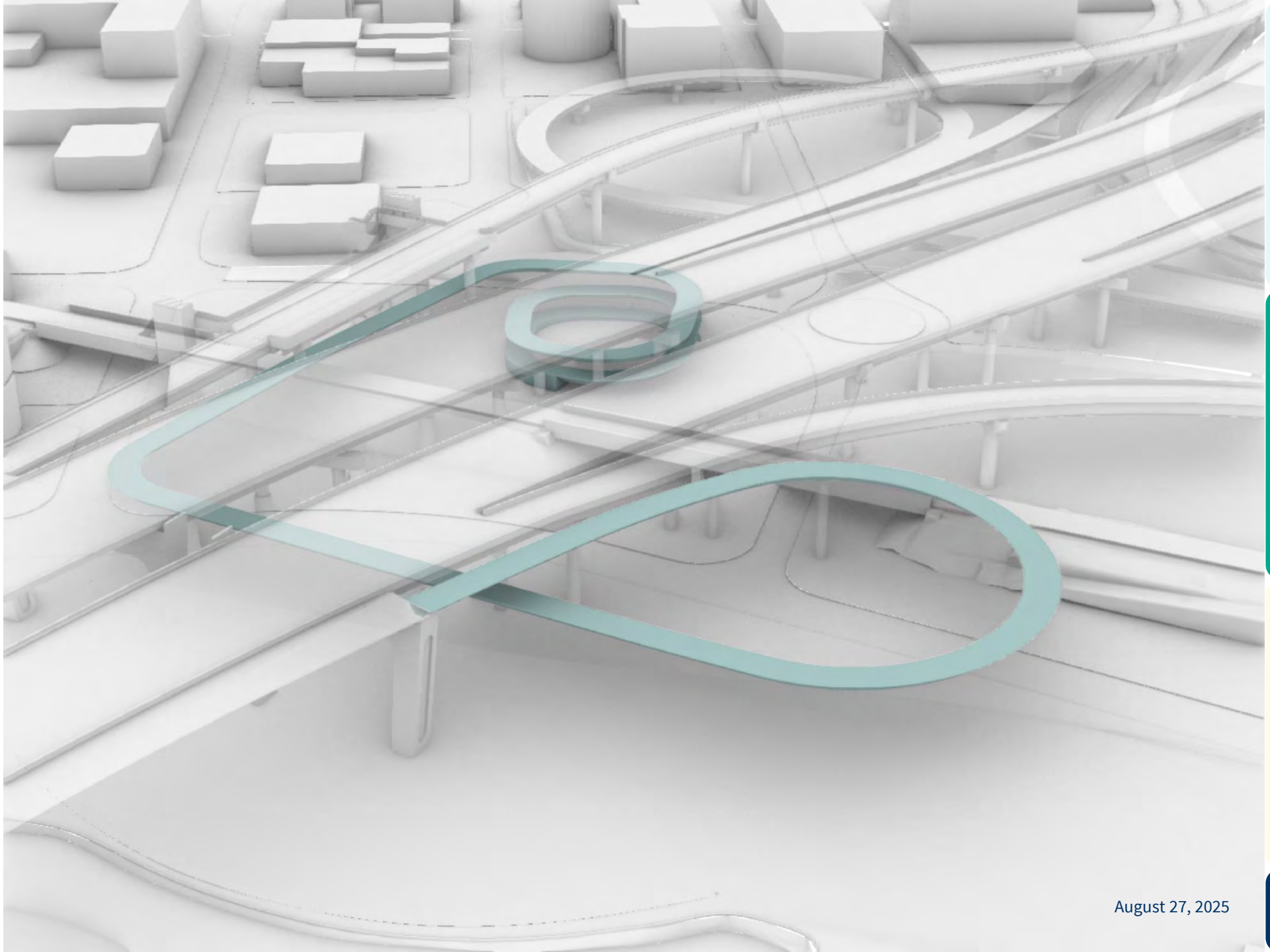
Attractor Despite Surrounding Complexity

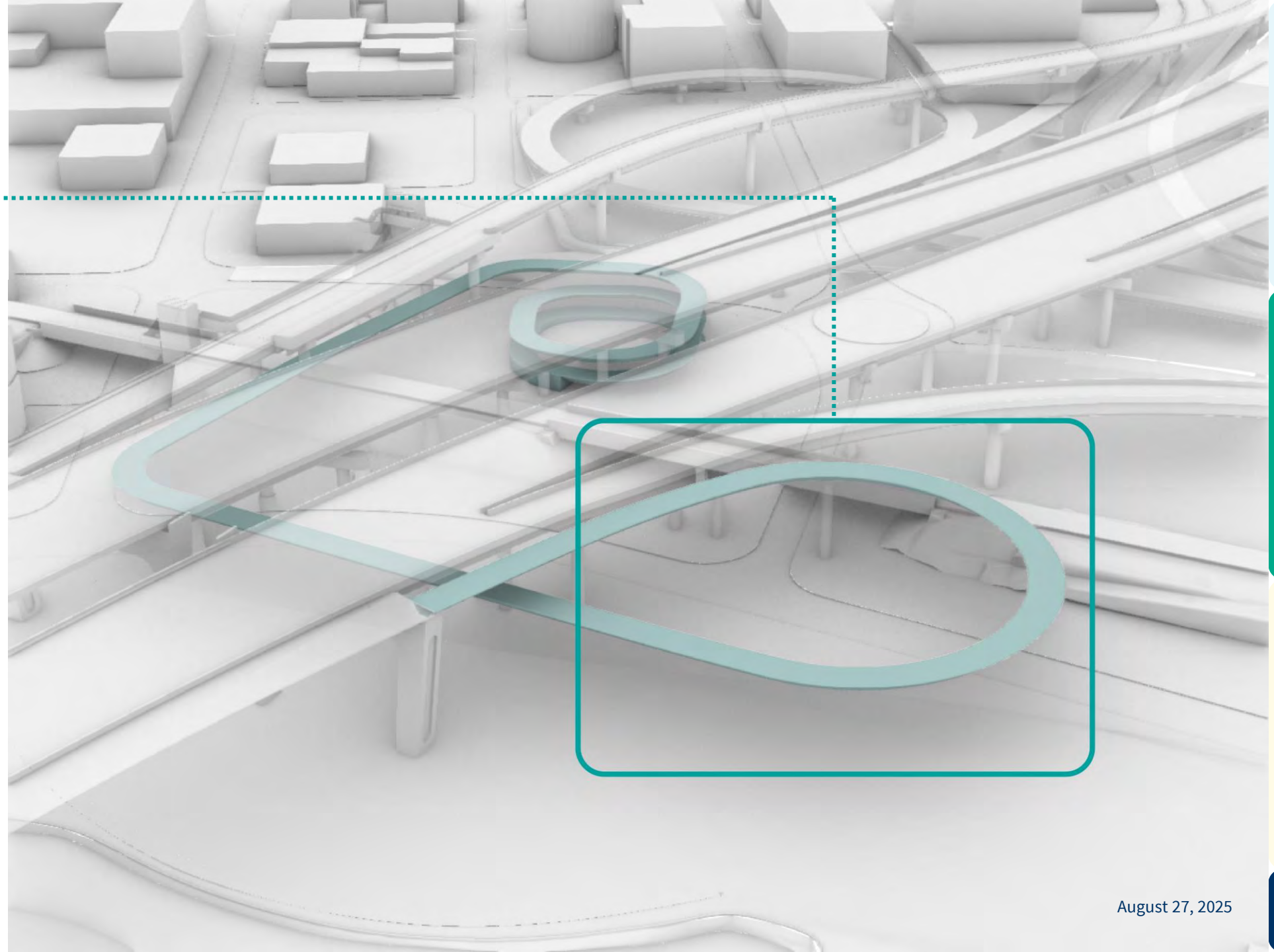


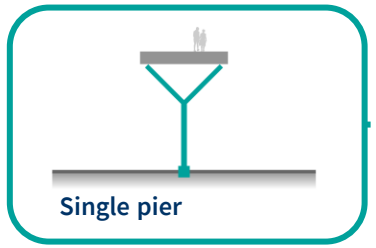
Ribbon Concept

SUP will feature a continuous, ribbon-like form, meandering among the other structures and serving as a clear visual thread to follow.

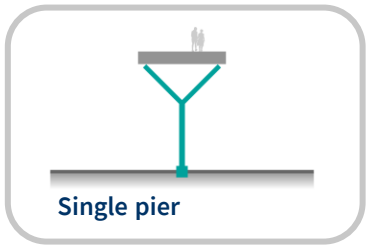


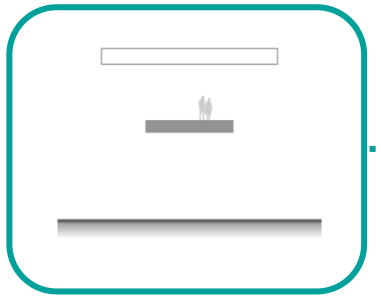


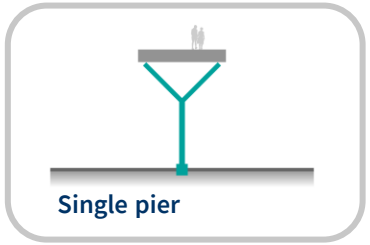


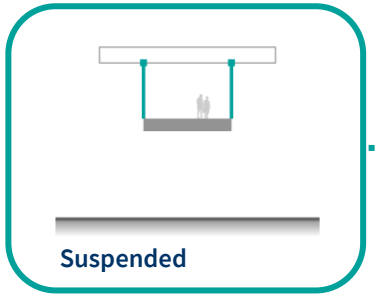


Single pier


Single pier




Single pier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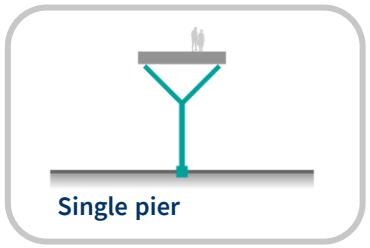

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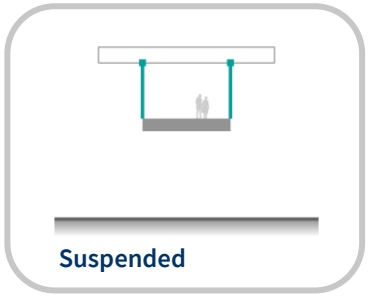

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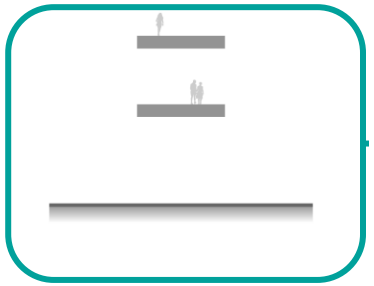

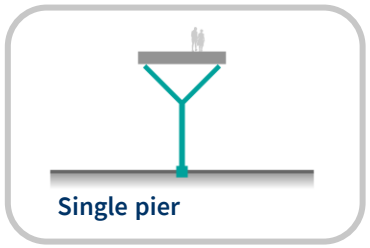

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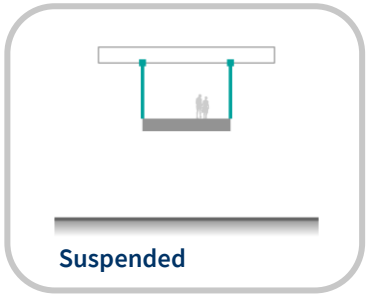

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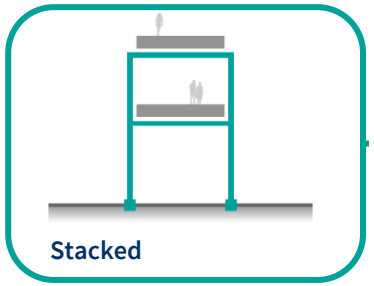
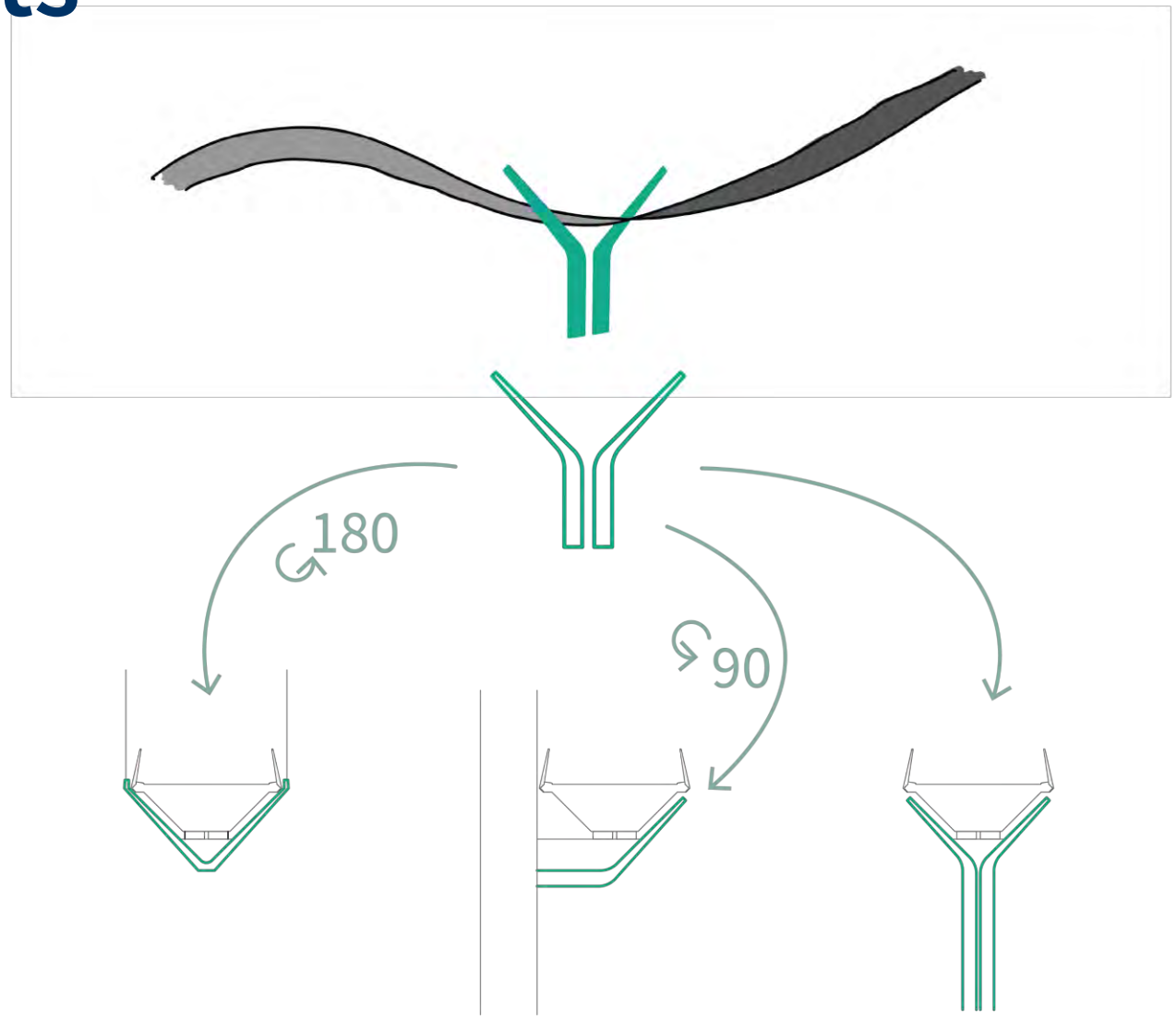
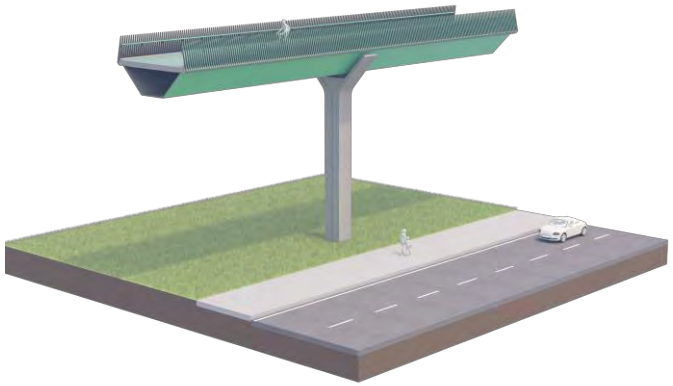
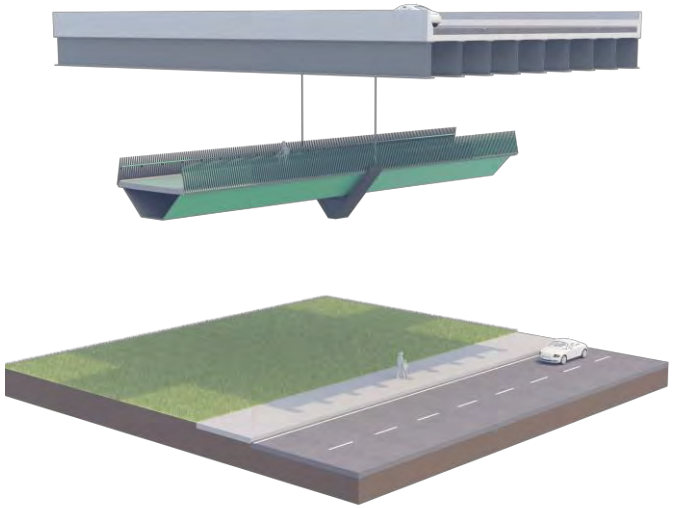


Stacked

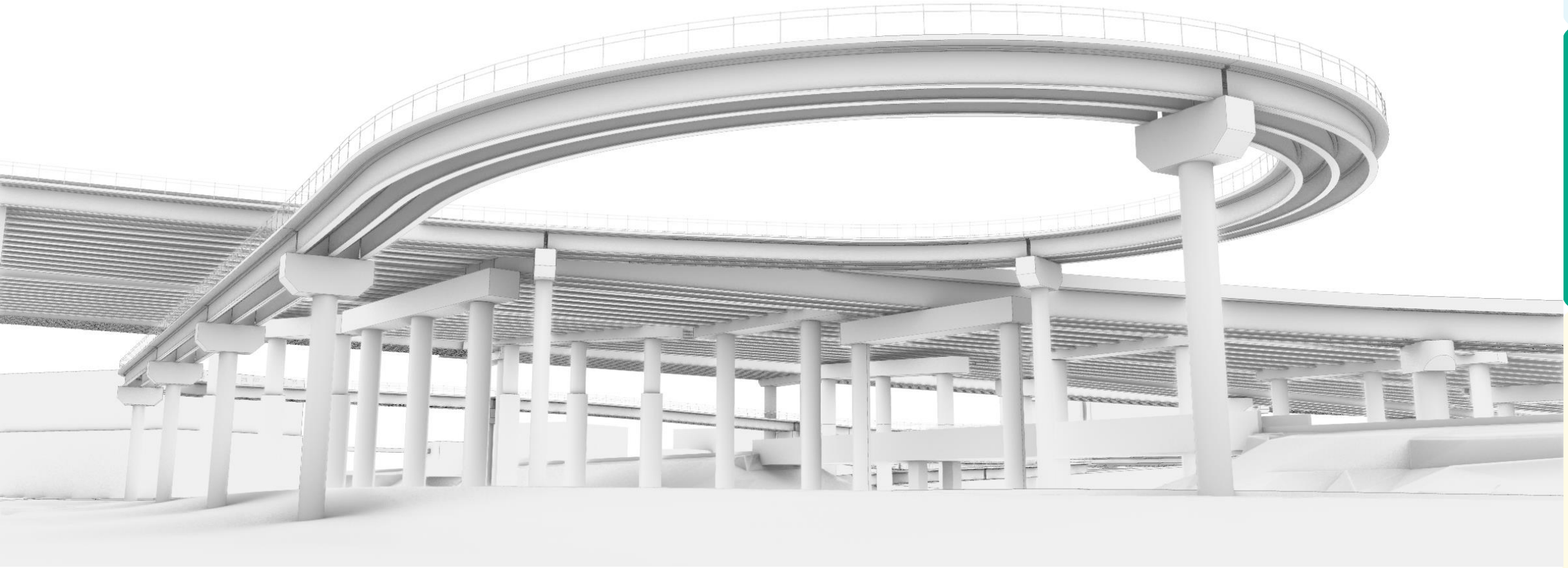
Kit of Parts







Consistency



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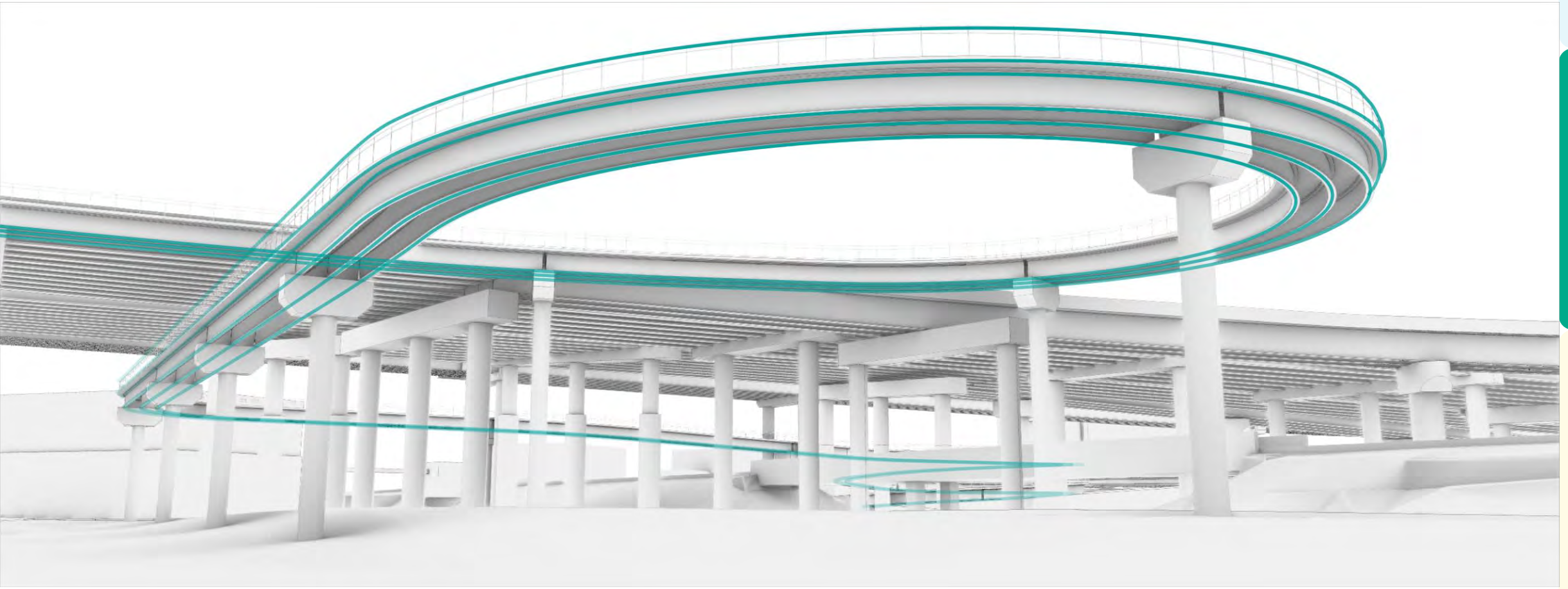

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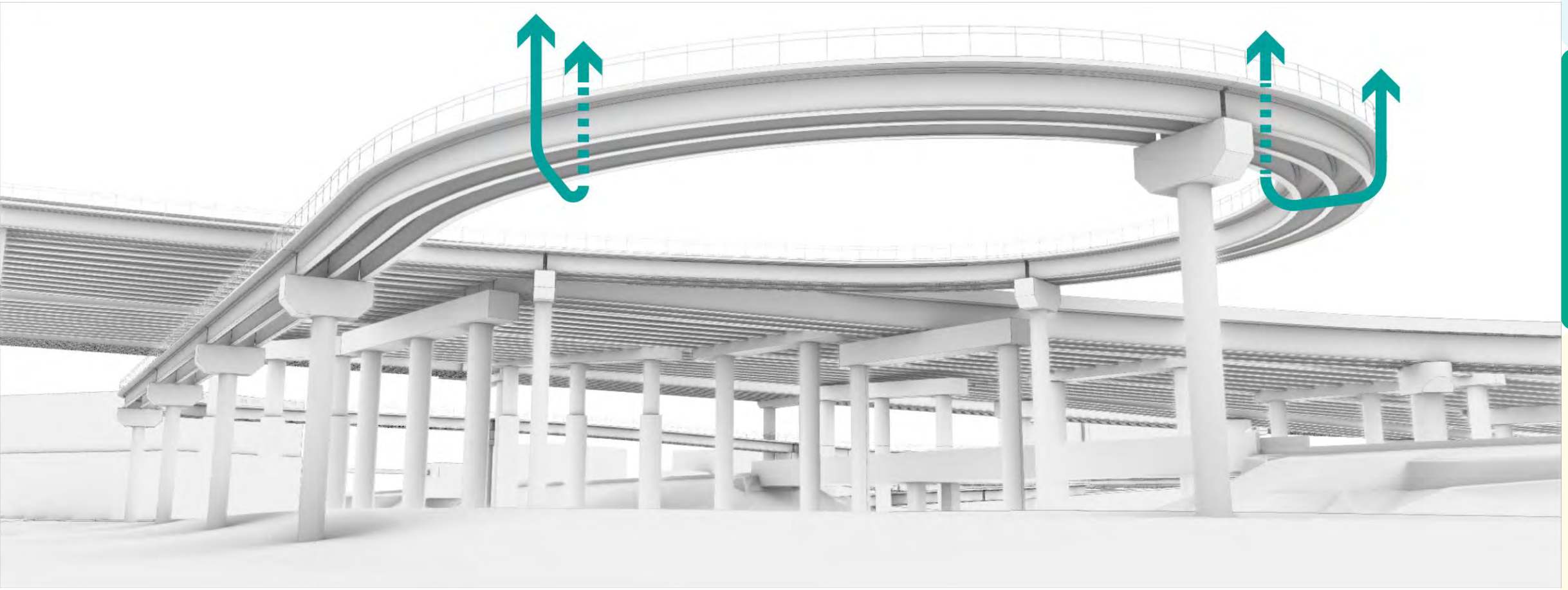

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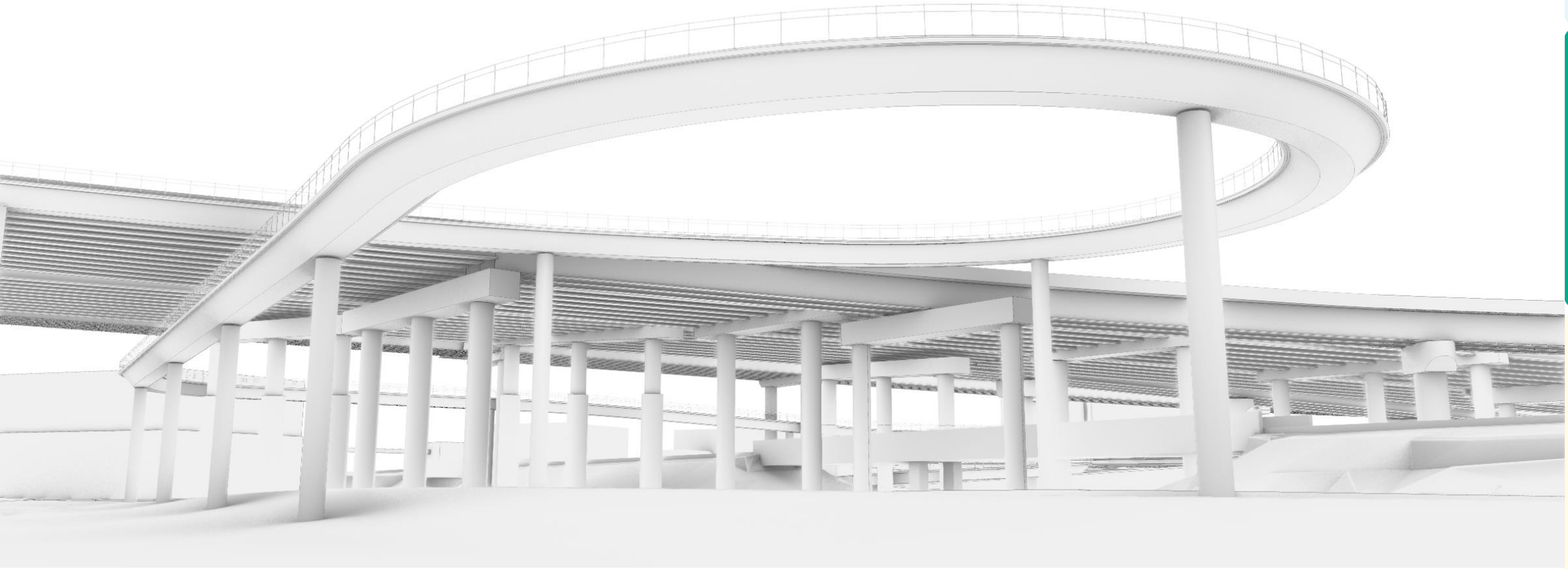

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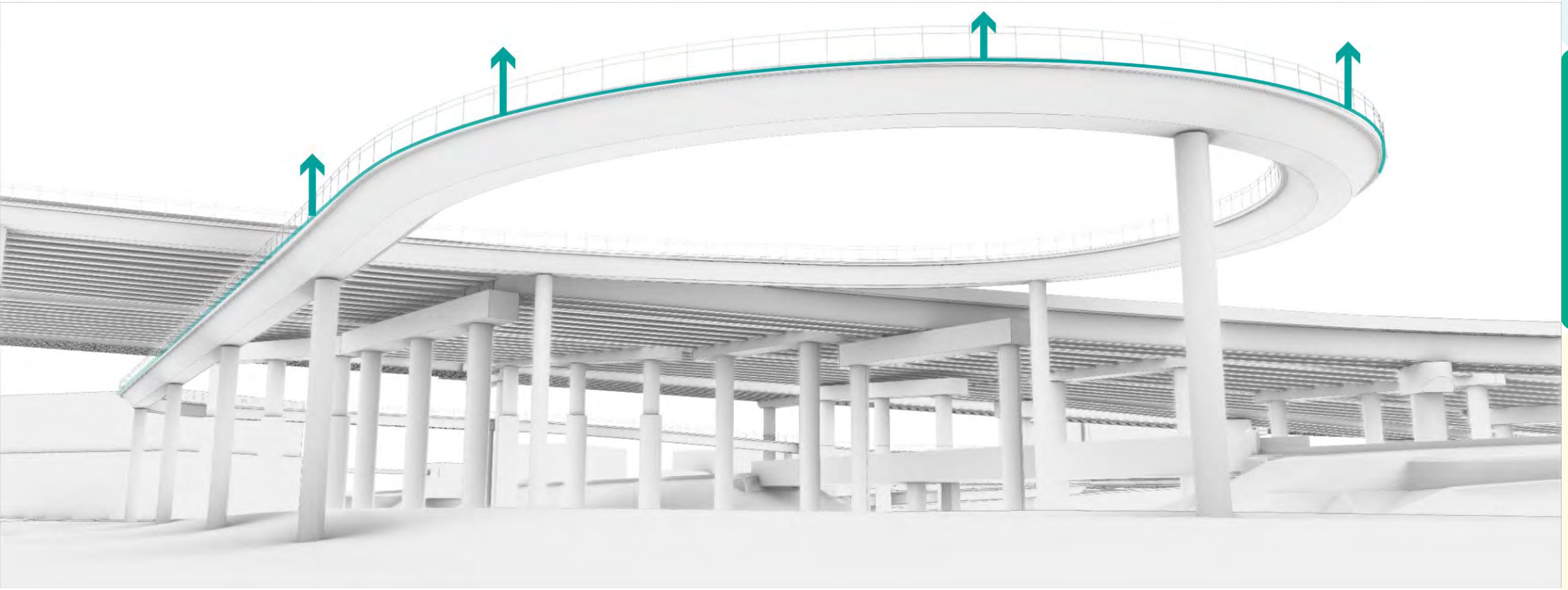
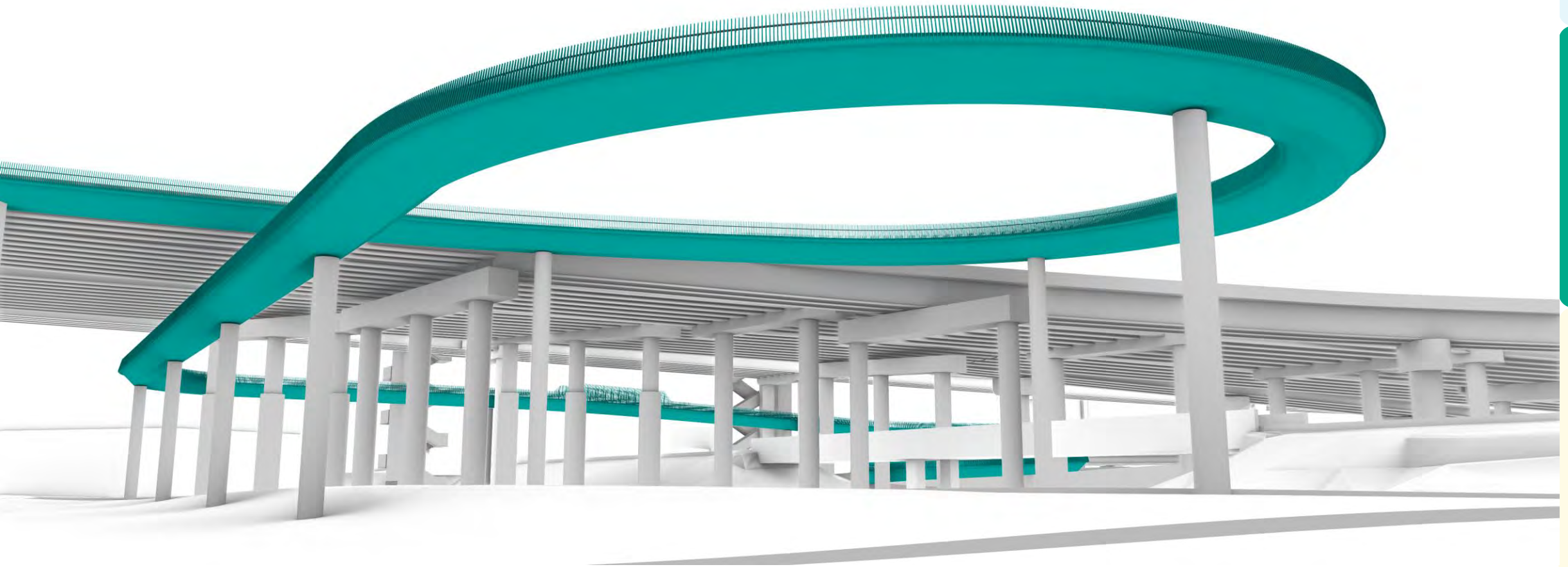


Consistency

Differentiation



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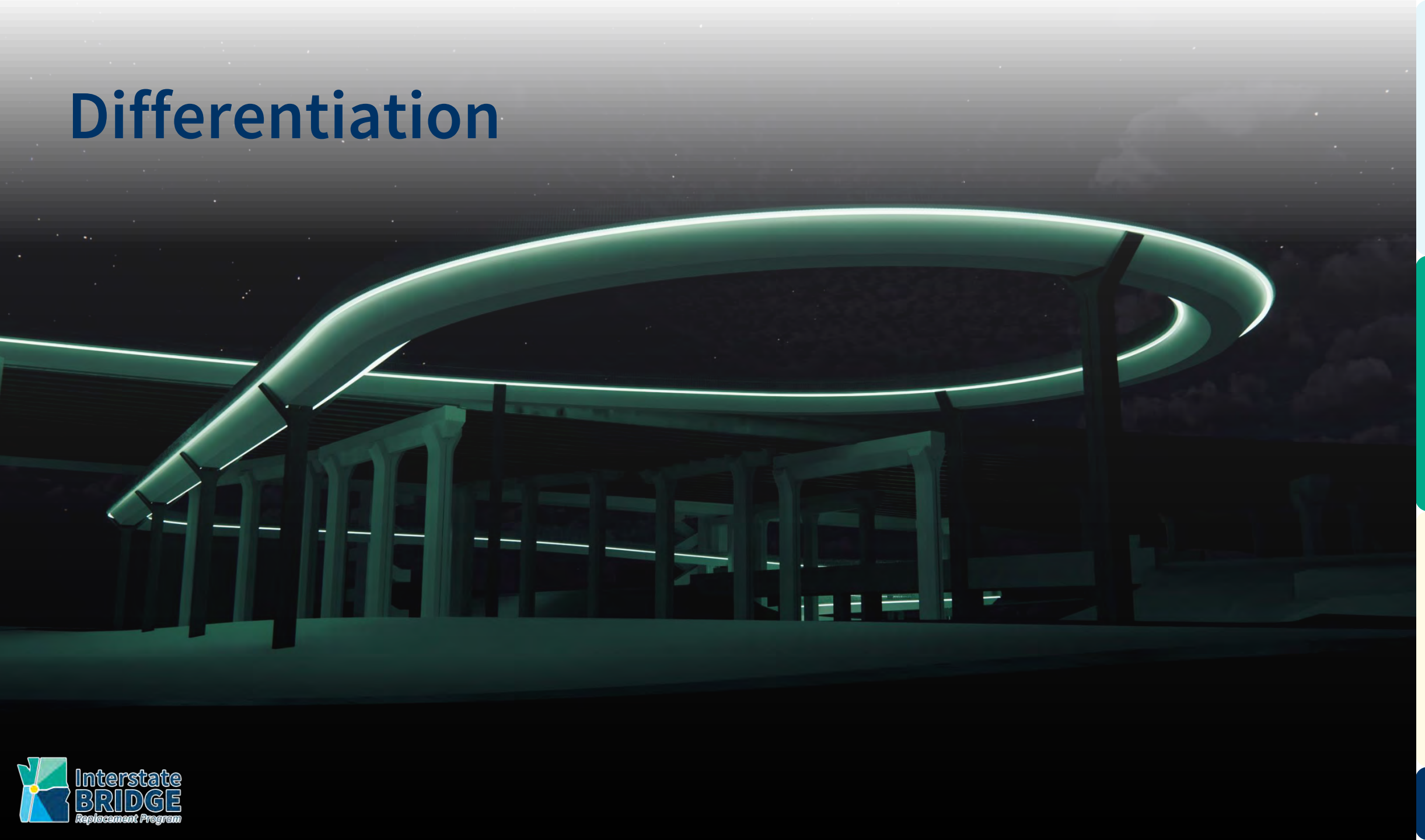


VIEWPOINT:
Looking west at the land structures
from SE Columbia Way

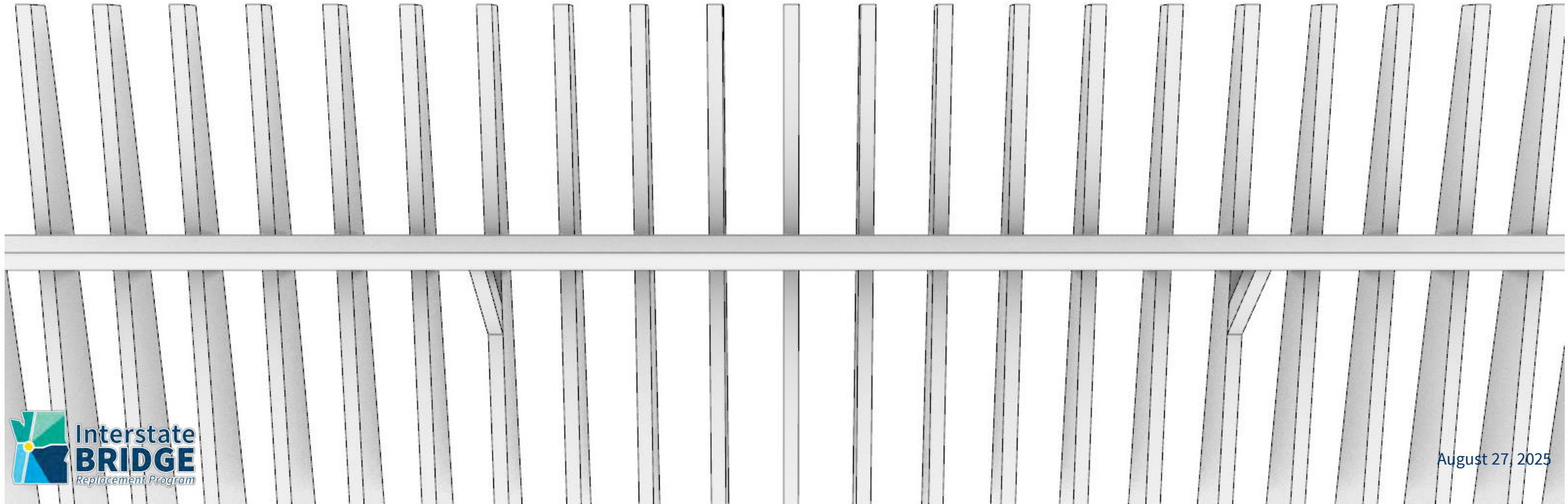
Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

Note: this graphic is intended to provide an example of possible architectural elements; it does not depict final design and is not intended for construction for the IBR Program.

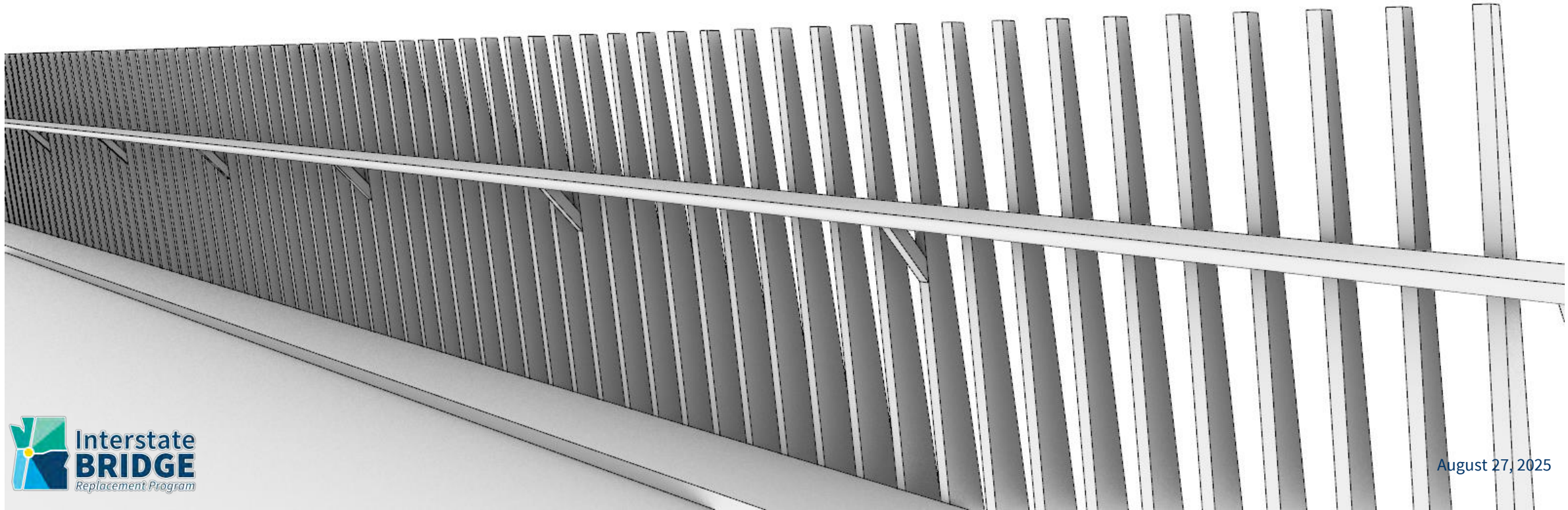
Human Scale

The SUP design needs to be tailored to its users, offering a level of granularity that matches their needs, despite being part of a large, vehicle-driven scheme.

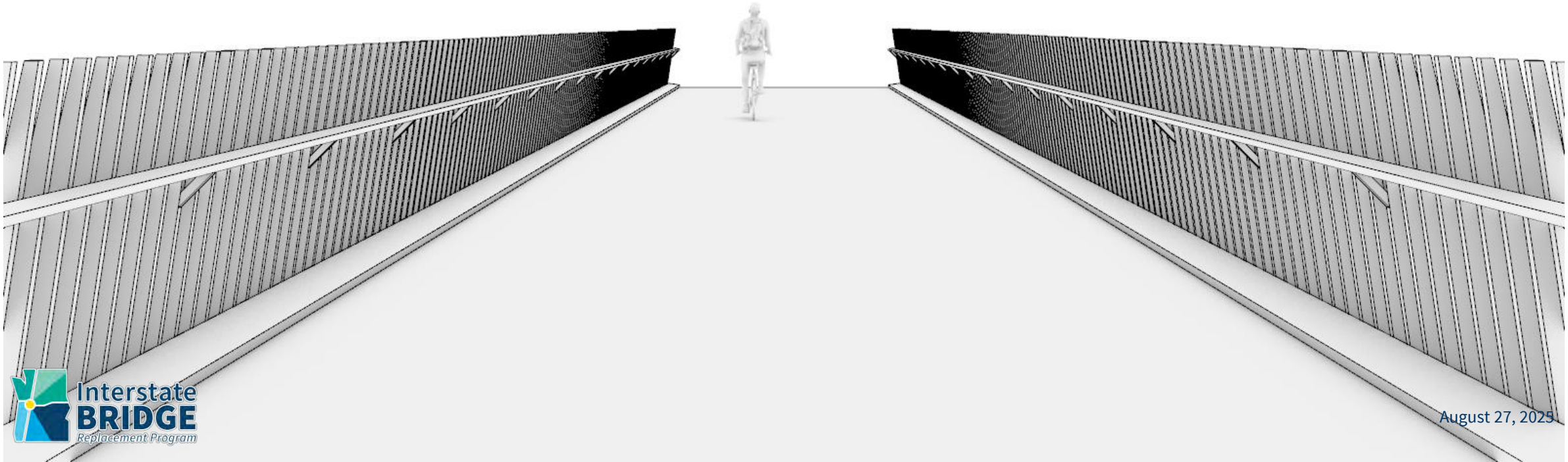
Parapet - Curating the View



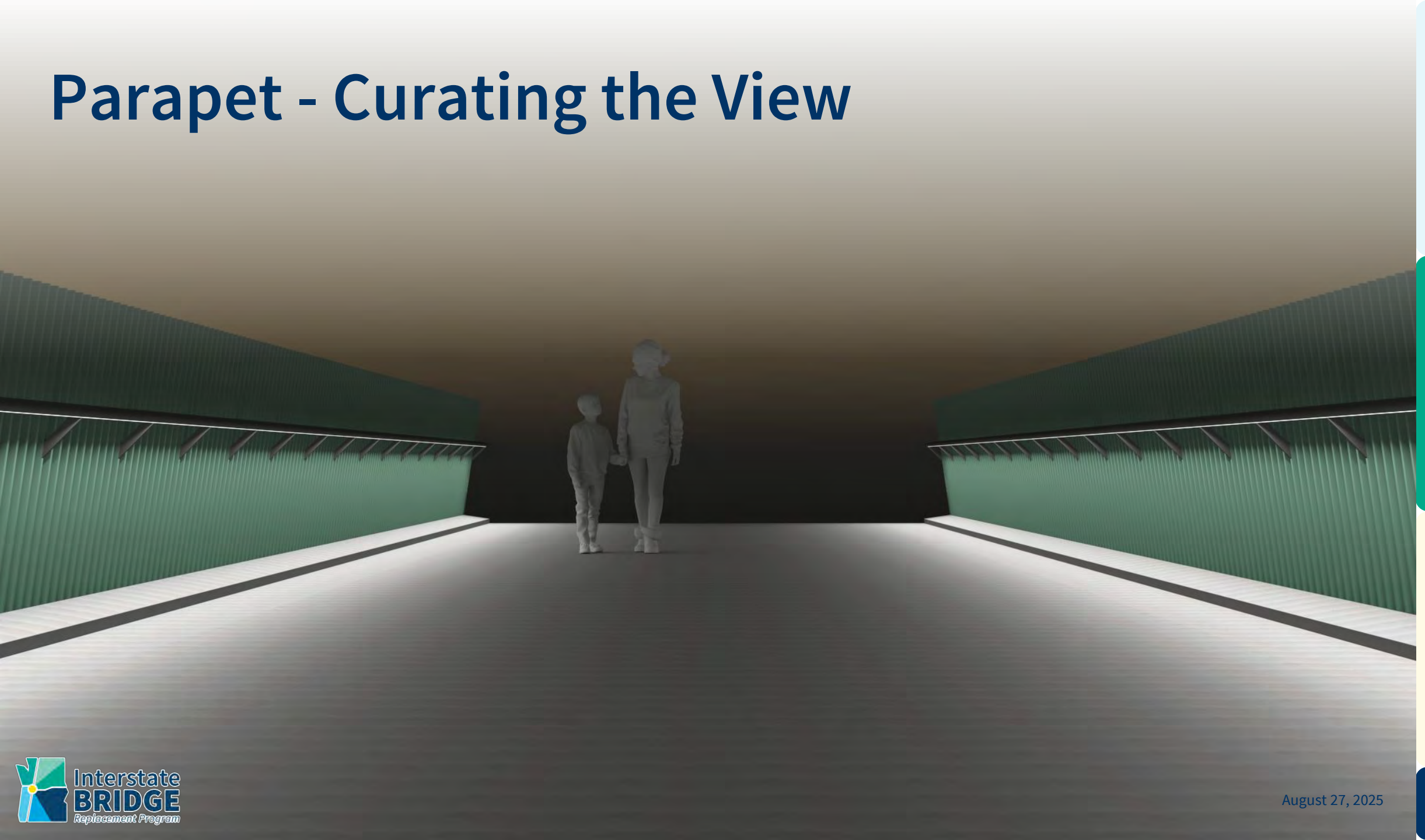
Parapet - Curating the View



Parapet - Curating the View

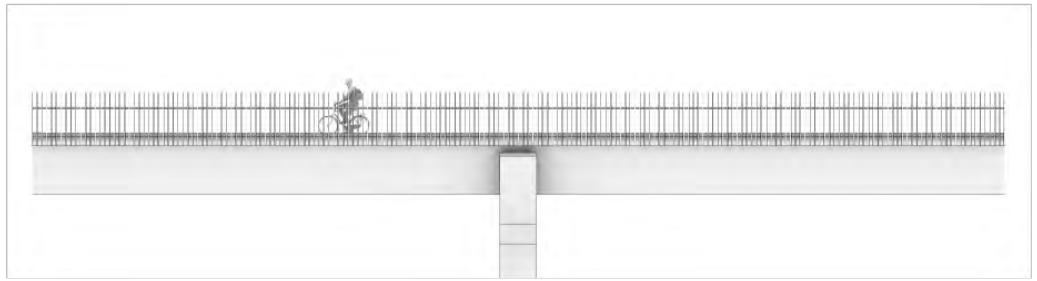


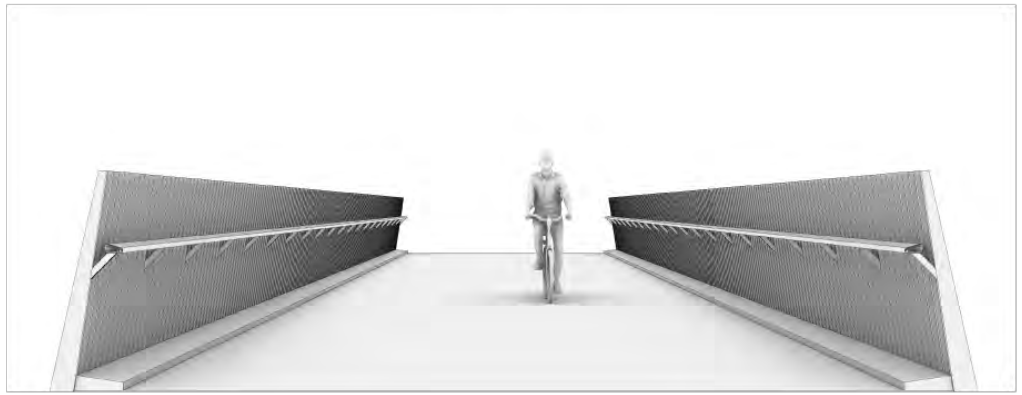
Parapet - Curating the View



Parapet - Adapting to Constraints

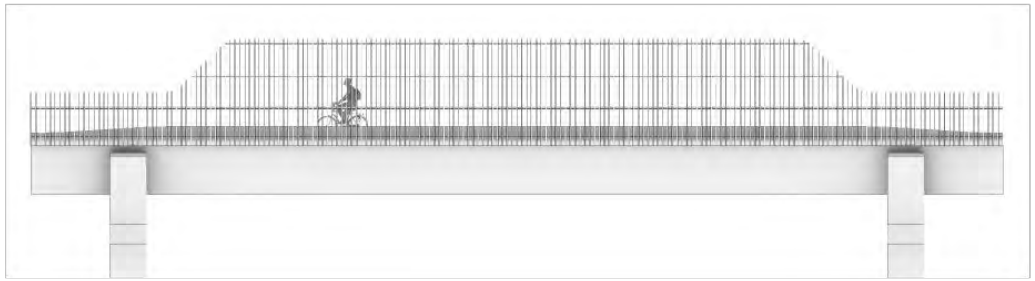
Standard

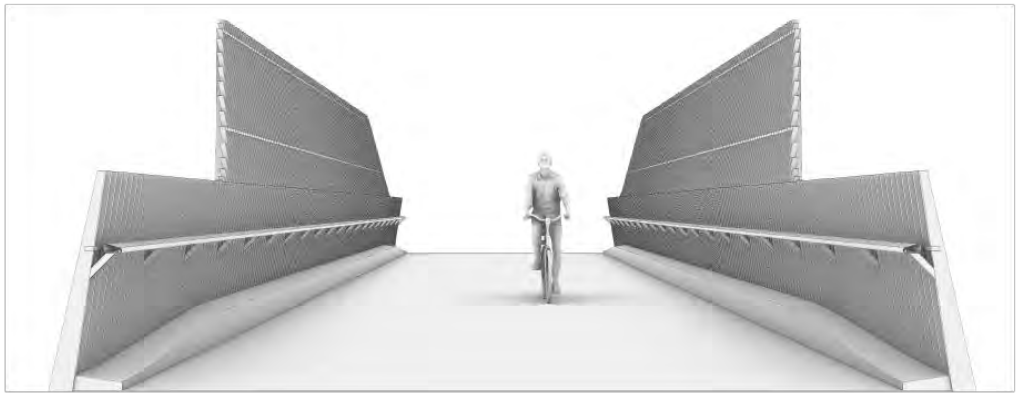


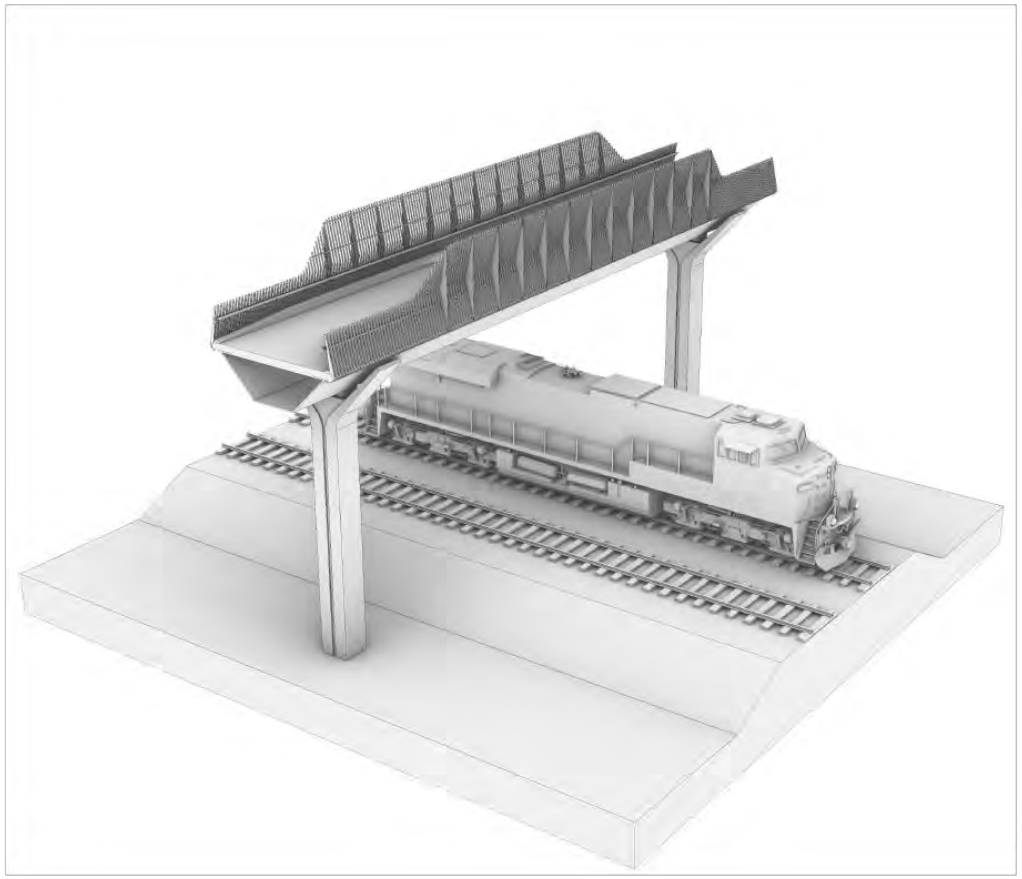


Parapet - Adapting to Constraints

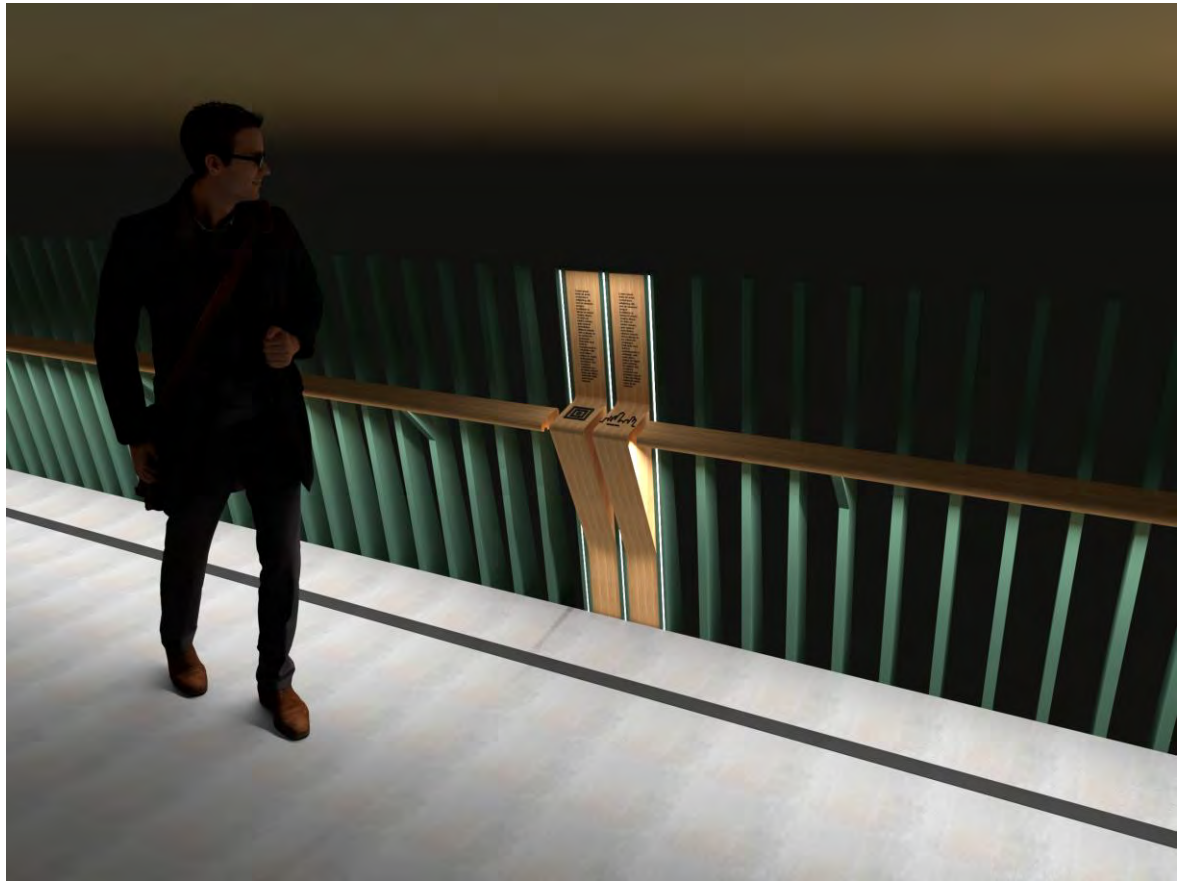
Throw-Protection







Parapet - Integrating Multiple Uses



VIEWPOINT:
From the SUP in Hayden Island,
looking north

Note: this graphic is intended to provide an example of possible architectural elements; it does not depict final design and is not intended for construction for the IBR Program.

Light Rail Transit (LRT)

Design Process

View OF Experience FROM

Welcoming Threshold:

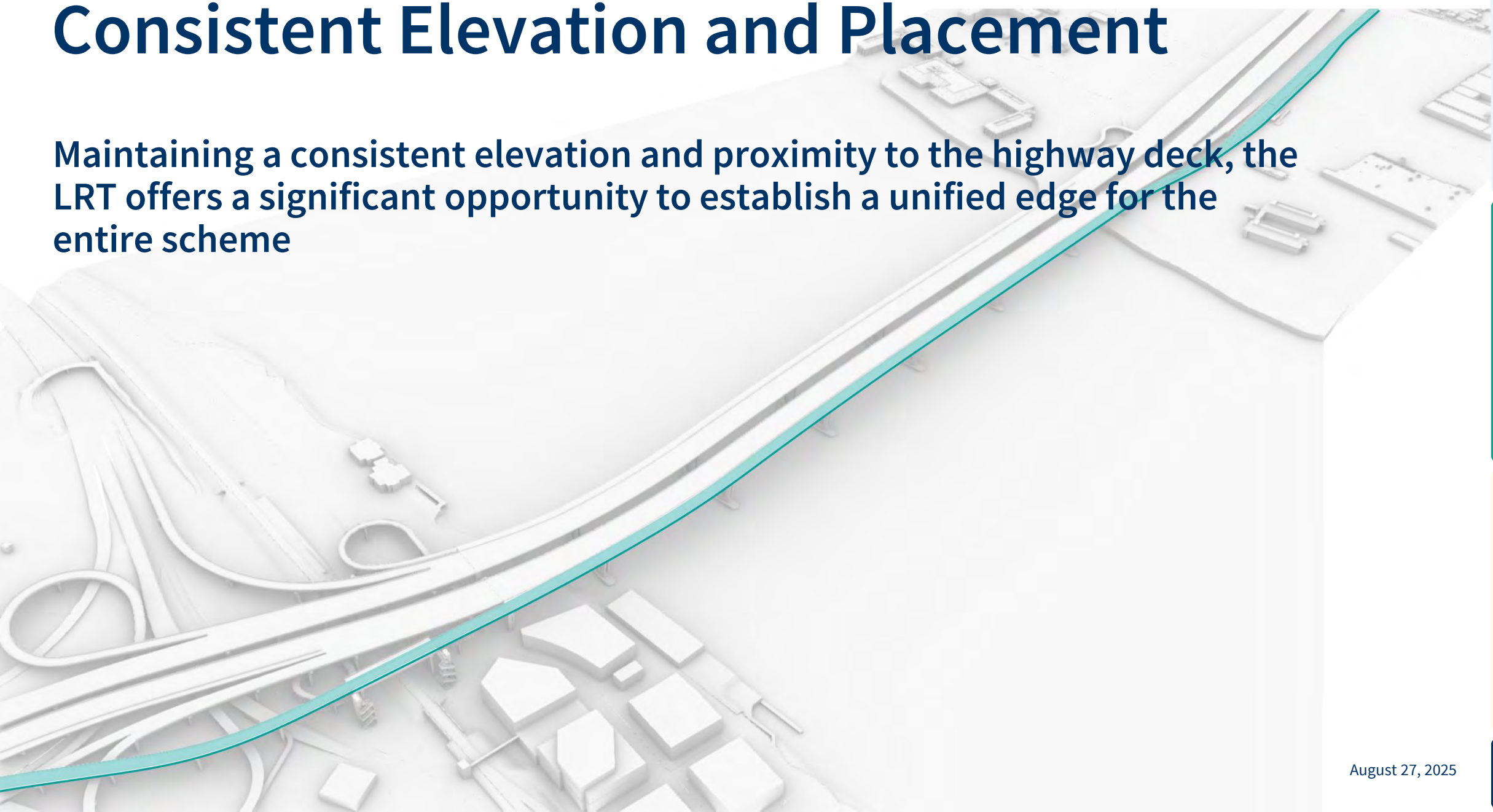
The LRT, as a prominent edge structure of the IBR family, acts as the defining face of the crossing. Its design will aim to create a welcoming gateway, significantly enhancing East-West connectivity.

Consistent Elevation and Placement

Consistent Elevation and Placement

Consistent Elevation and Placement

Maintaining a consistent elevation and proximity to the highway deck, the LRT offers a significant opportunity to establish a unified edge for the entire scheme

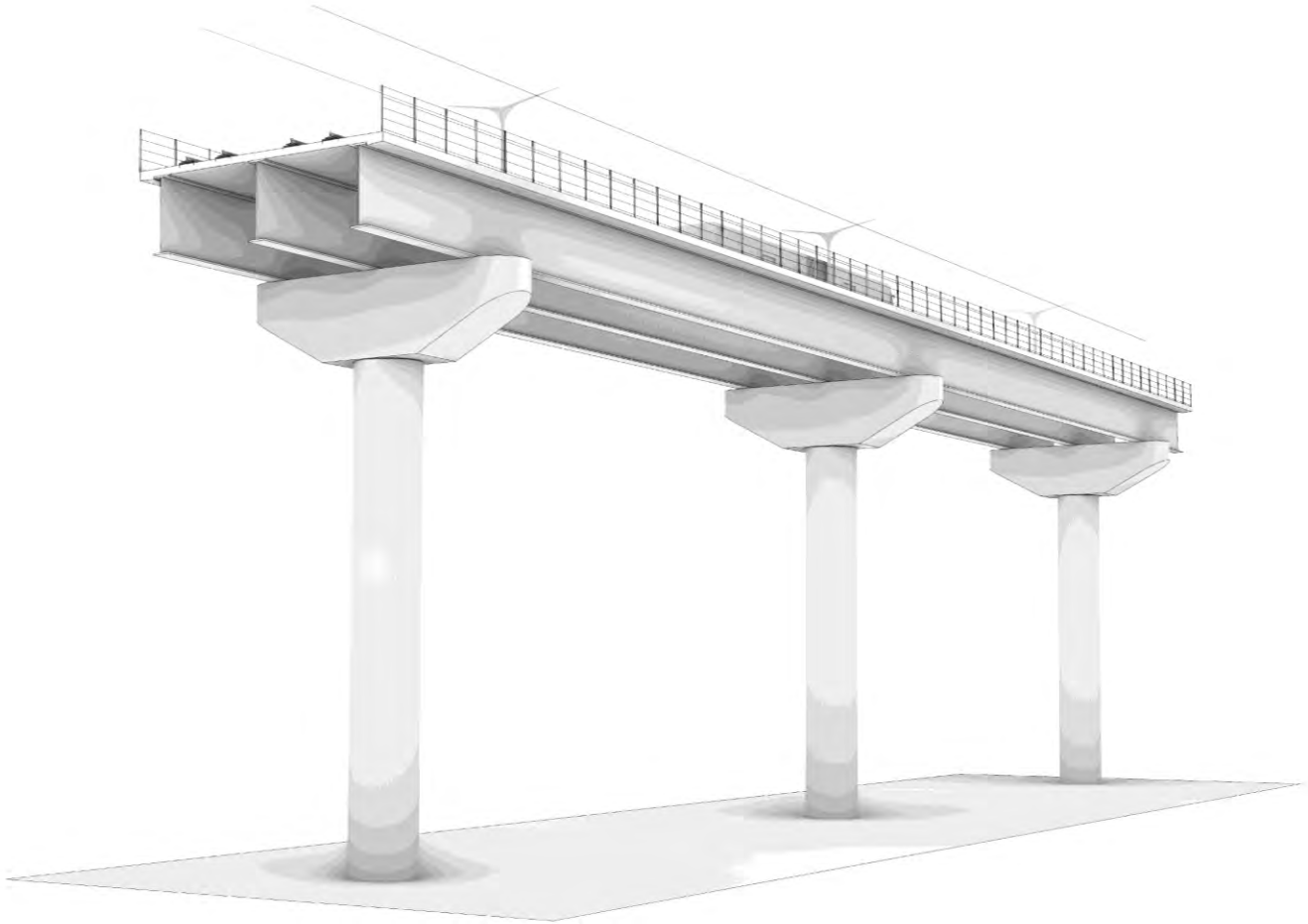


Clean Edge

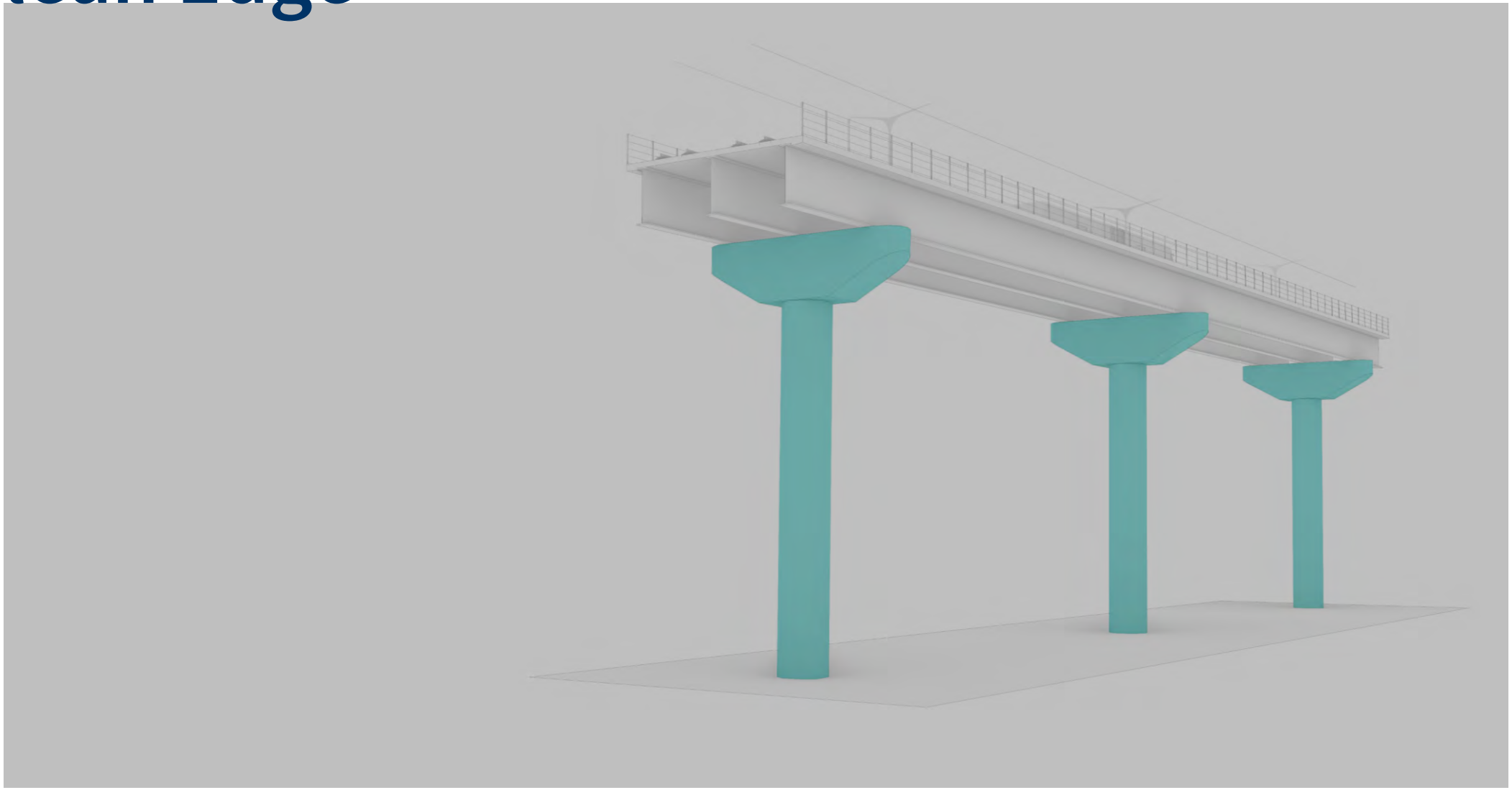
The LRT's continuous alignment will establish a dominant horizontal datum.

Its design will be characterised by visual clarity and simplicity, achieved through a minimal number of components.

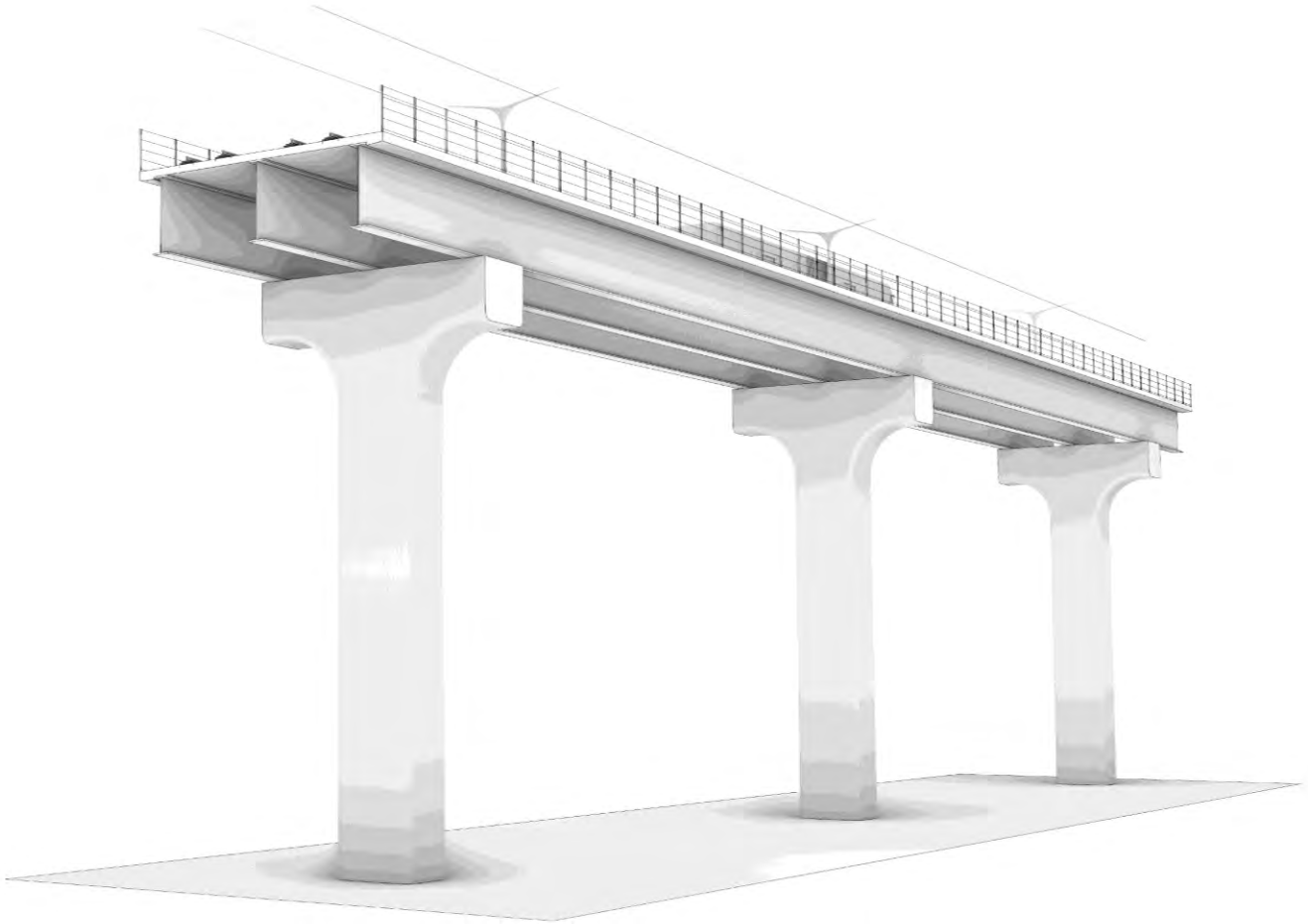
Clean Edge



Clean Edge



Clean Edge



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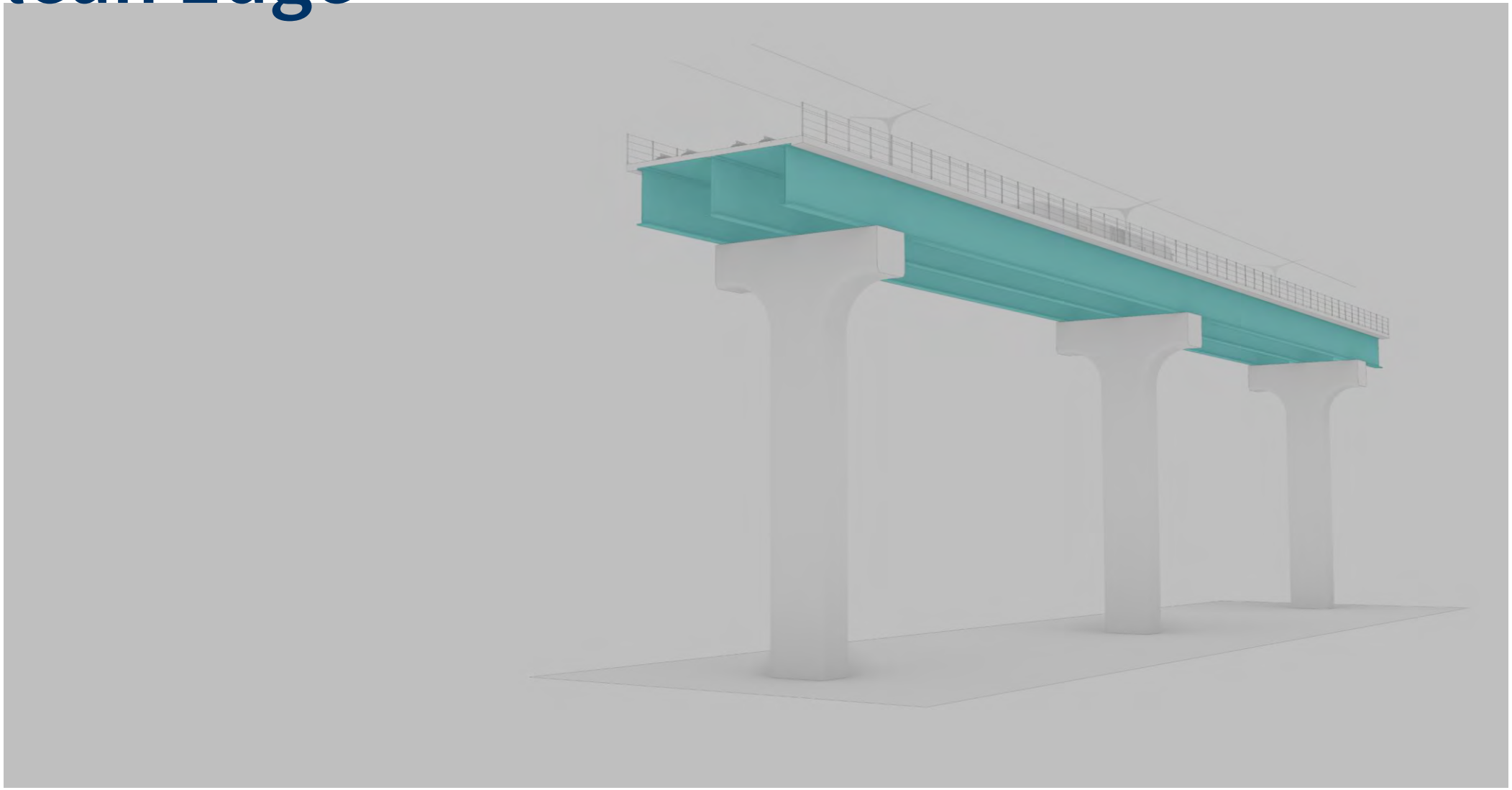

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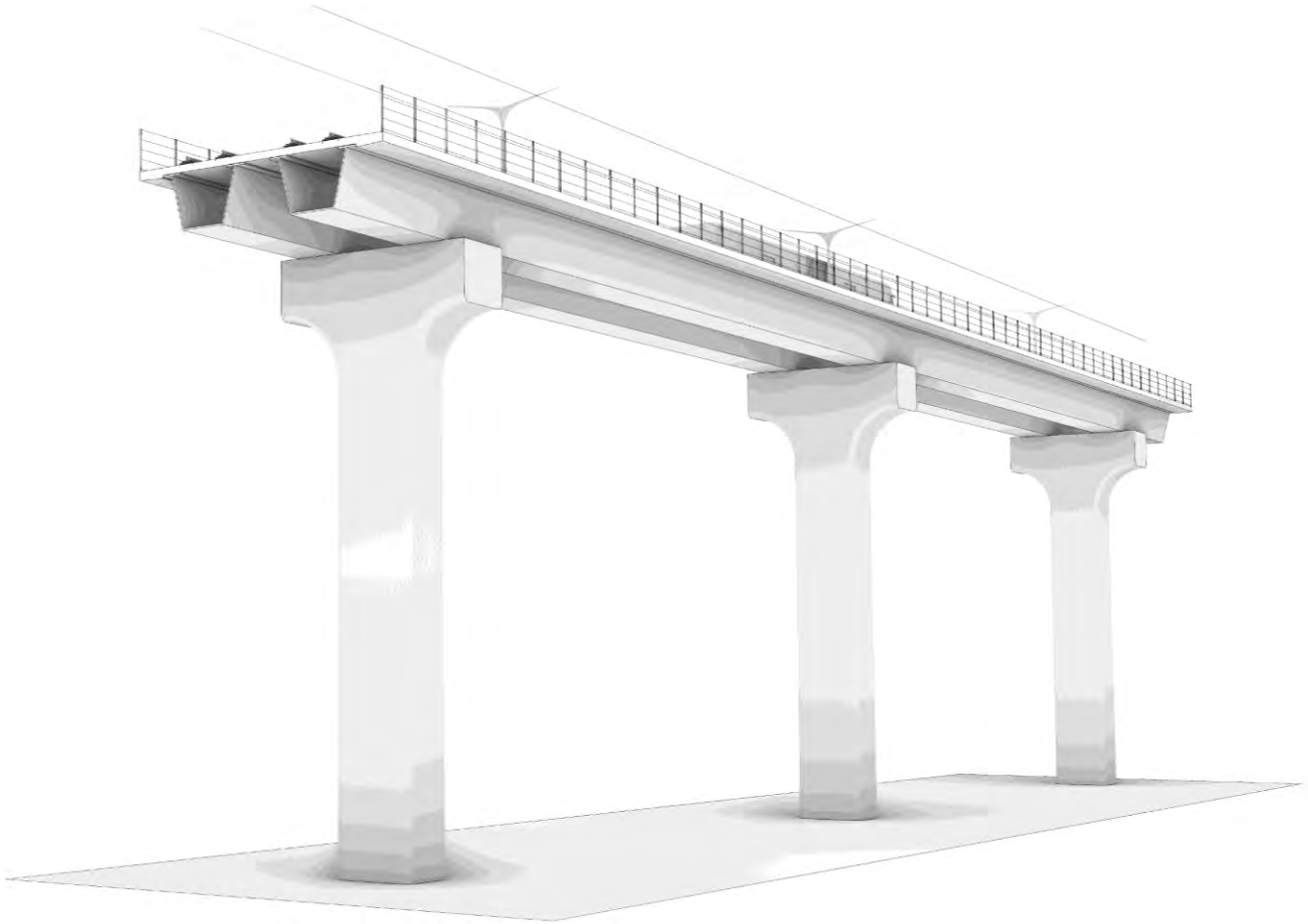

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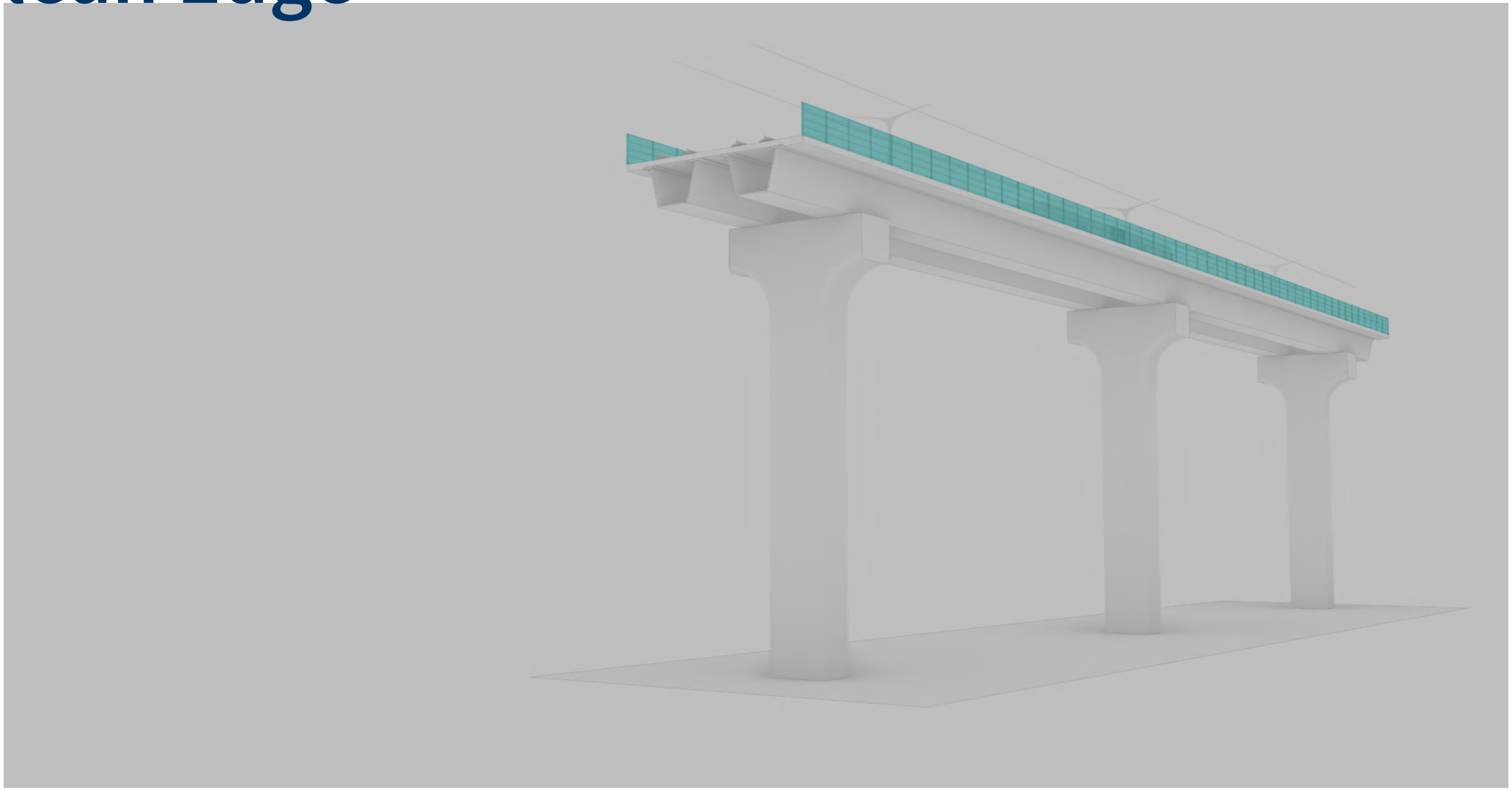

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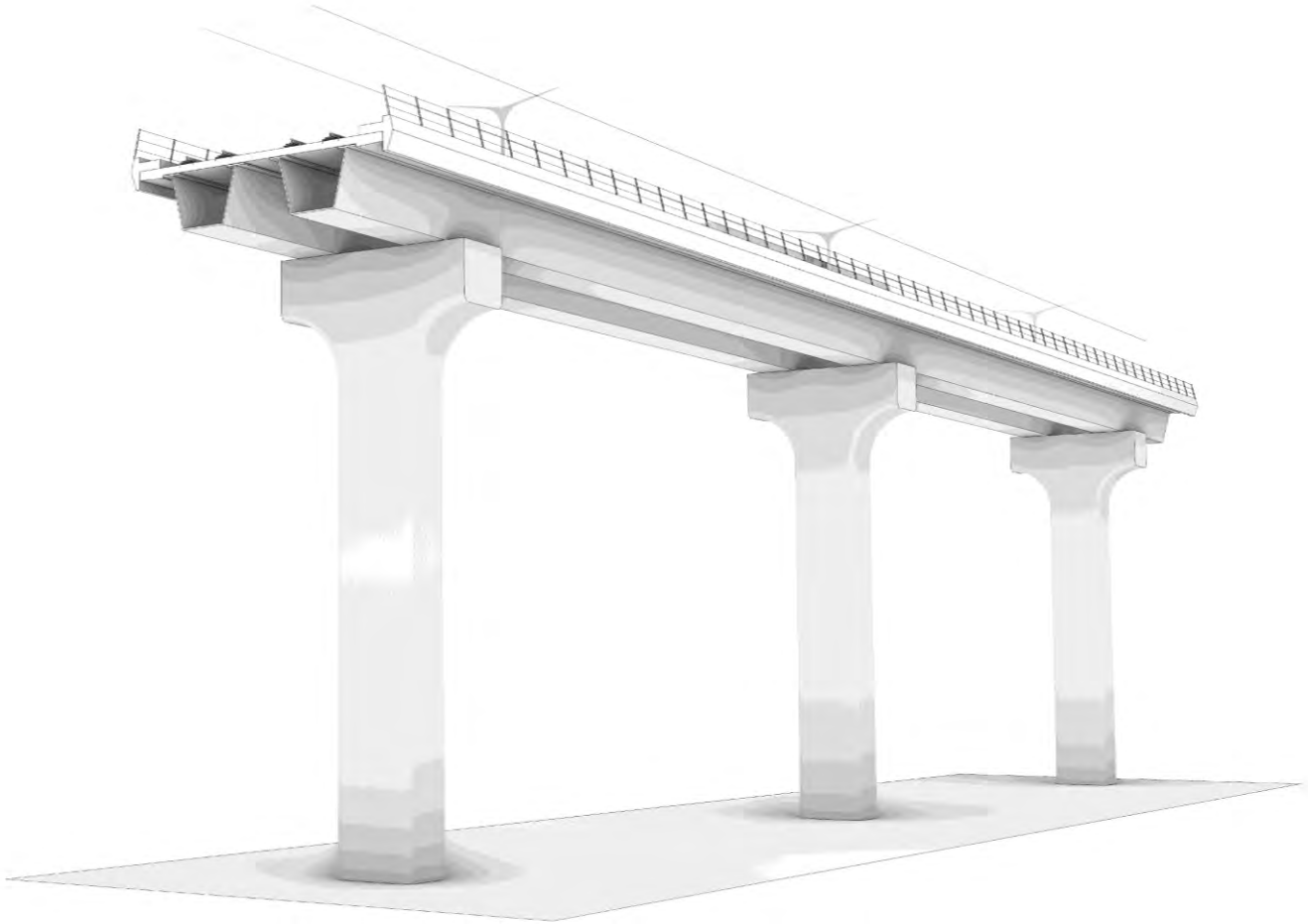

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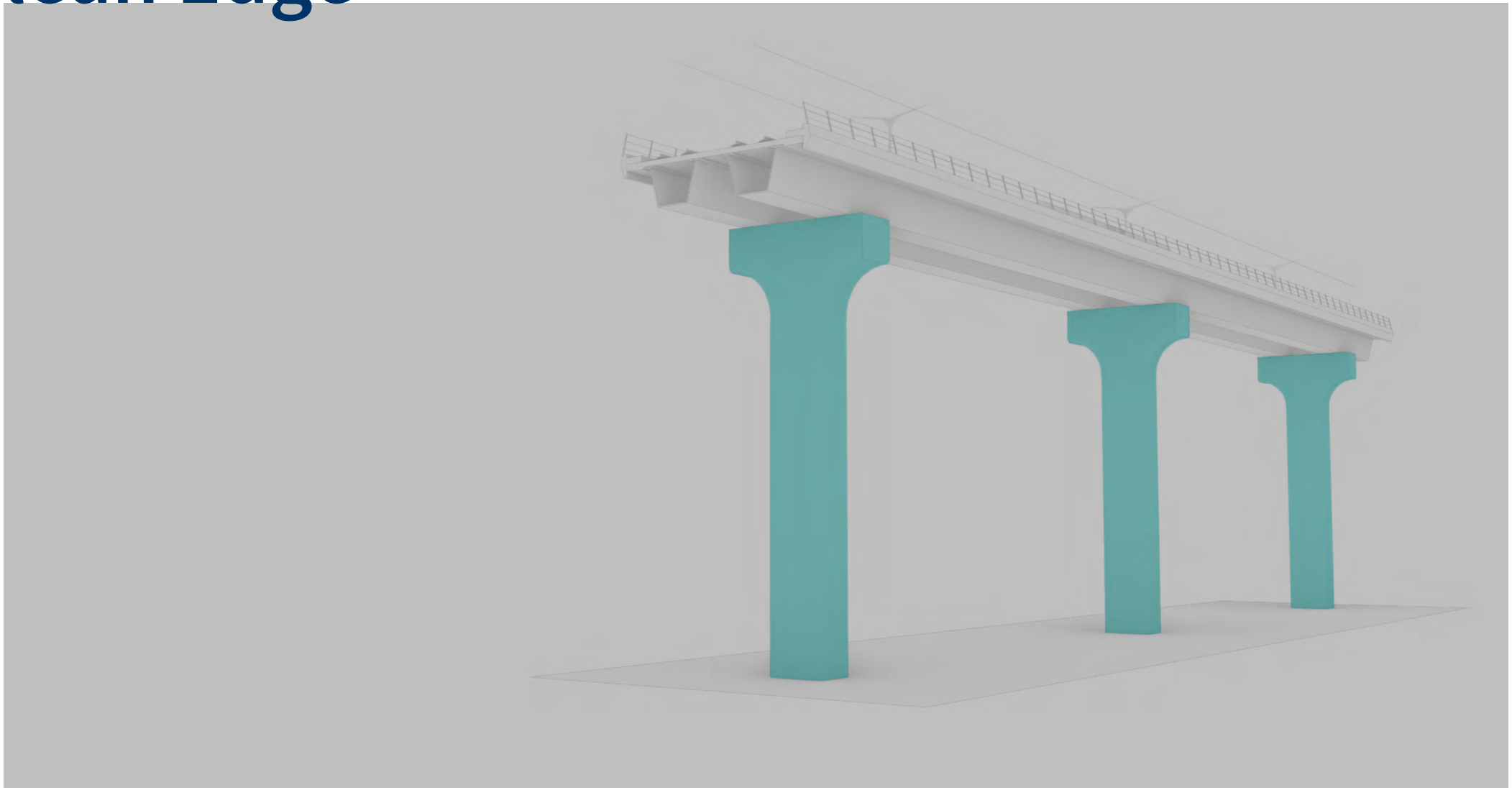

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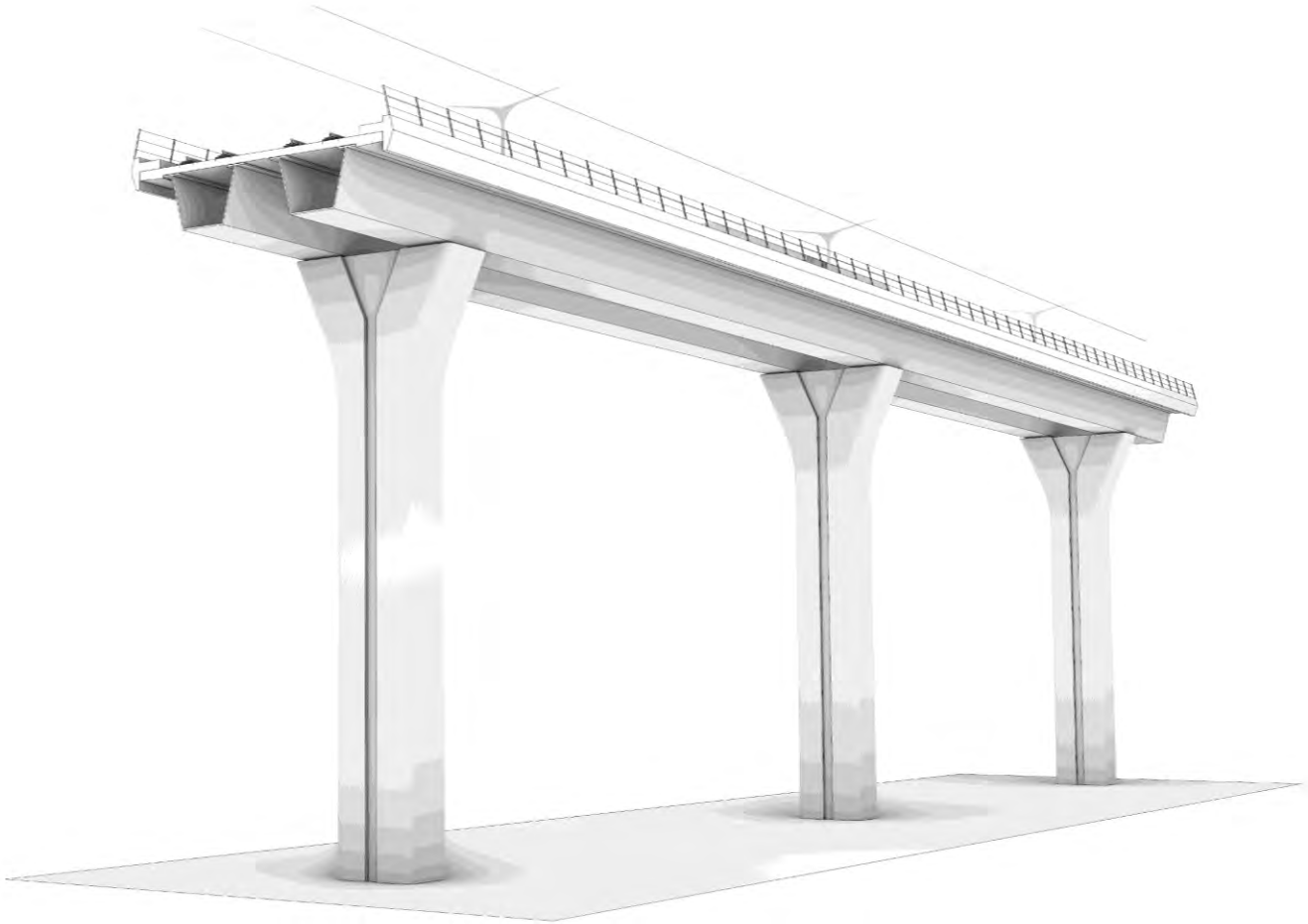

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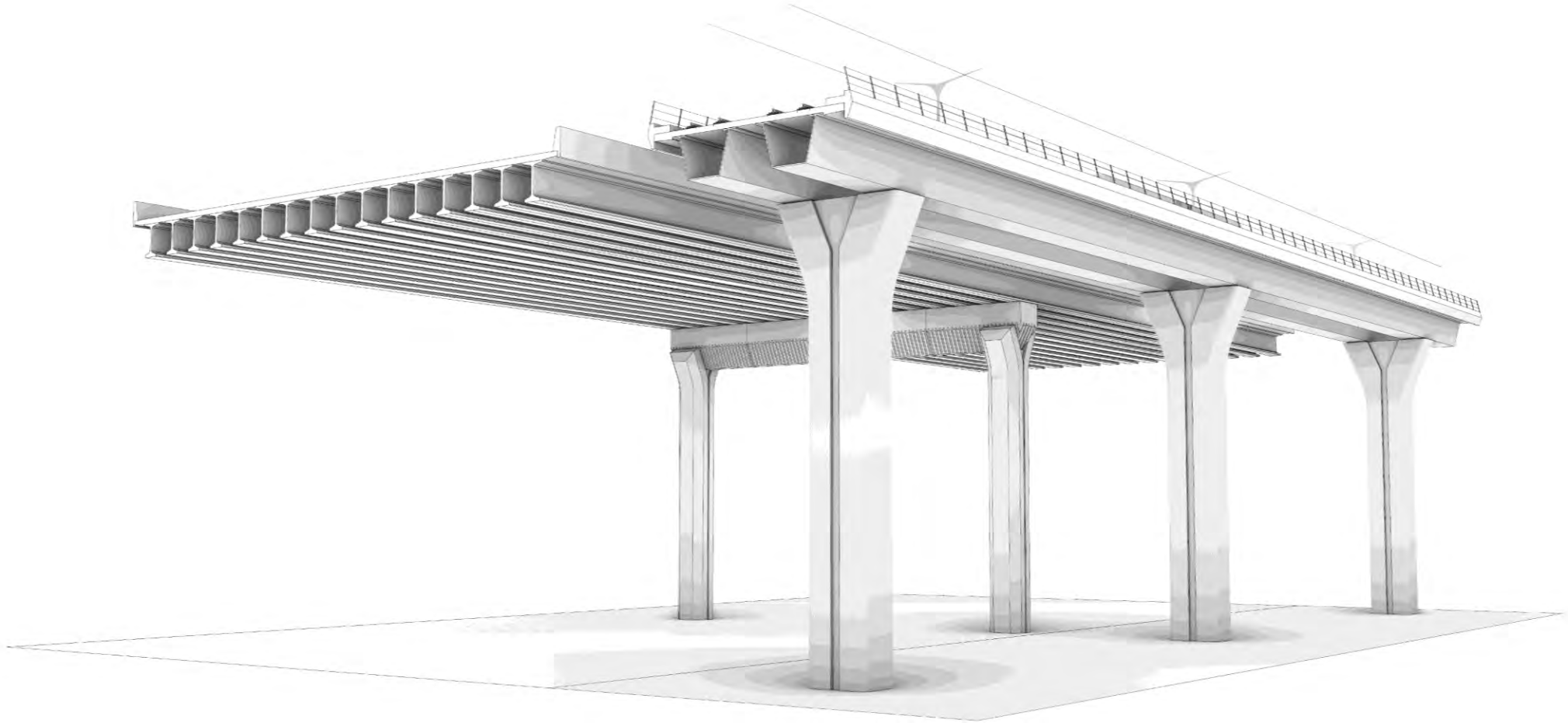

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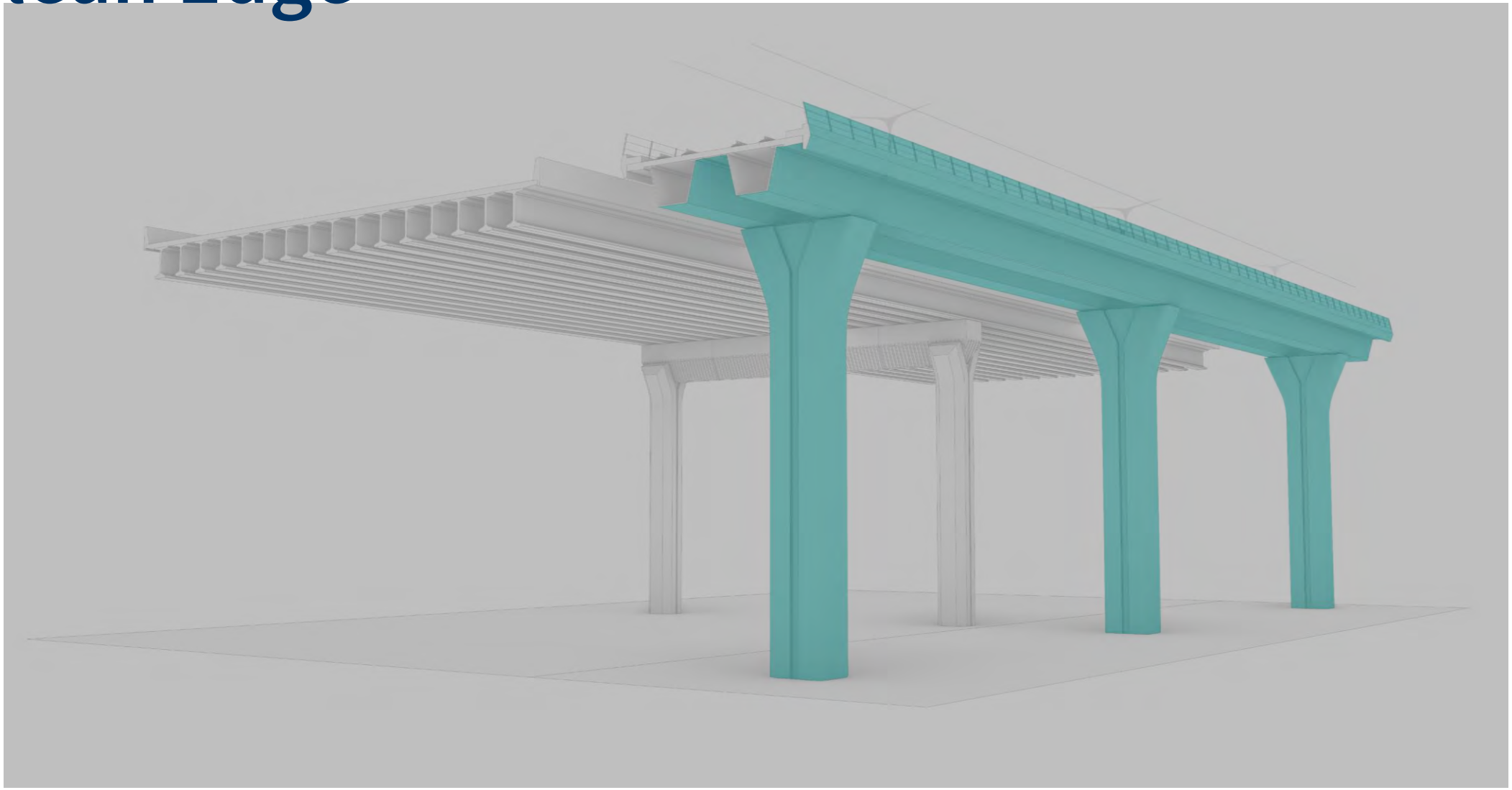

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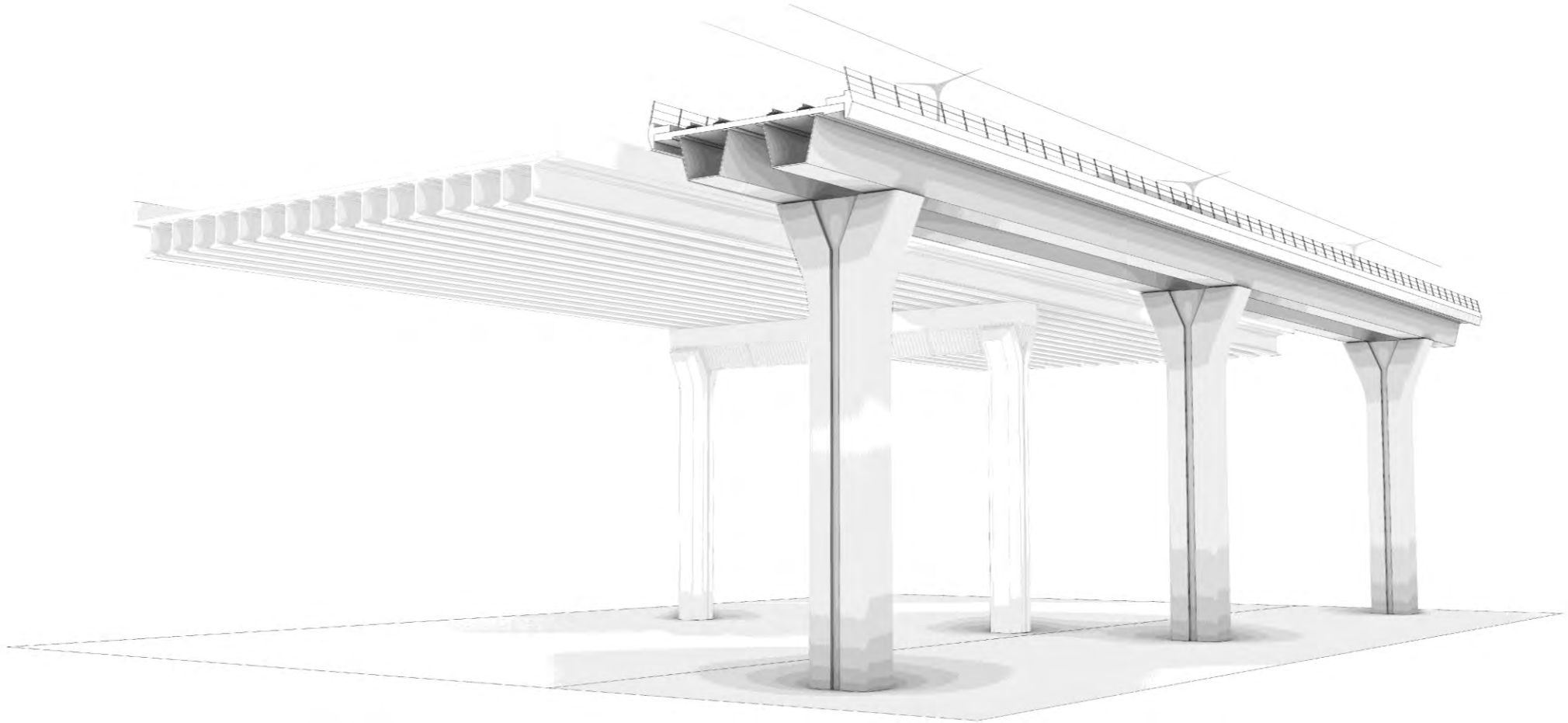


VIEWPOINT:
View from Hayden Island, standing west and looking east toward the bridge

Note: this graphic is intended to provide an example of possible architectural elements; it does not depict final design and is not intended for construction for the IBR Program.

Local Response:

LRT identity will extend beyond IBR Program boundaries.

It will represent a legible, accessible and well-used civic connection between urban centers.

Modes’ Interaction With People and Place

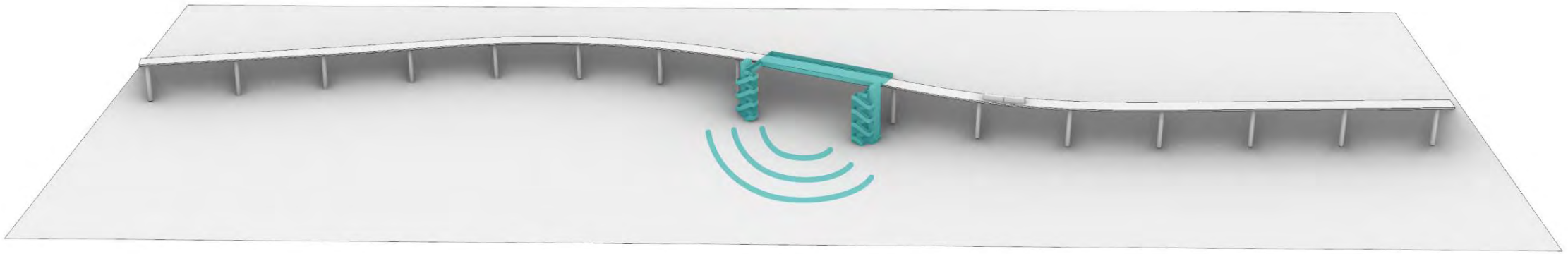
Modes' Interaction With People and Place

Note: the vertical mode arrangement in the diagram is for visual representation only and does not imply bridge type or configuration.

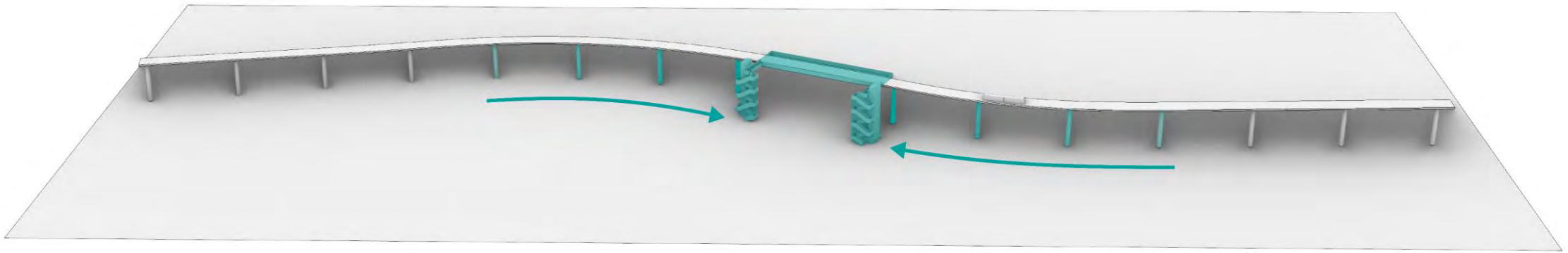
Modes' Interaction With People and Place

Note: the vertical mode arrangement in the diagram is for visual representation only and does not imply bridge type or configuration.

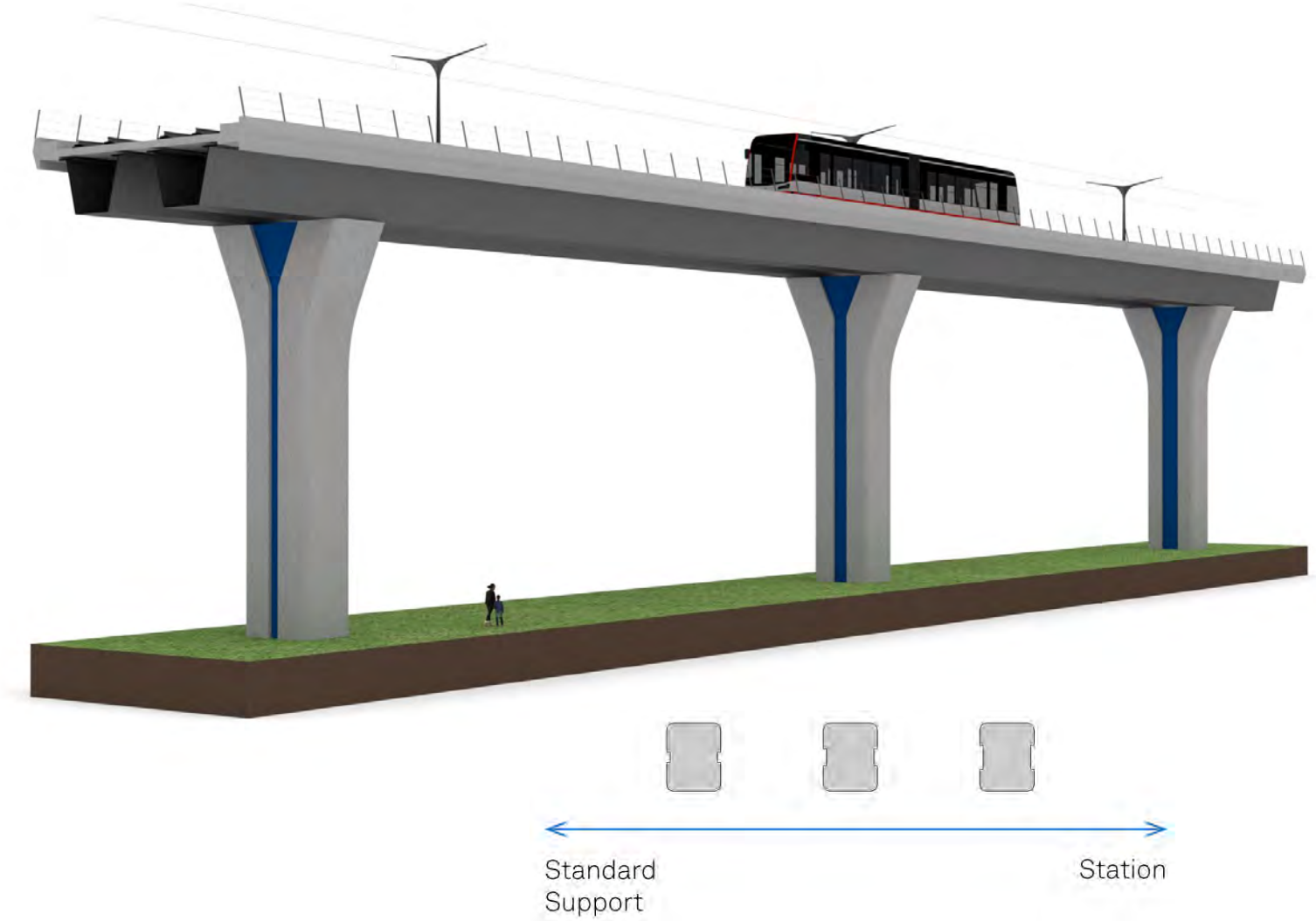
Piers as Wayfinding Tool



Piers as Wayfinding Tool



Piers as Wayfinding Tool



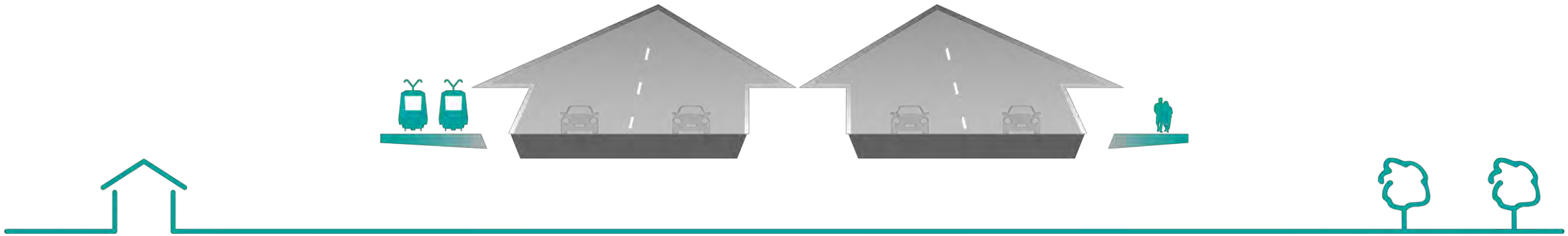
Note: this graphic is intended to provide an example of possible architectural elements; it does not depict final design and is not intended for construction for the IBR Program.

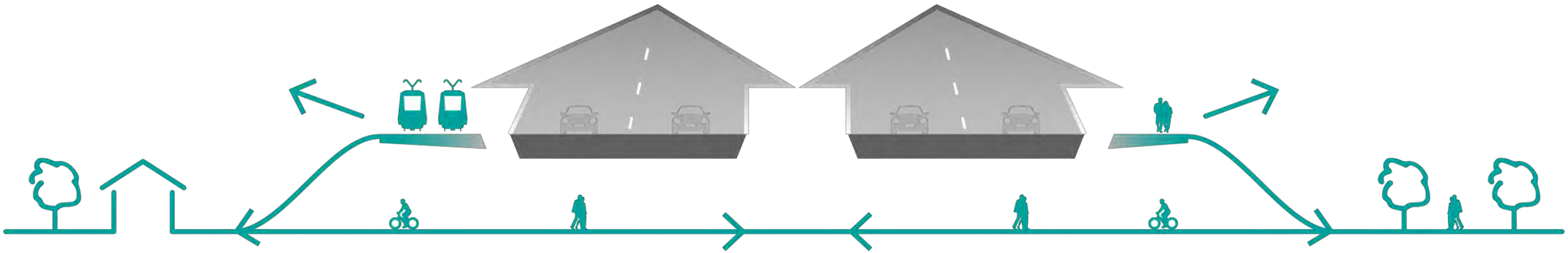
VIEWPOINT:
View from the SUP deck on Vancouver waterfront, looking north at the LRT structure

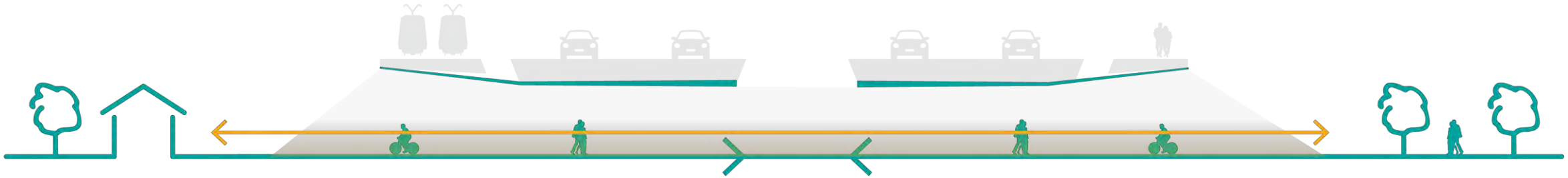
Note: this graphic is intended to provide an example of possible architectural elements; it does not depict final design and is not intended for construction for the IBR Program.

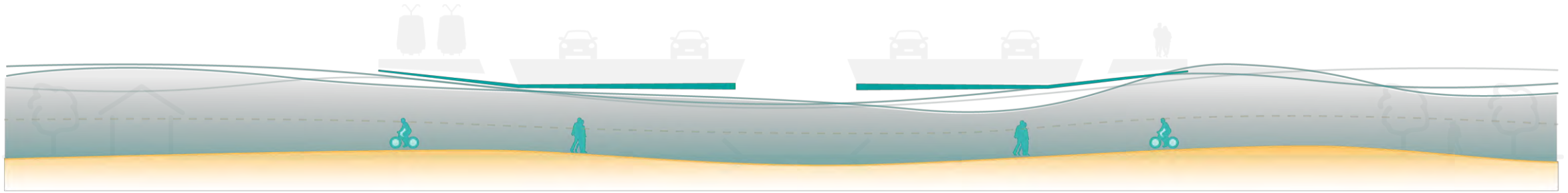
Edge Structures as Connectors:

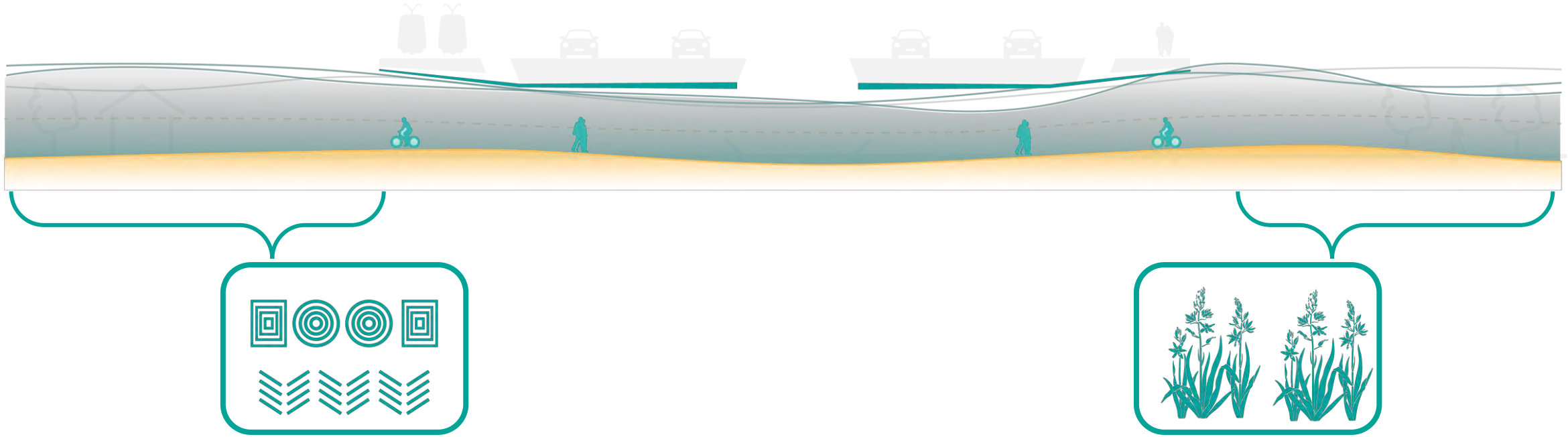
LRT and SUP will be used to connect the scheme to its surroundings, cultivating the space below into a high-quality, well-used, and unique urban realm.

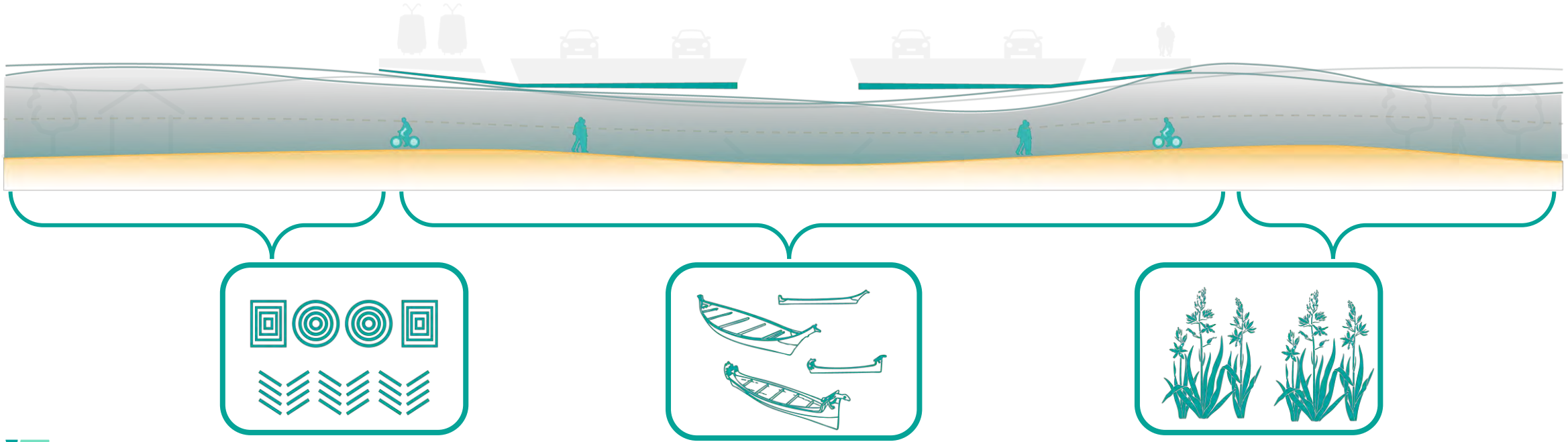










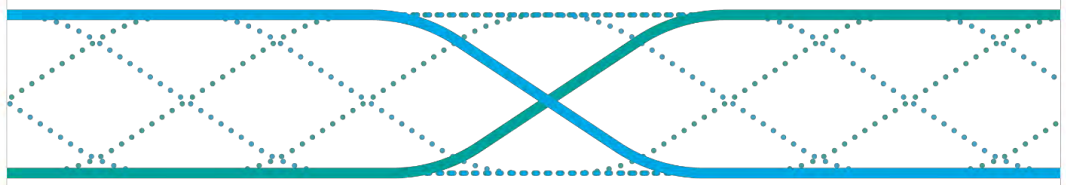


Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

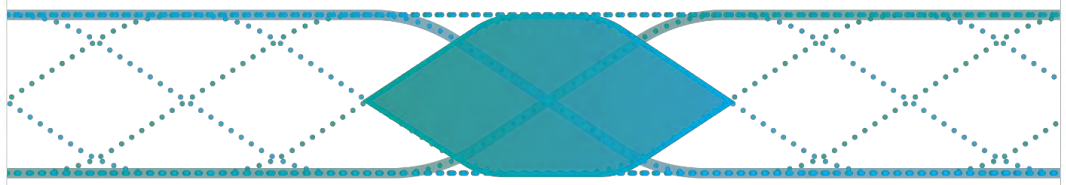
Roadway or Corridor Wide Structures

Sandwich Concept

Sandwich Concept



Sandwich Concept



Sandwich Concept

Modes' Interaction With People and Place

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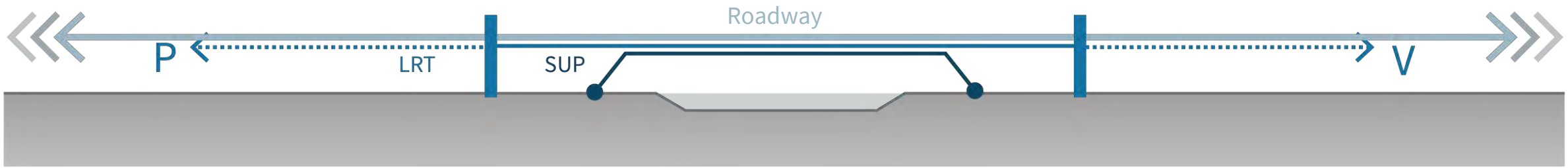
Modes' Interaction With People and Place



Note: the vertical mode arrangement in the diagram is for visual representation only and does not imply bridge type or configuration.

Responsiveness to Place

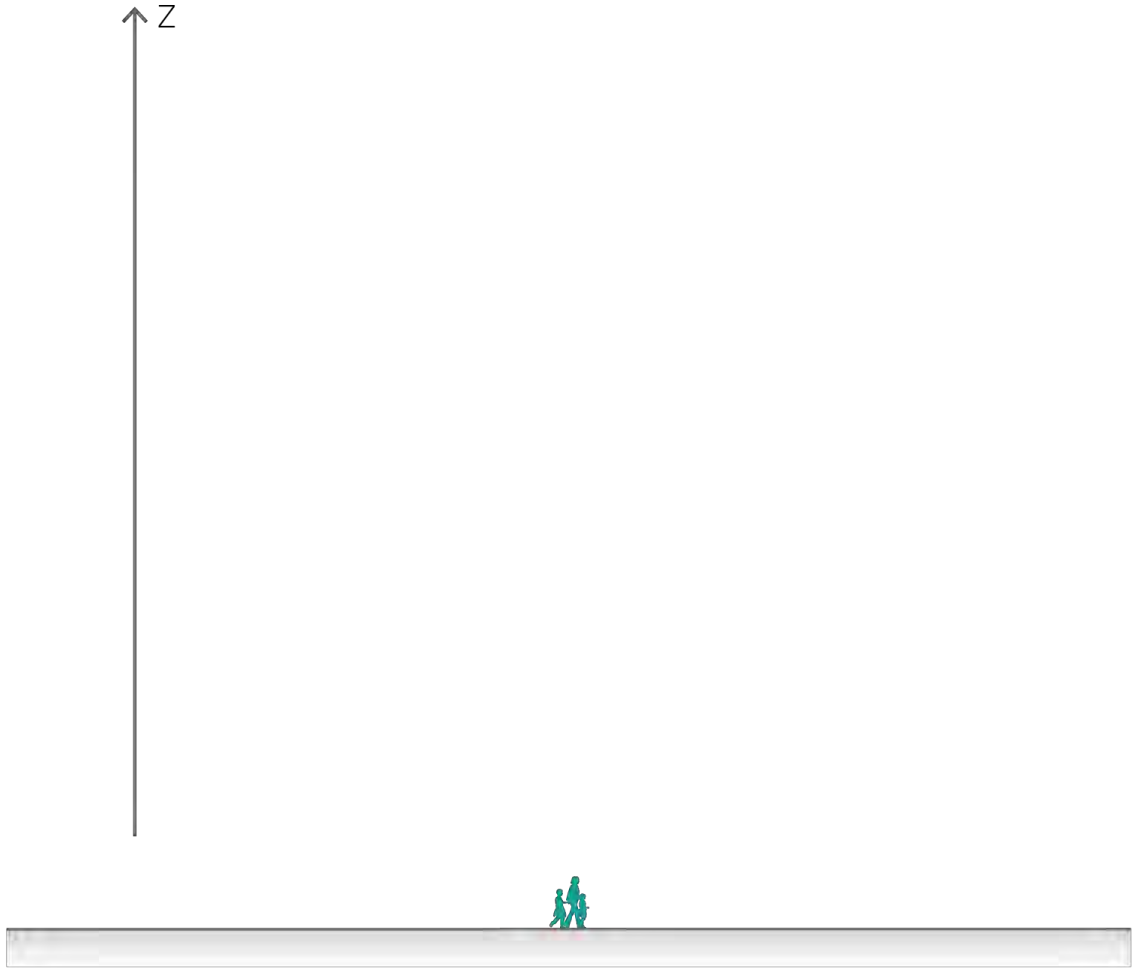
Because of their scale, the roadway structures will inevitably influence the urban environment. The scheme must, therefore, look down and be responsive to the urban realm, as its success hinges on integrating rather than imposing.

Two Primary Axis

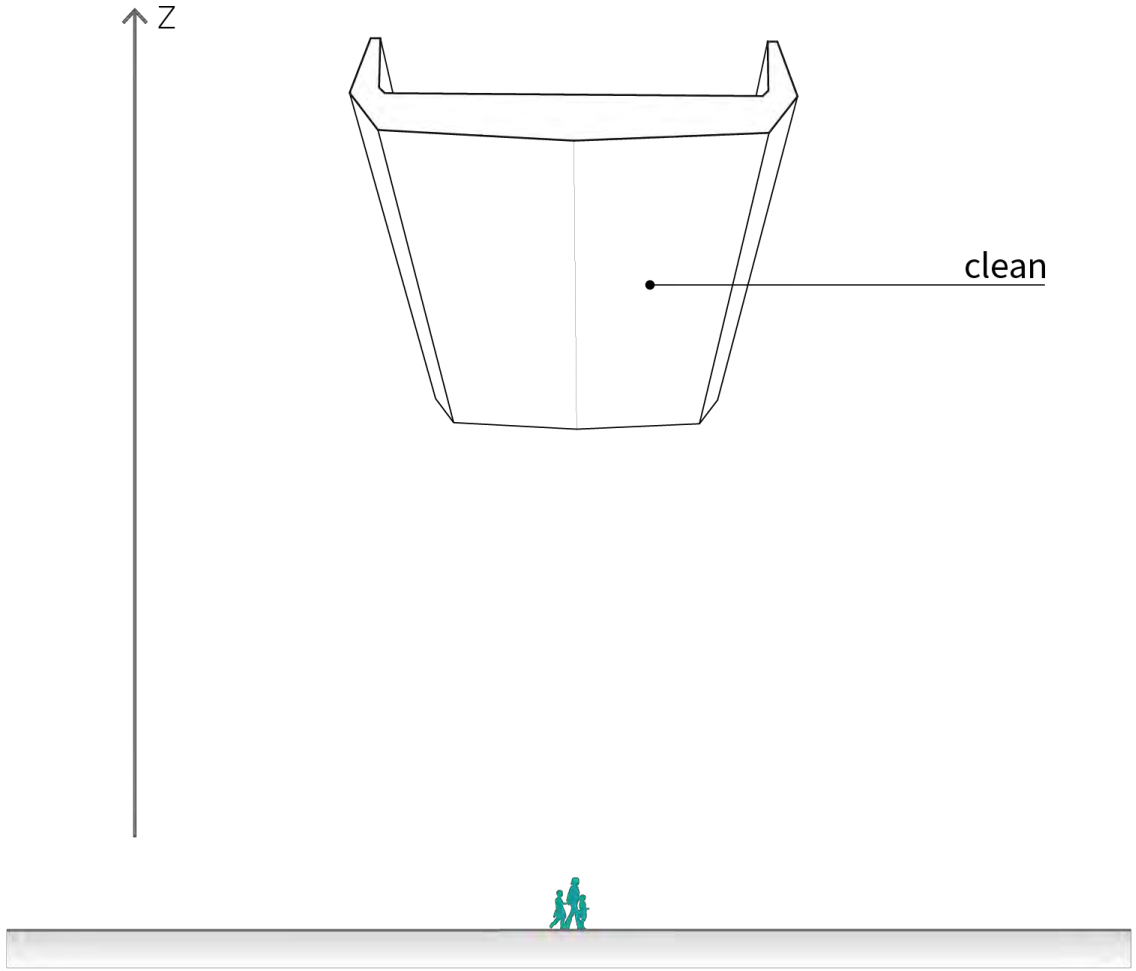
The level of design effort applied to structural components should increase with proximity to users.

This applies both vertically (requiring more refined details at lower heights) and horizontally (requiring more refined details closer to pedestrian and cycle paths).

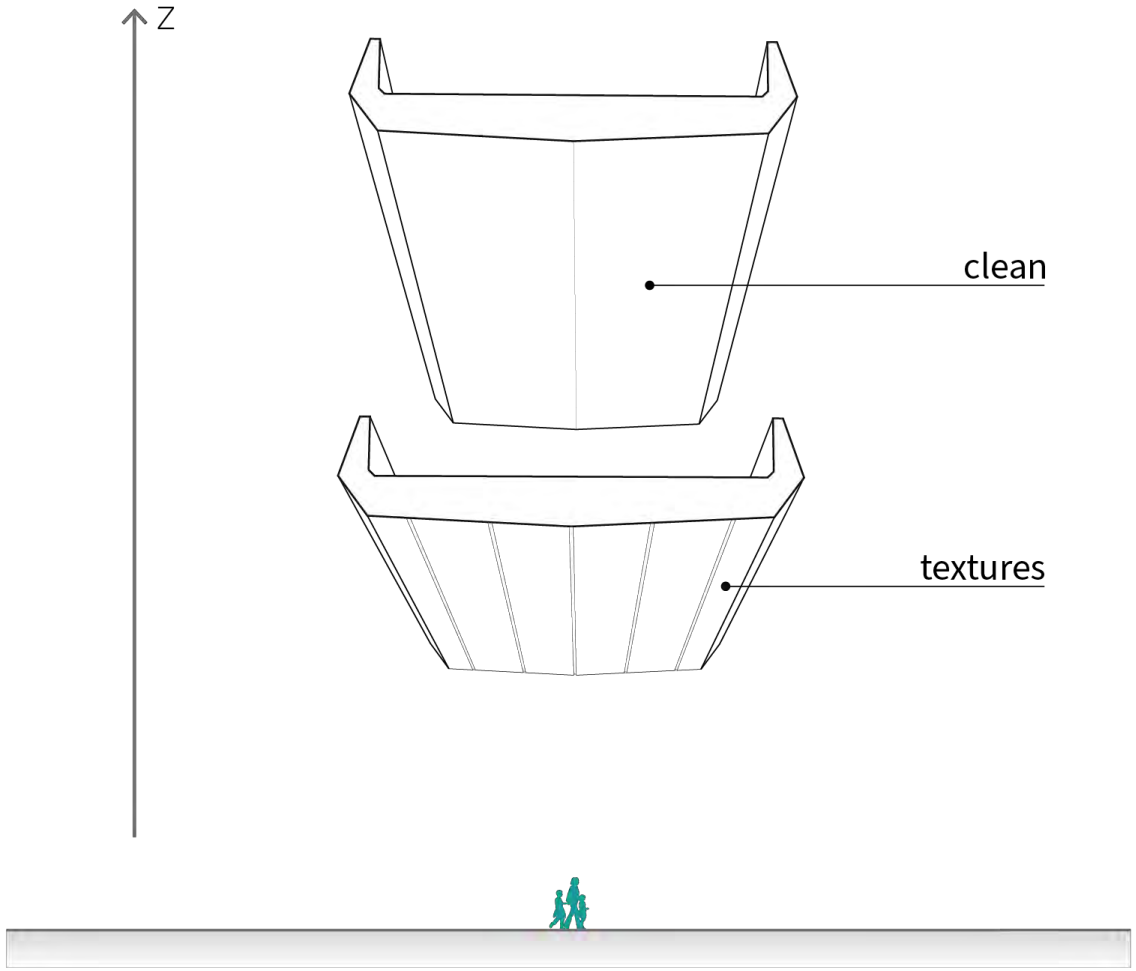
Vertical Axis



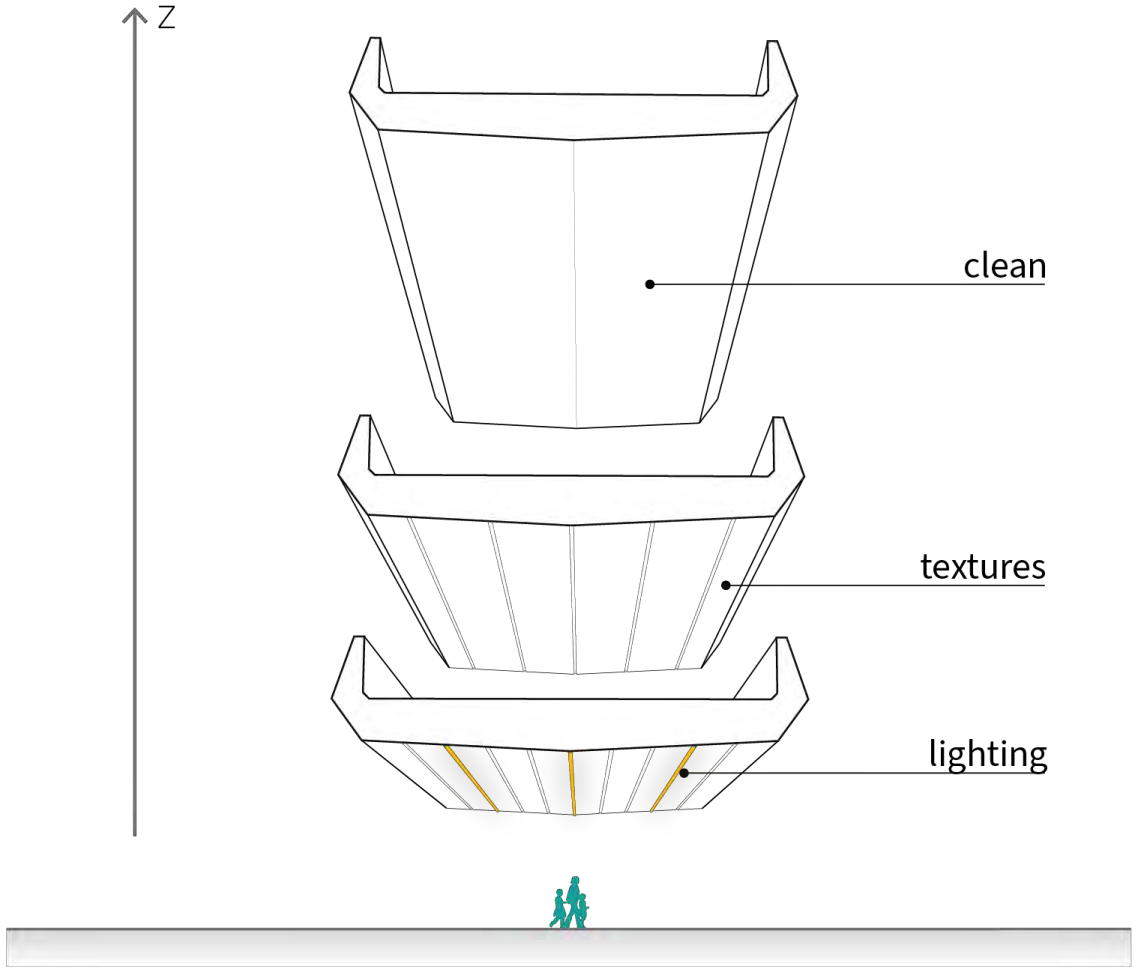
Vertical Axis



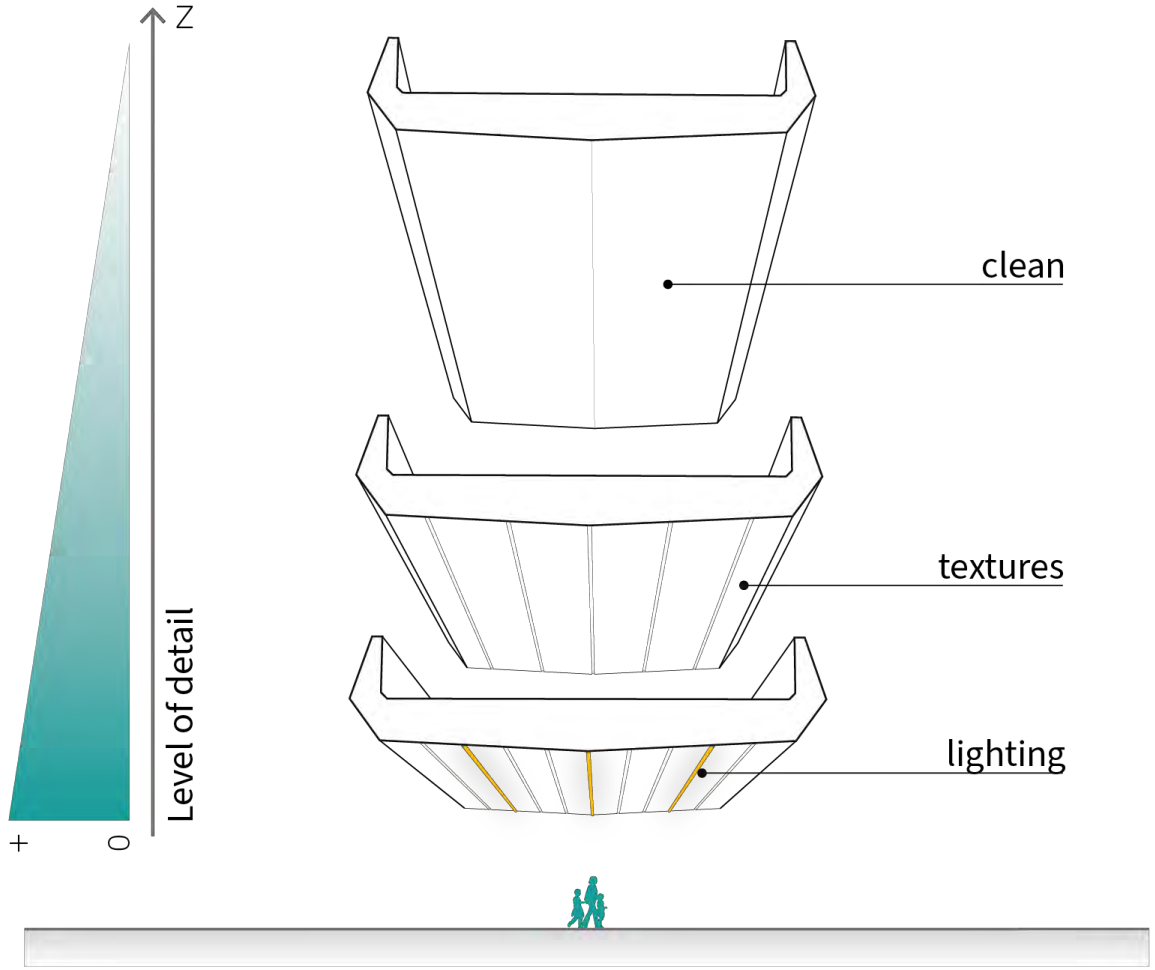
Vertical Axis



Vertical Axis

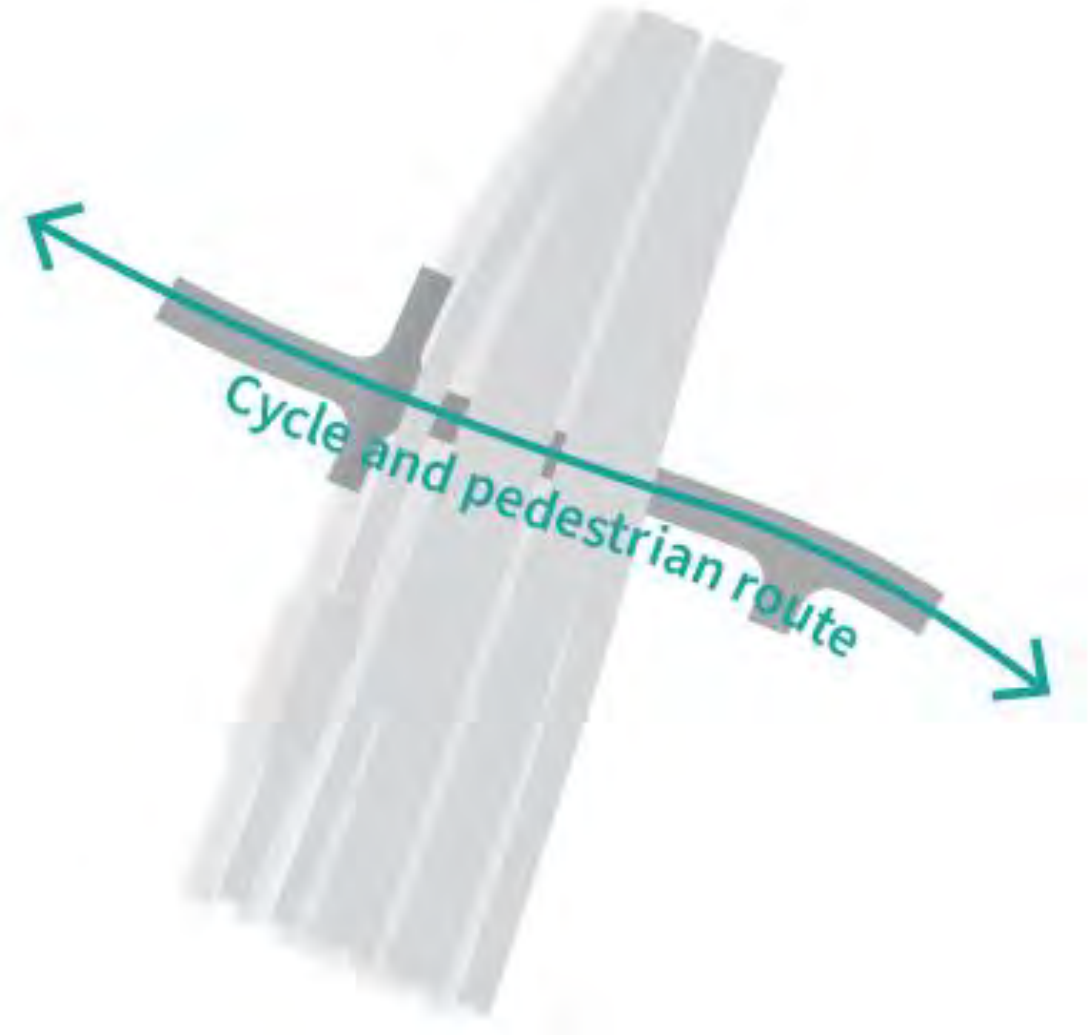


Vertical Axis

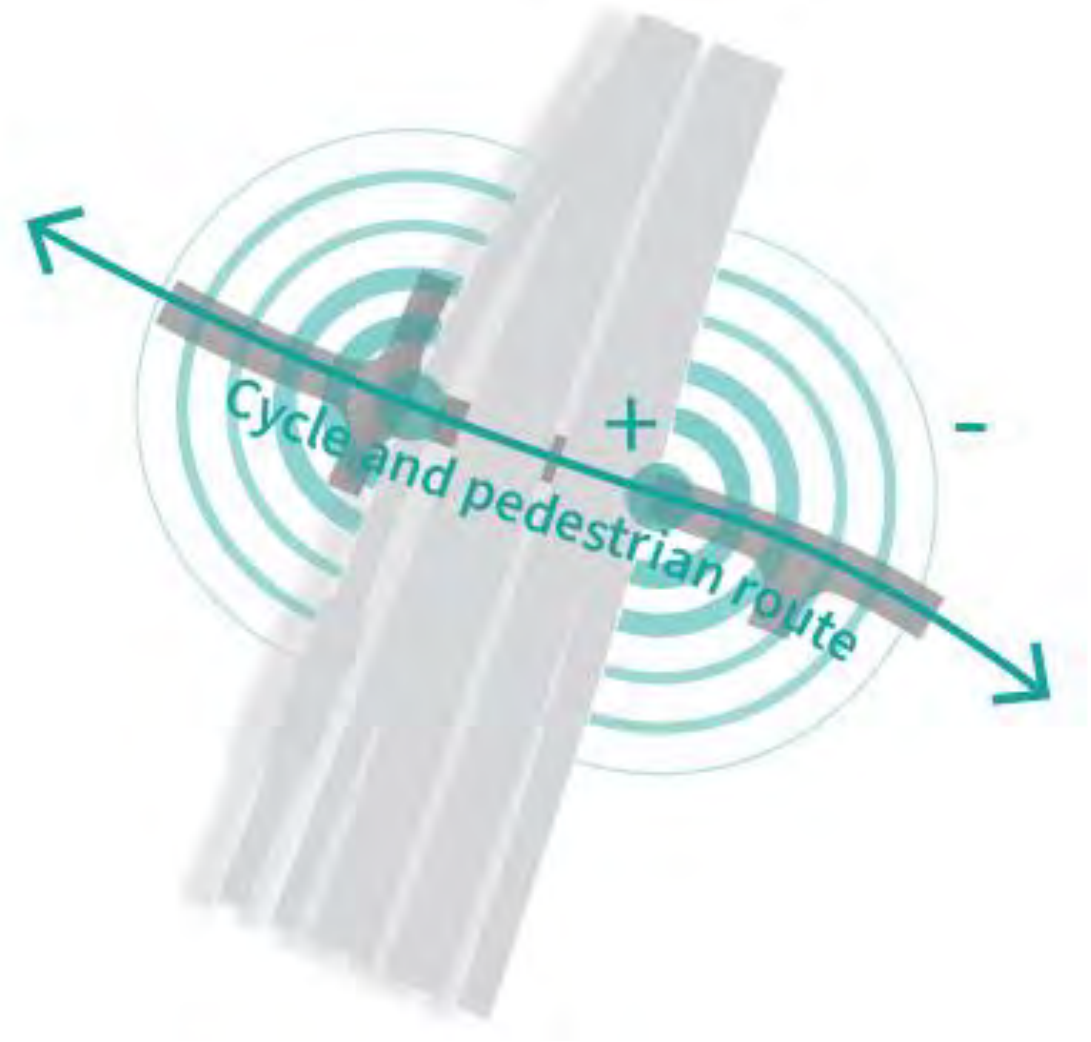


Horizonal axis

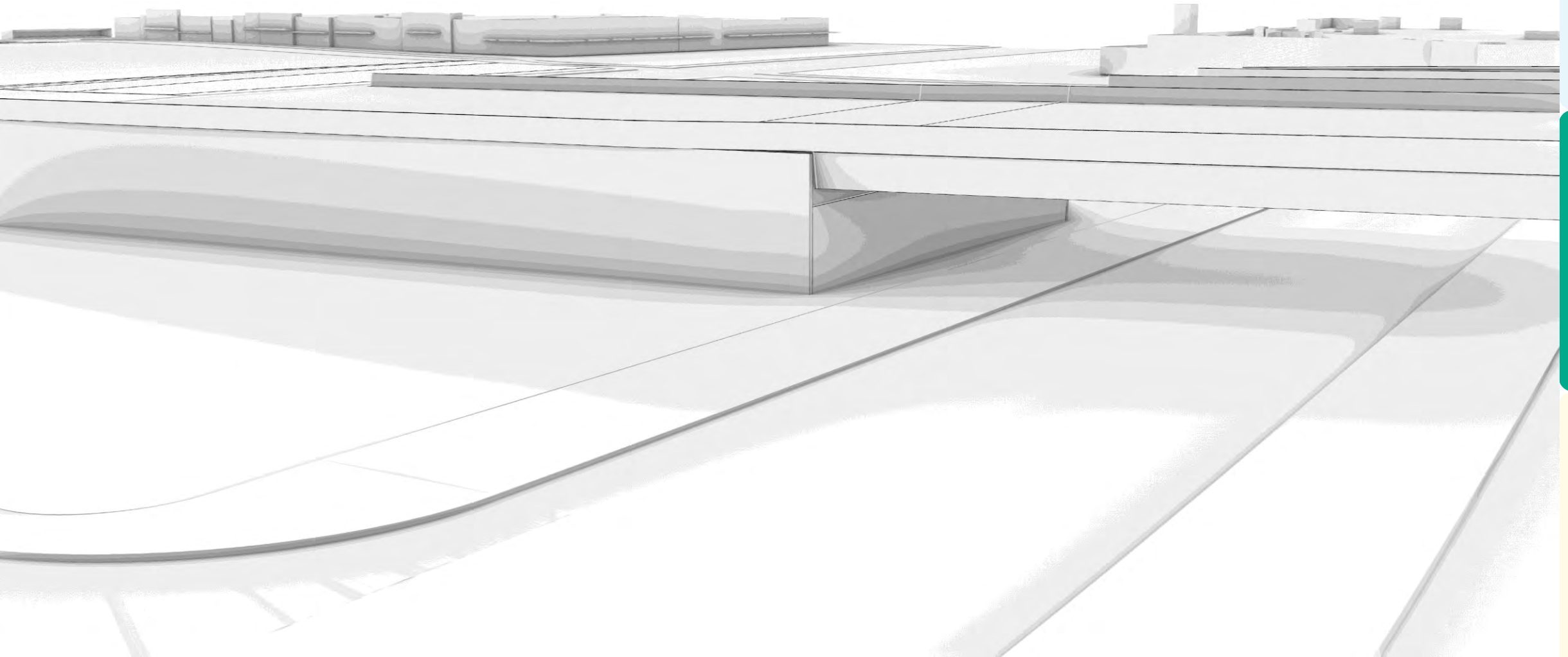
Horizonal axis



Horizonal axis



Key Transversal Connection



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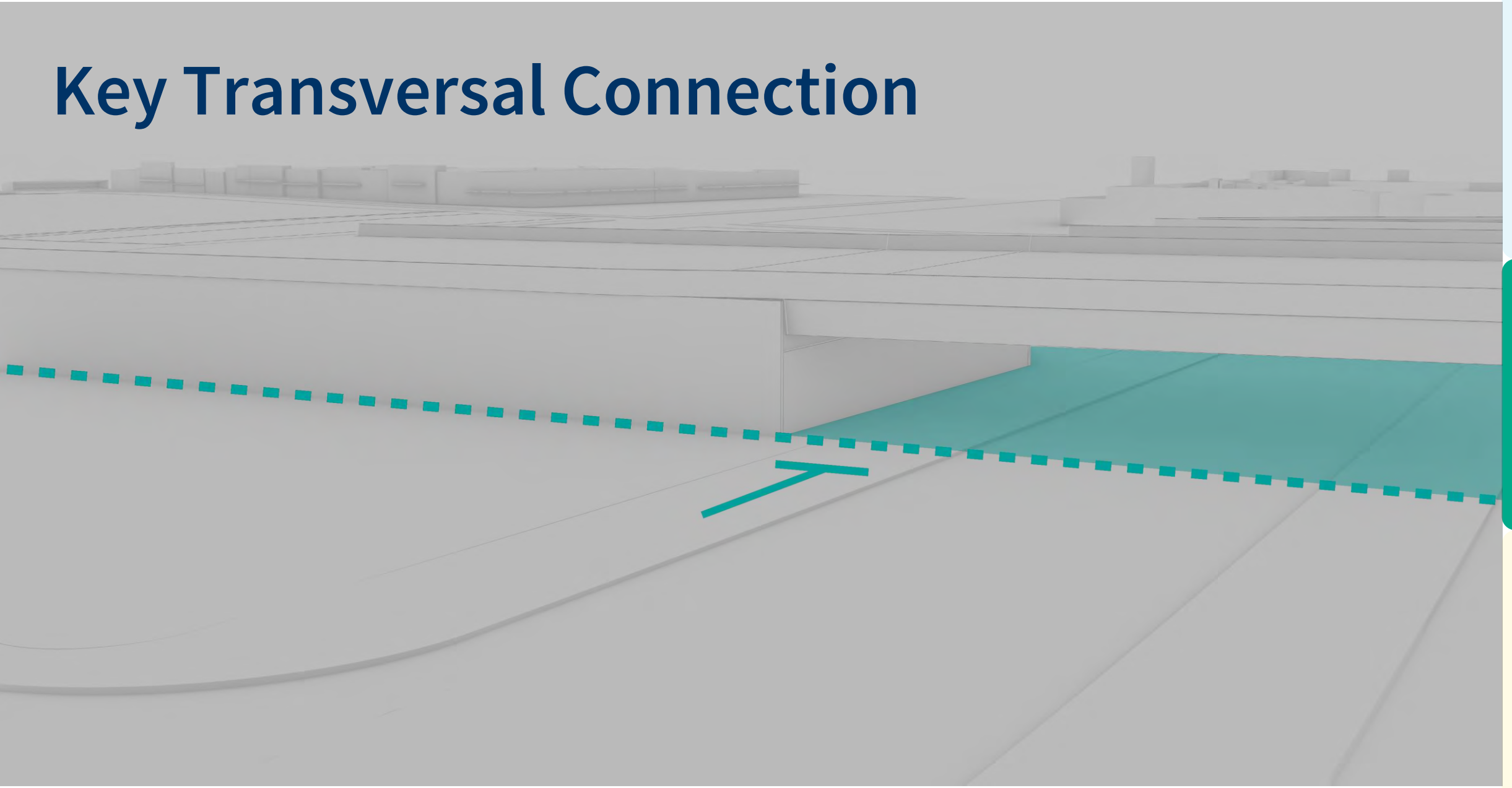

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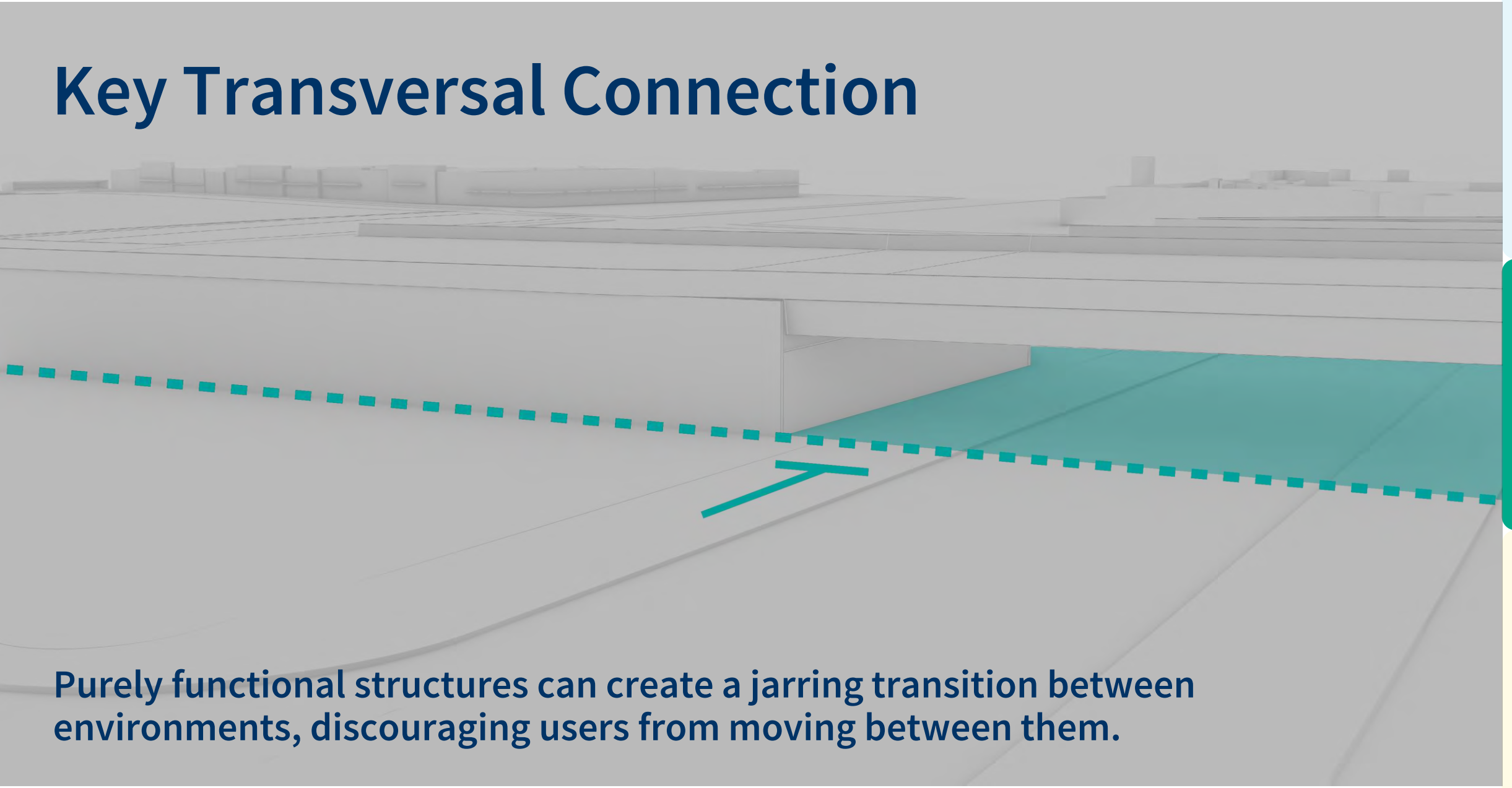
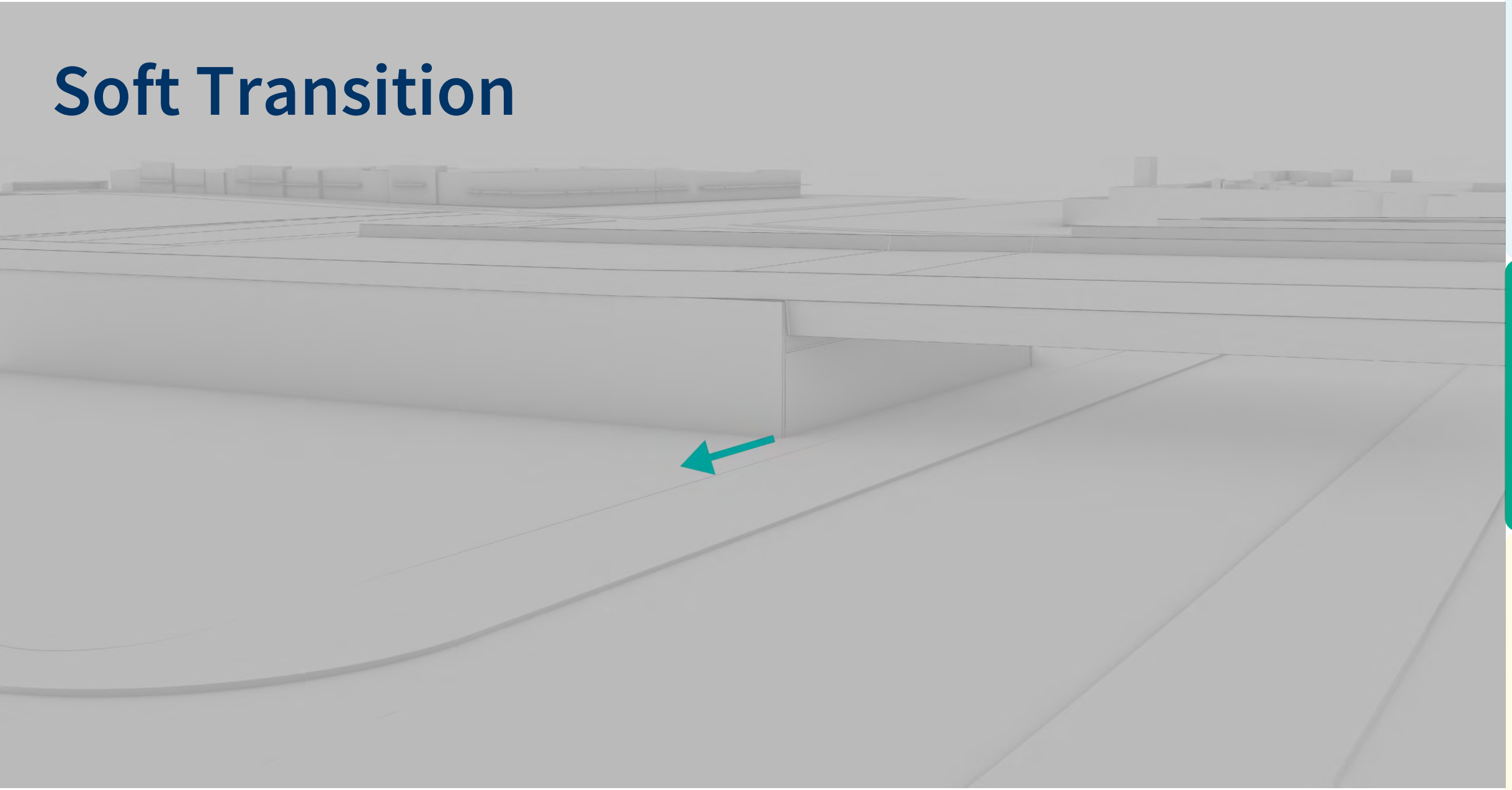


Purely functional structures can create a jarring transition between environments, discouraging users from moving between them.

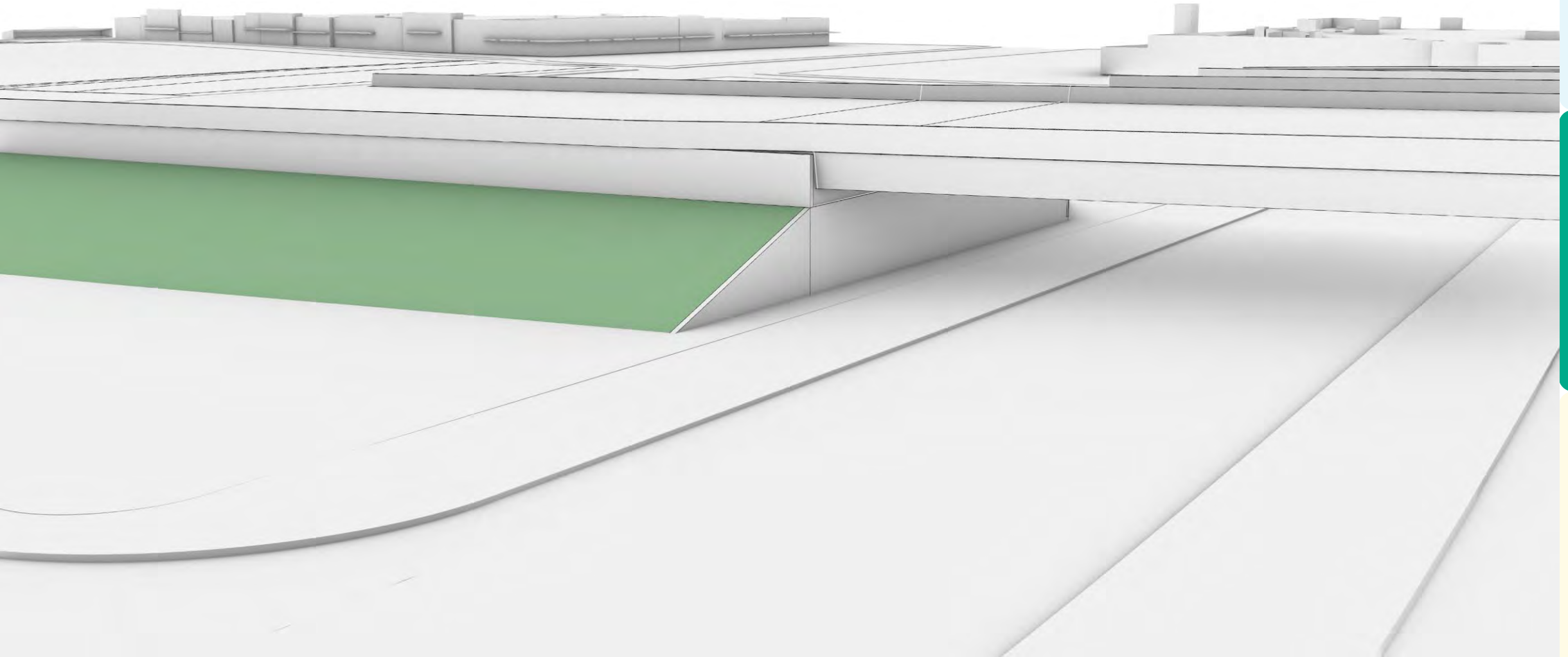
Soft Transition

The abutment's design must reduce its visual impact and improve views below, creating a smoother transition between environments to better promote east-west connectivity.

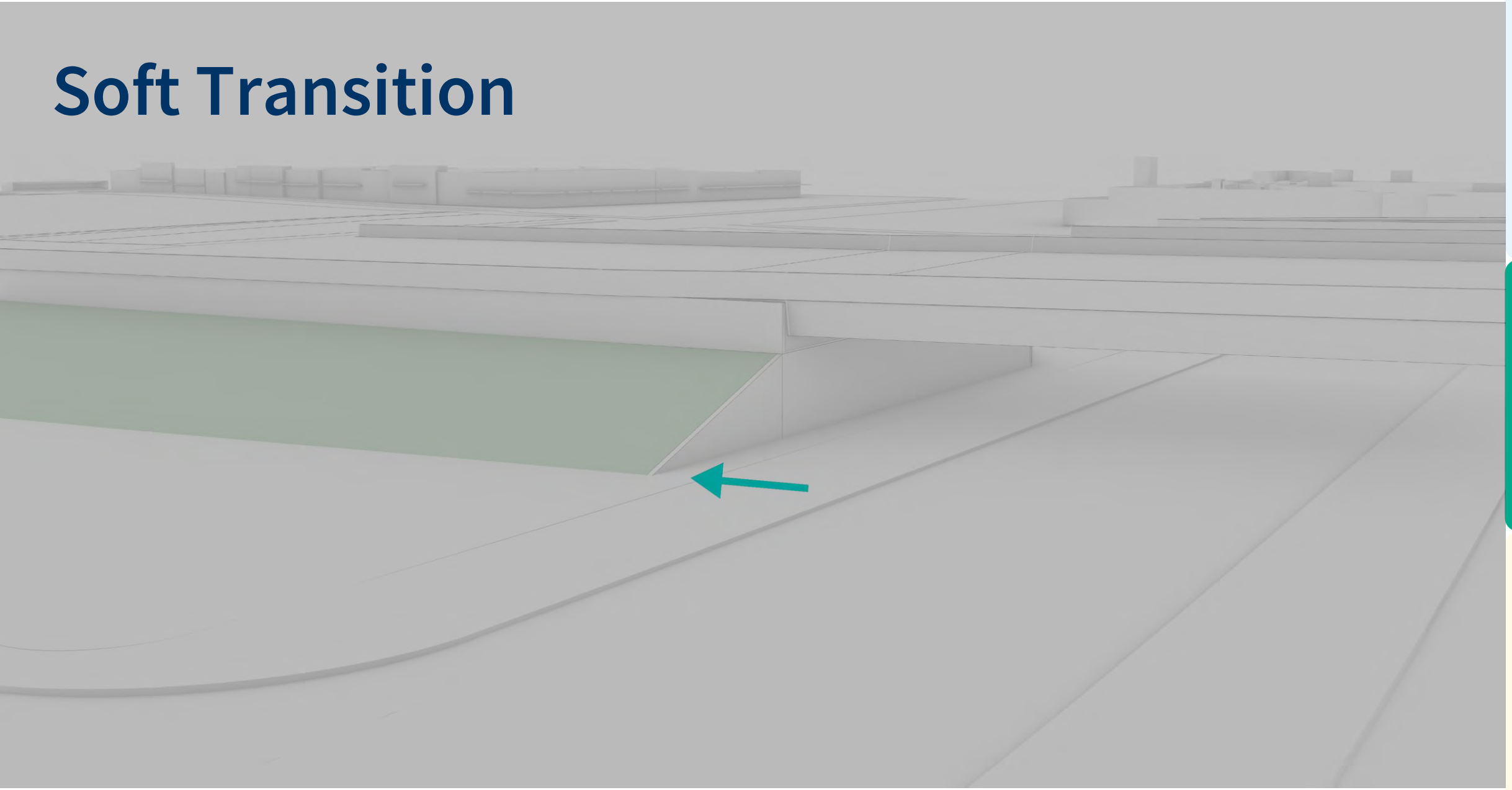
Soft Transition



Soft Transition



Soft Transition



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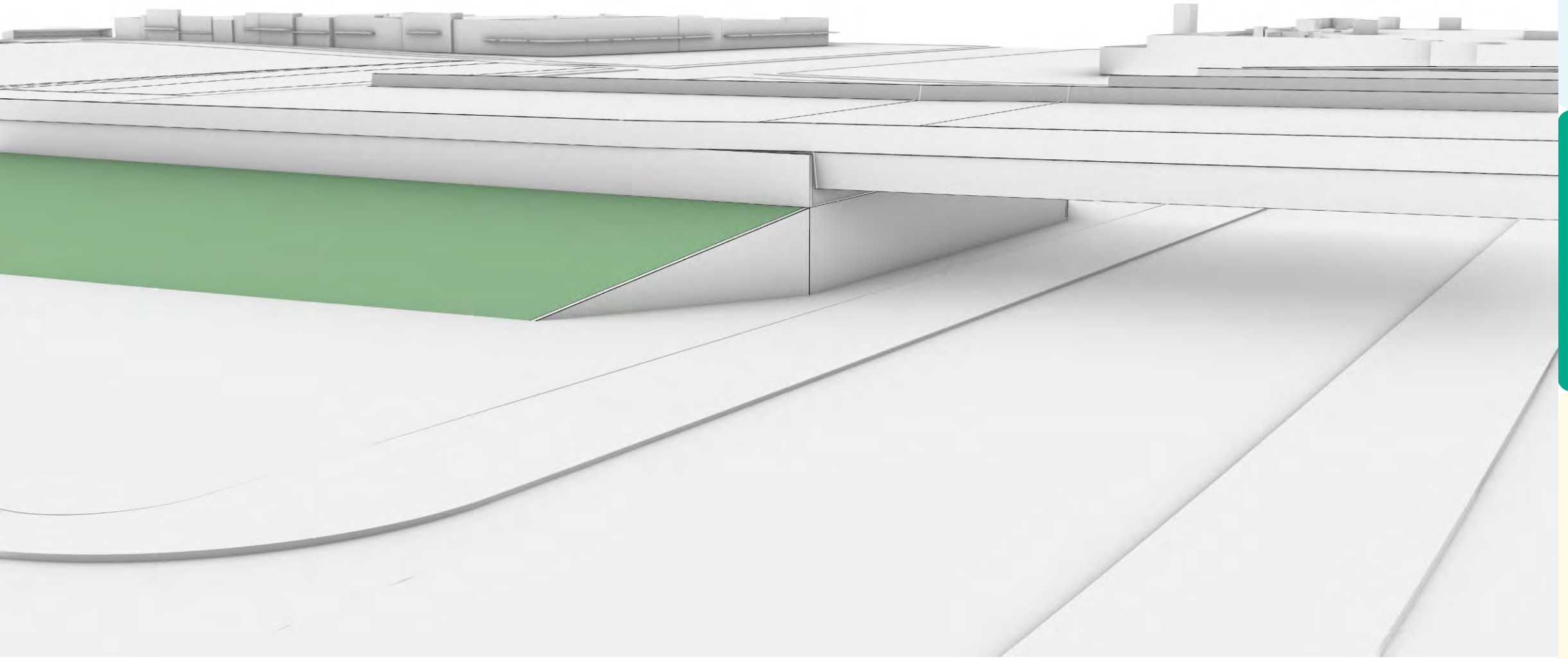

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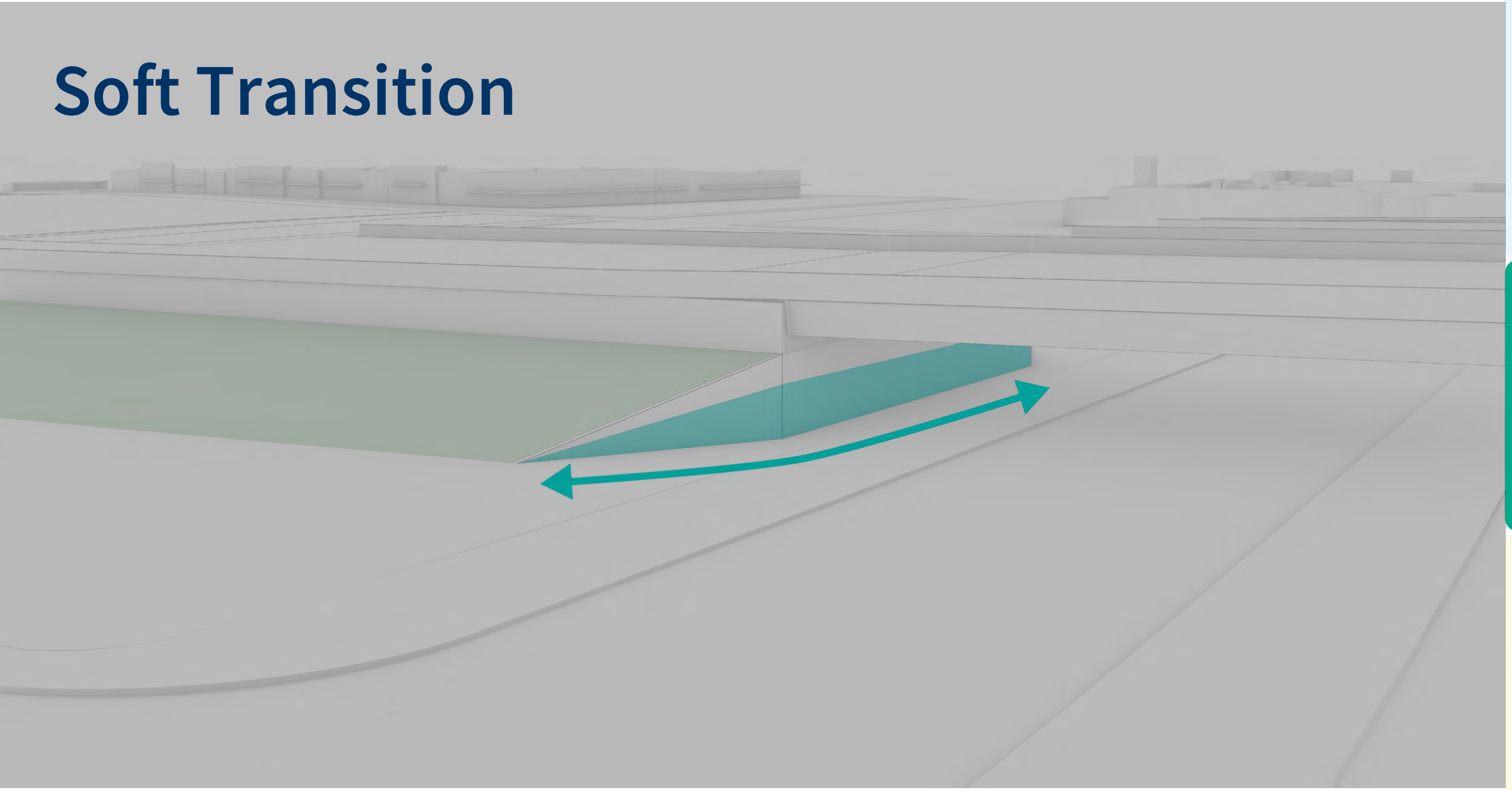

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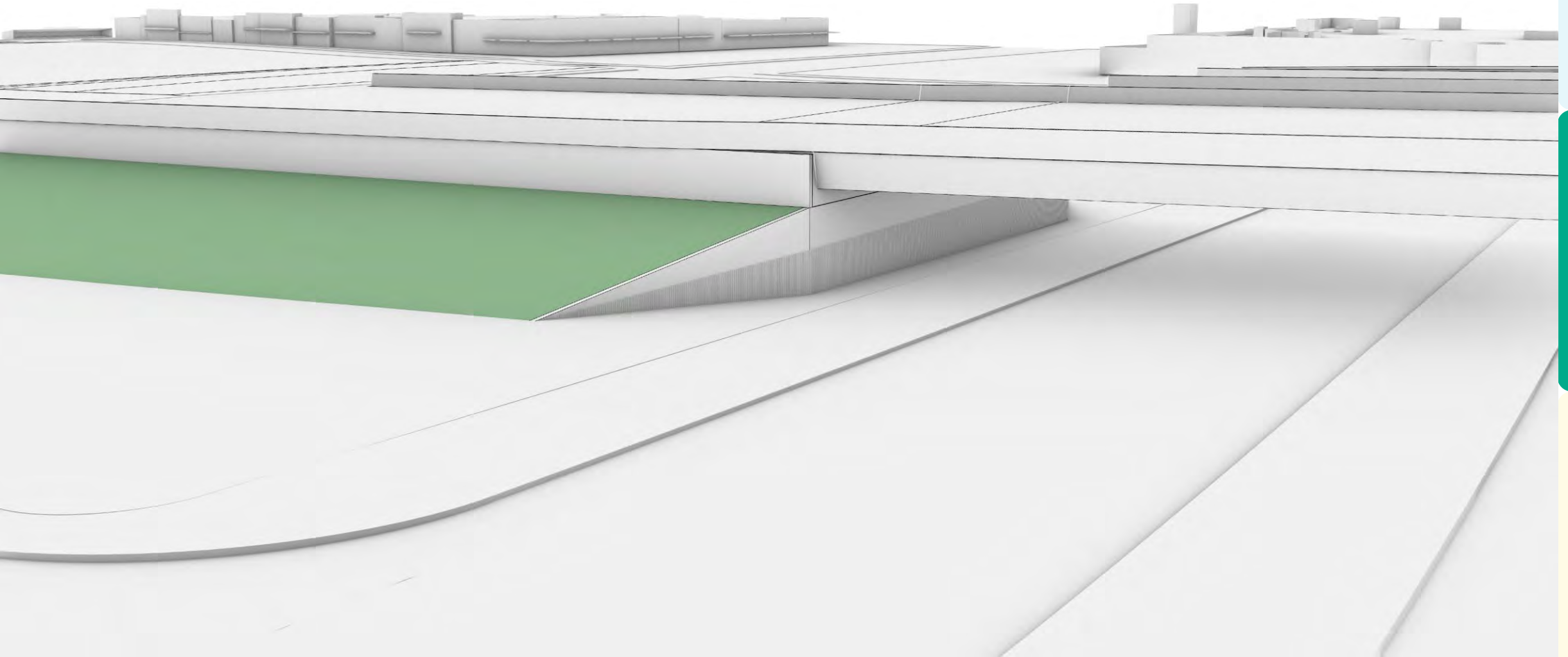

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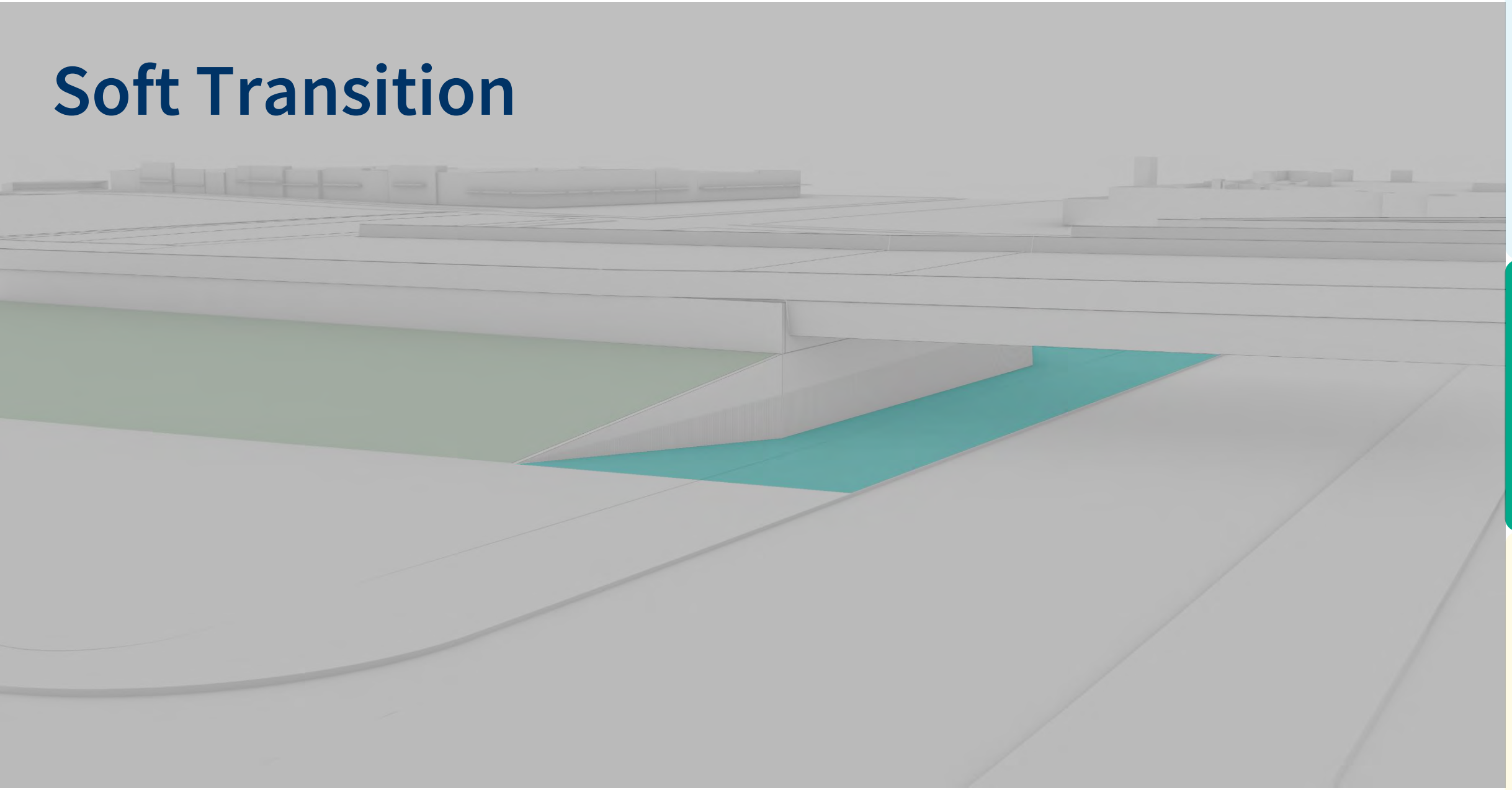

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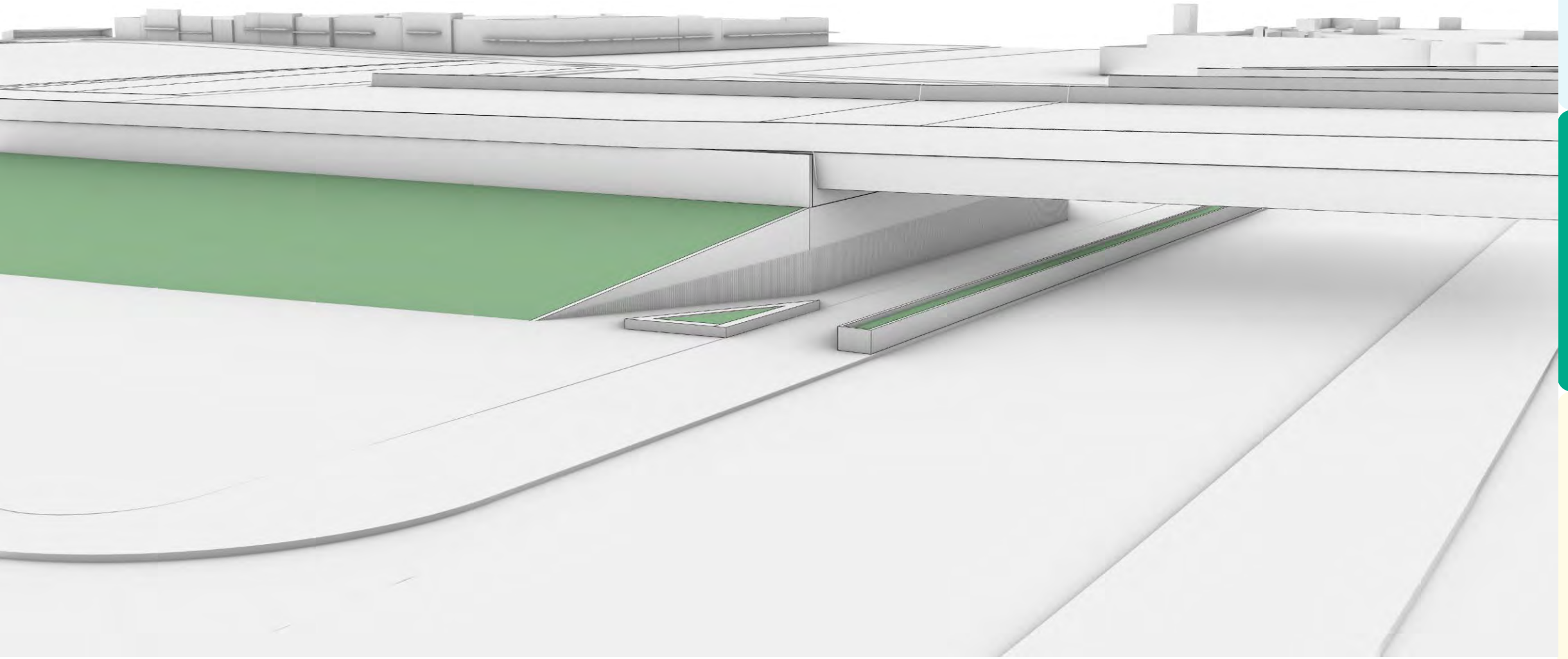


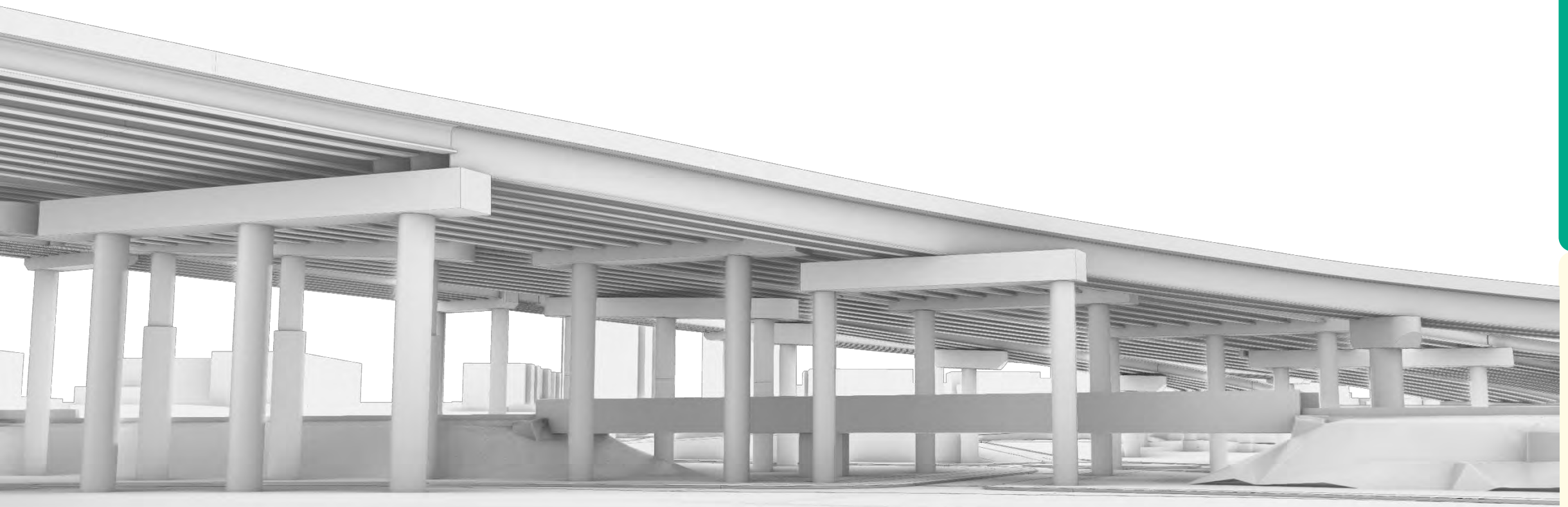
VIEWPOINT:
Undercrossing at Hayden Island Dr

Note: this graphic is intended to provide an example of possible architectural elements; it does not depict final design and is not intended for construction for the IBR Program.

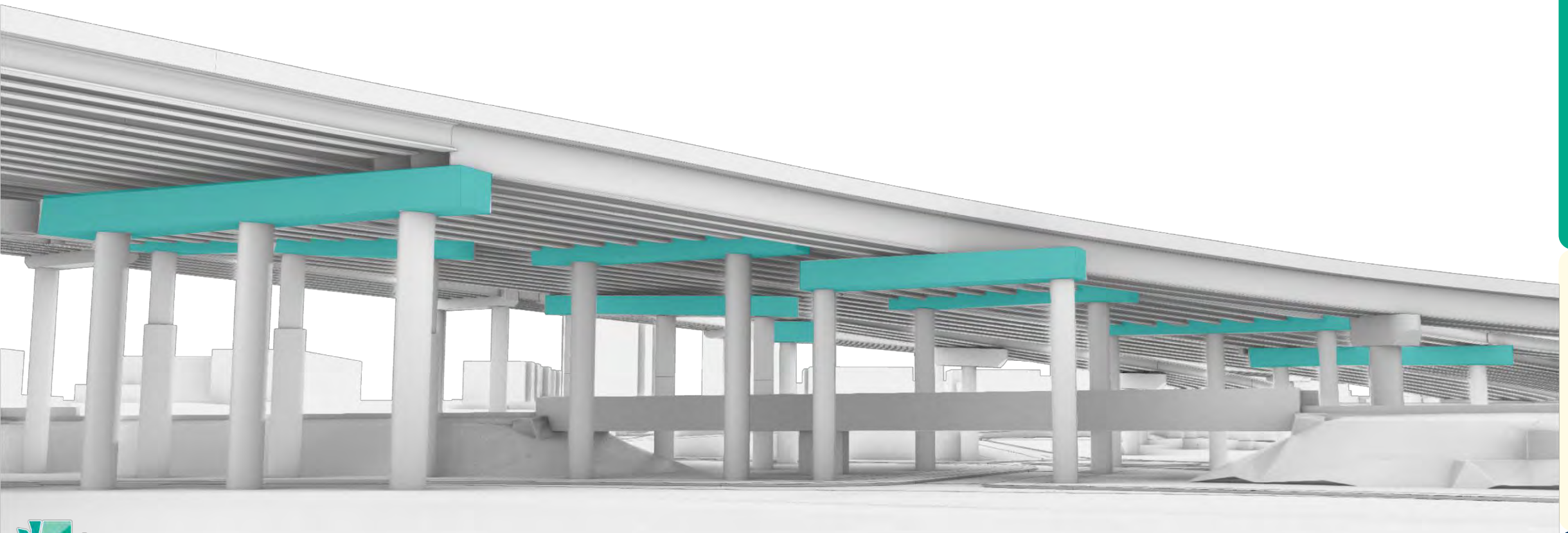
Consistency

Even with varying site conditions, perceived differences between structures should be minimized, to help rationalize a complex environment and make it easier for people to navigate.

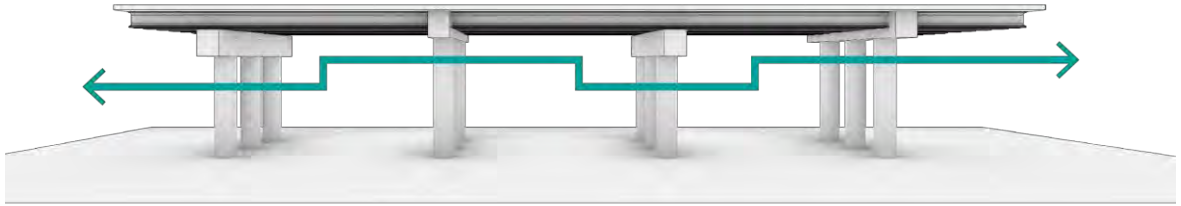
Response to Varying Condition



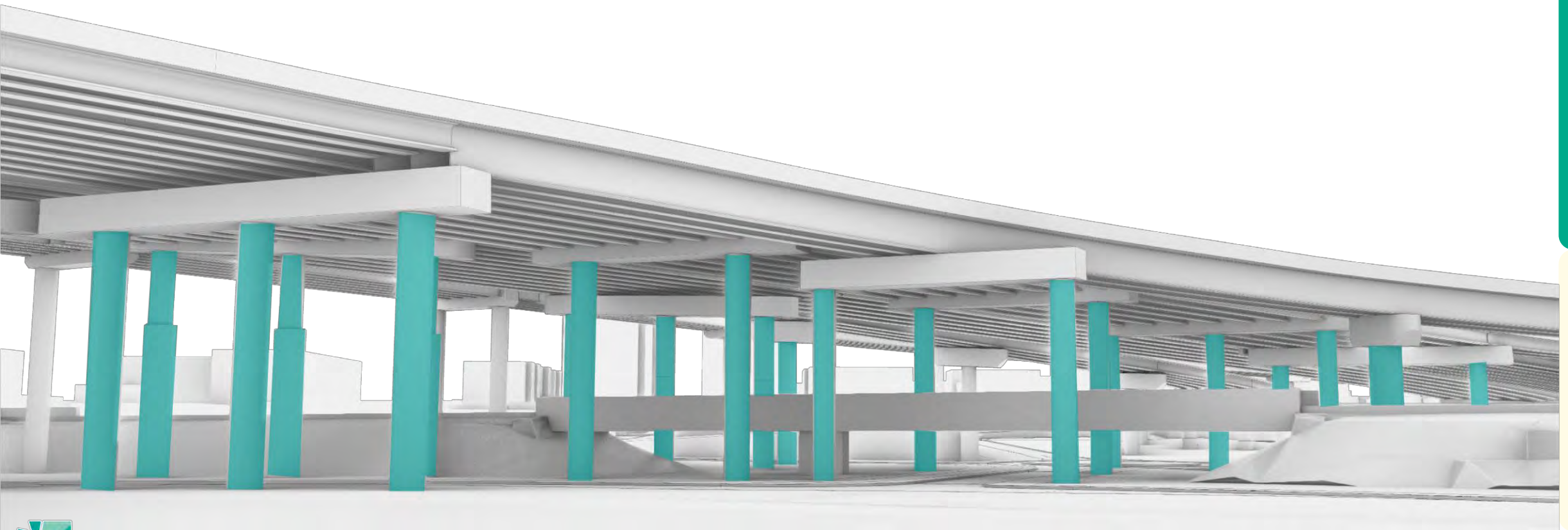
Response to Varying Condition



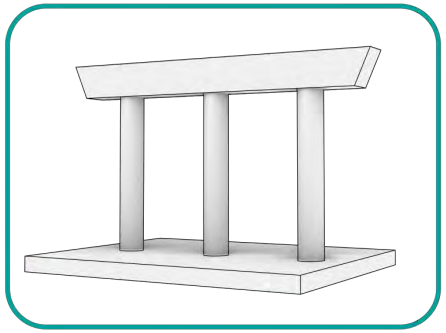
Response to Varying Condition

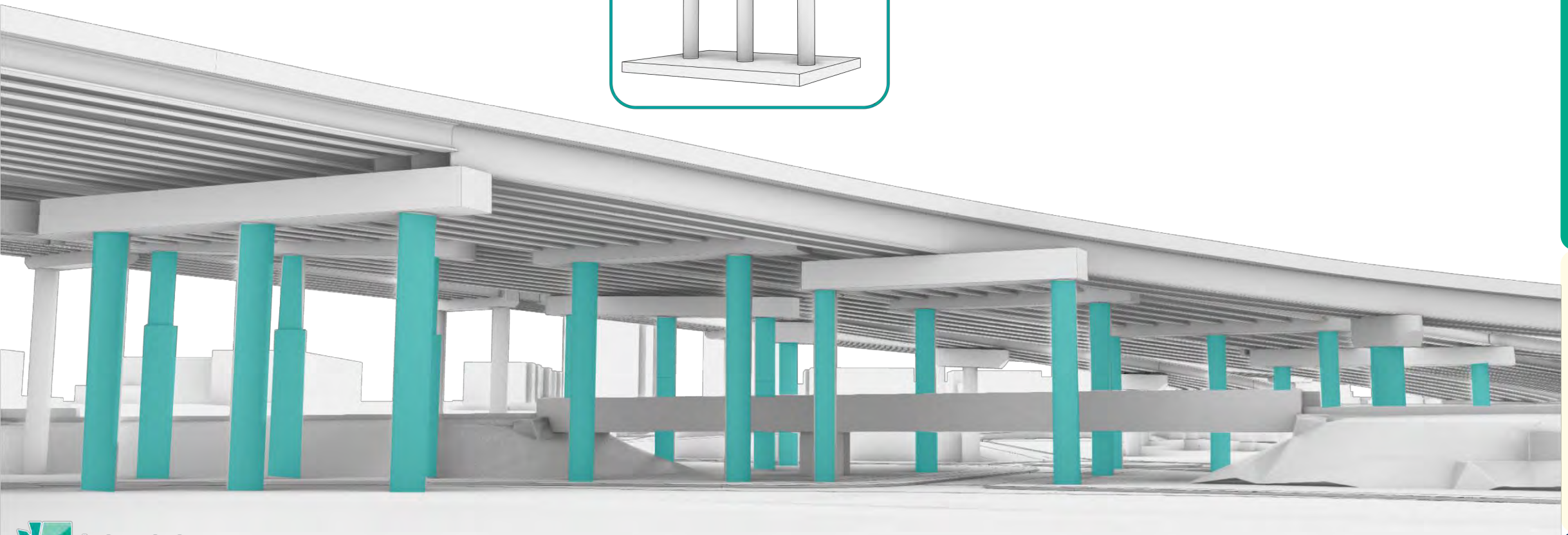


Response to Varying Condition

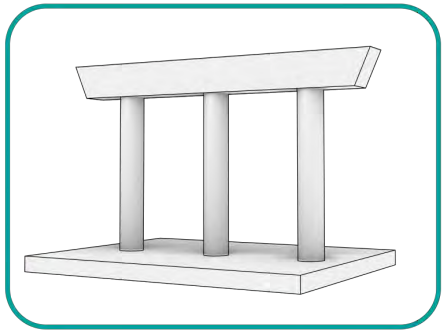


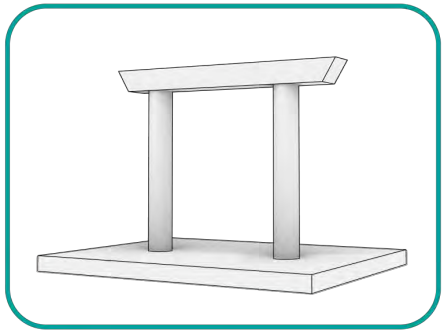
Response to Varying Condition



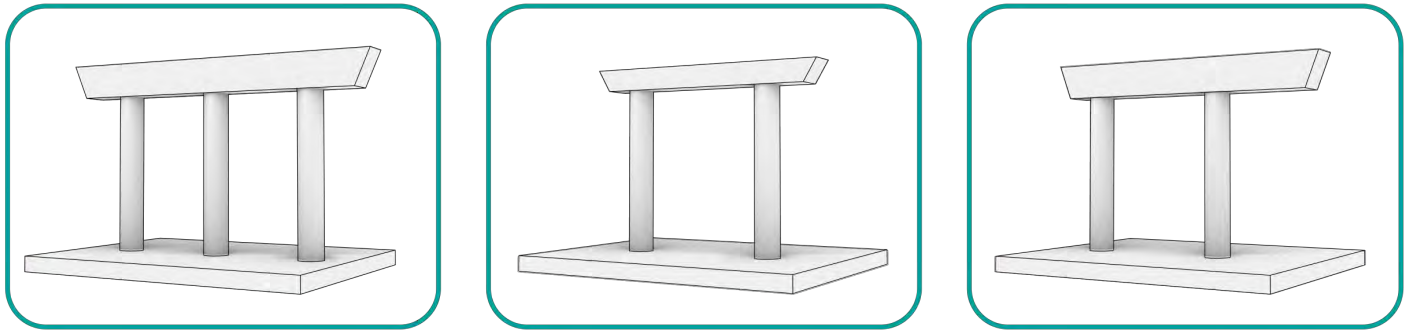


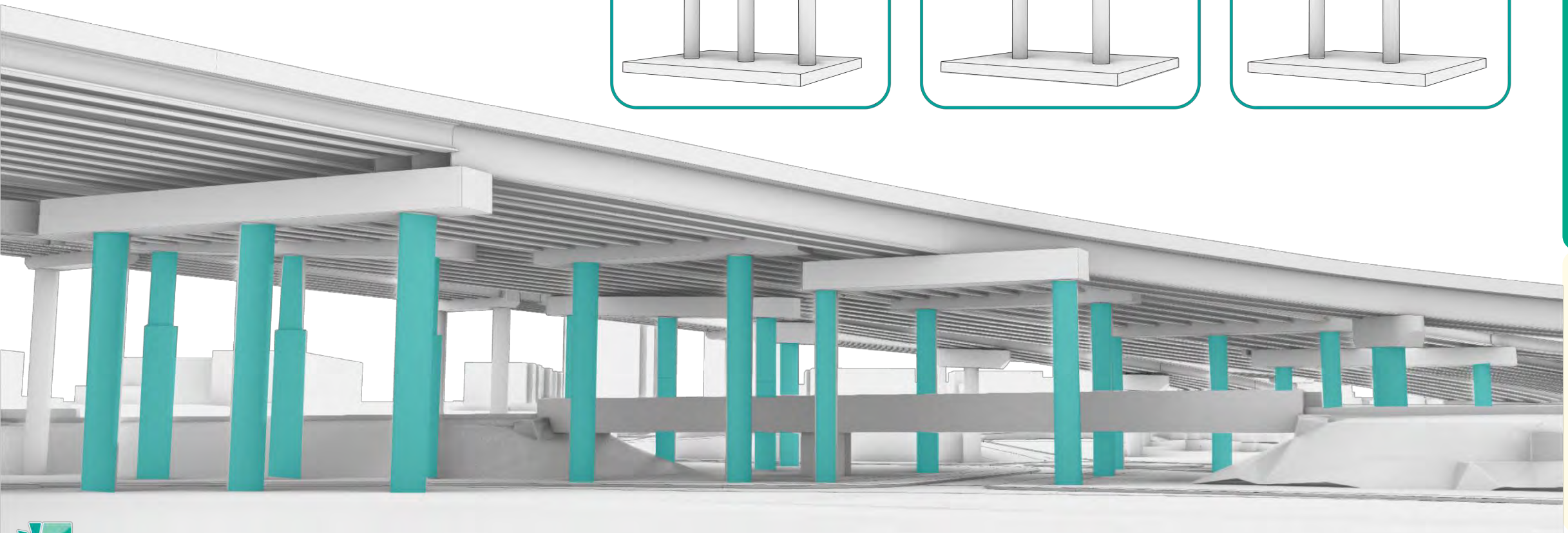
Response to Varying Condition





Response to Varying Condition





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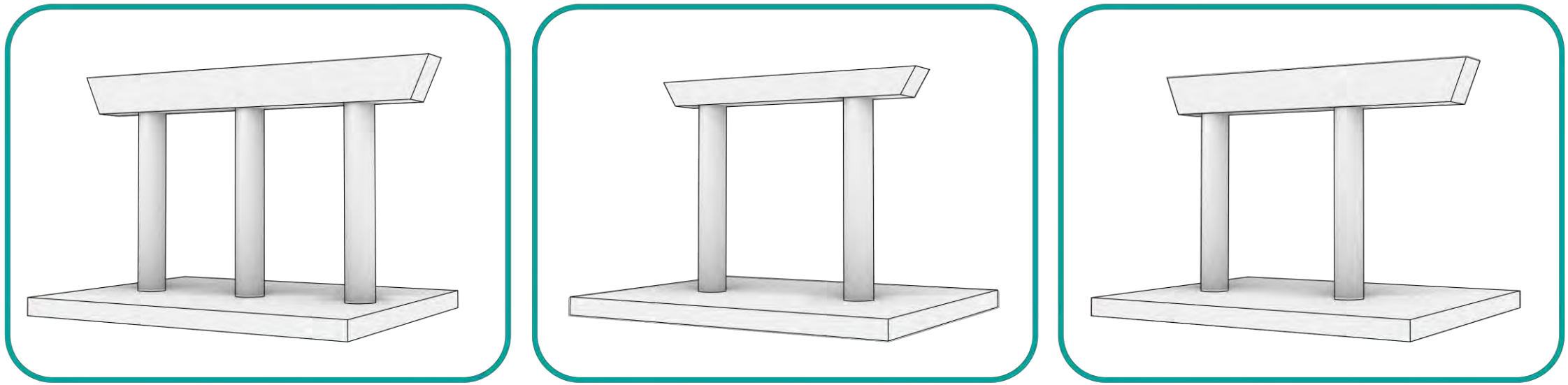


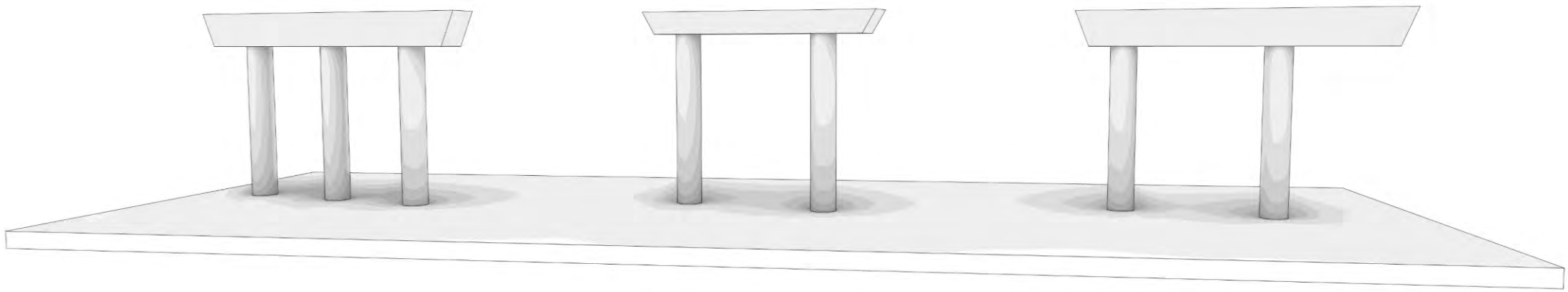
While the structural rationale for these variations may be clear to engineers, it won't be readily apparent to everyday users.

Clear Hierarchy

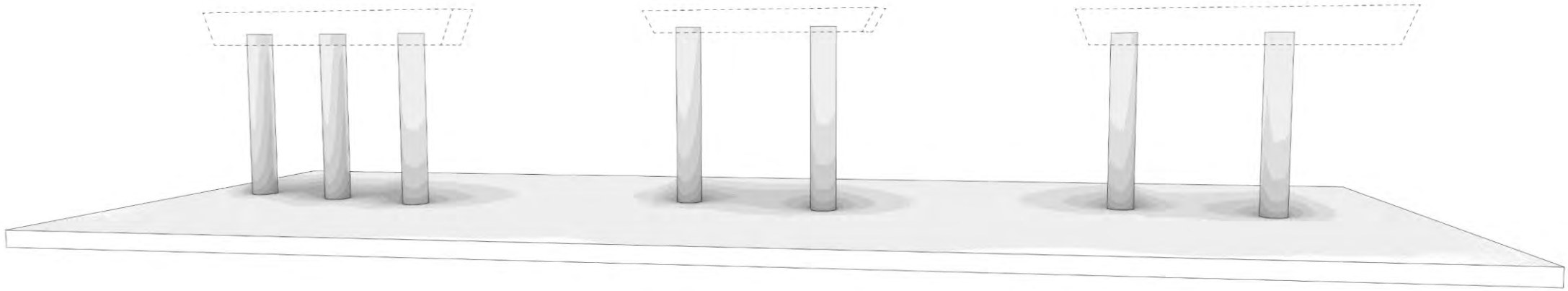
The pier design prioritizes the strong, common motif of the vertical columns, visually receding the horizontal pier cap to create a clear hierarchy of elements.

Clear Hierarchy

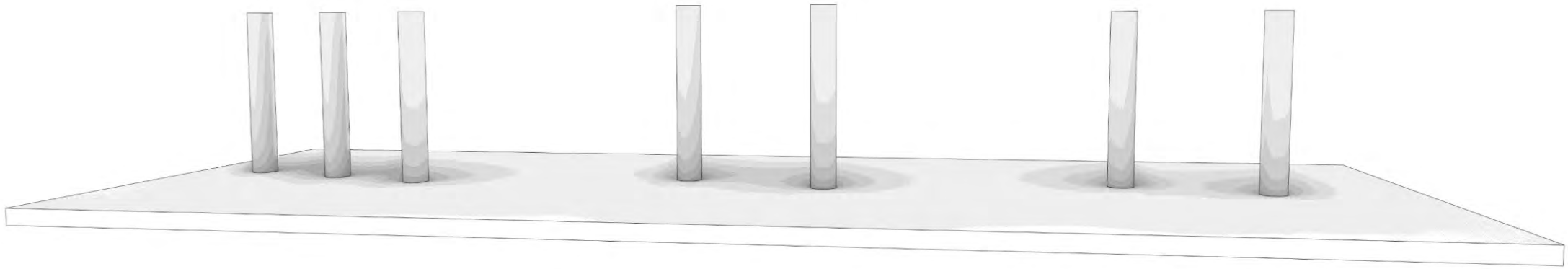
Clear Hierarchy



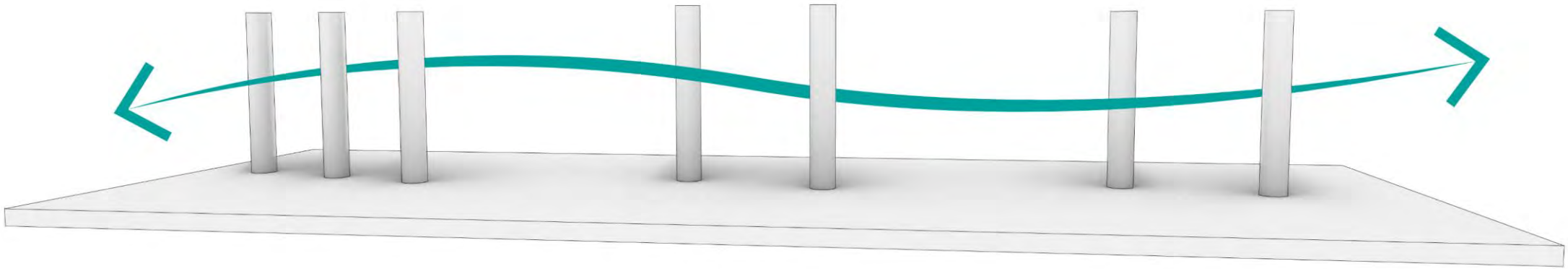
Clear Hierarchy



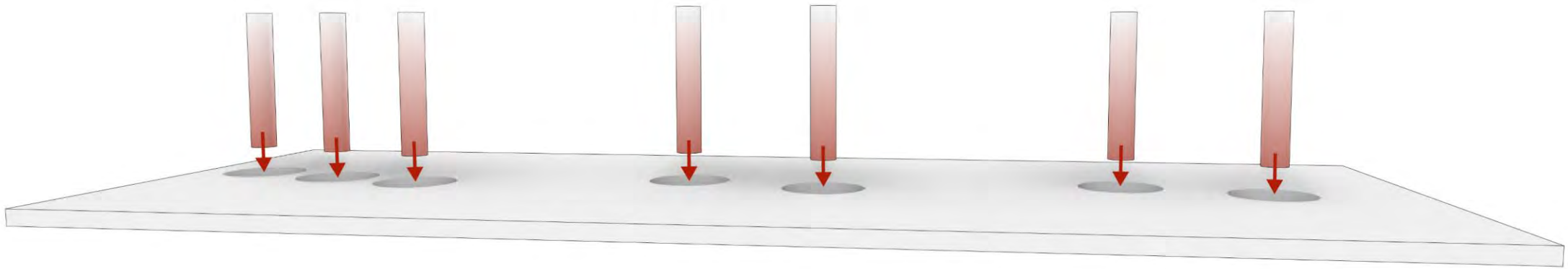
Clear Hierarchy



Clear Hierarchy



Integration



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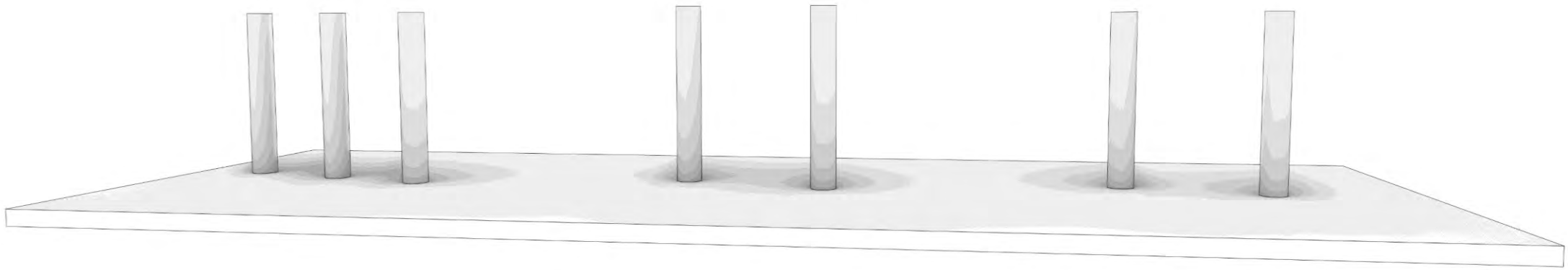

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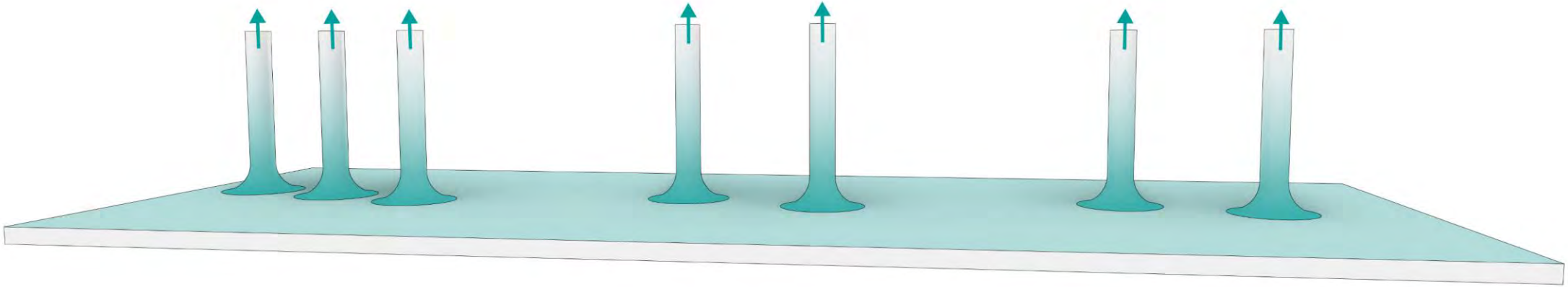

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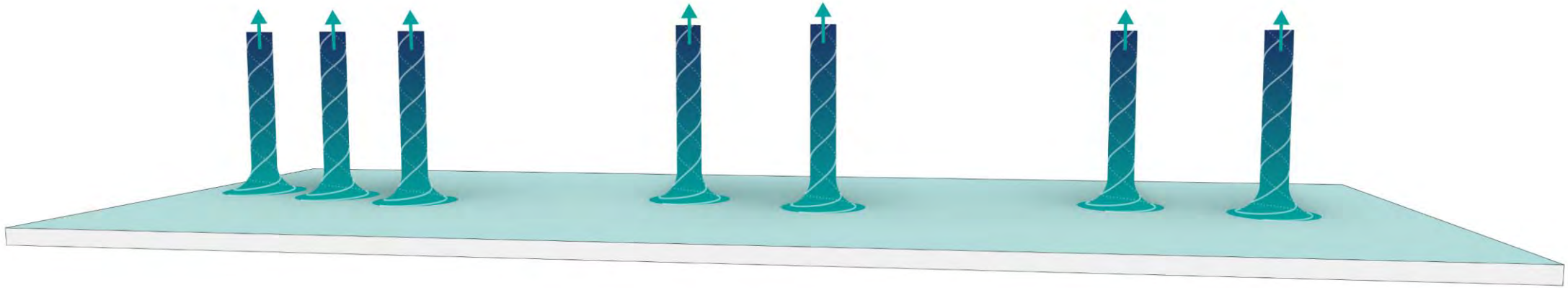


VIEWPOINT:
View from the SUP deck, as it loops under the highway deck at Vancouver waterfront, looking west towards Station Plaza.

Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

Note: this graphic is intended to provide an example of possible architectural elements; it does not depict final design and is not intended for construction for the IBR Program.

Breakout Session

View Of | Experience From

Land Structures

We are now going to split into groups. This is intended to be open discussion and space for input and ideas. Groups may wish to consider themes such as:

1. SUP: How do we increase active mobility usage
2. LRT: How do we promote coherent identity within city transit network
3. Roadway: How can we create positive spaces and thresholds (referring to the transition between two different environments – i.e. indoor/outdoor)

Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

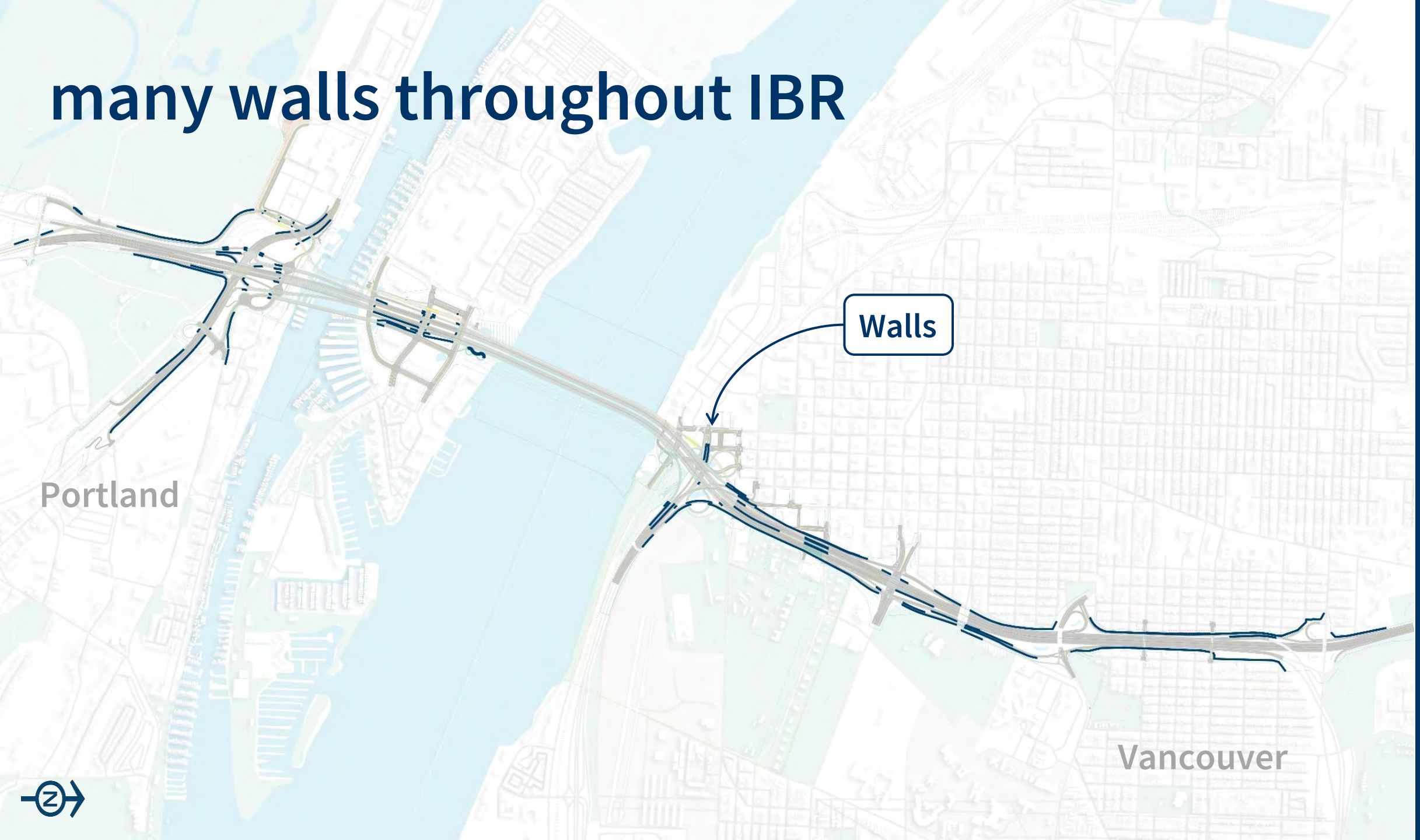
Breakout Session in Progress

Land-based Structures

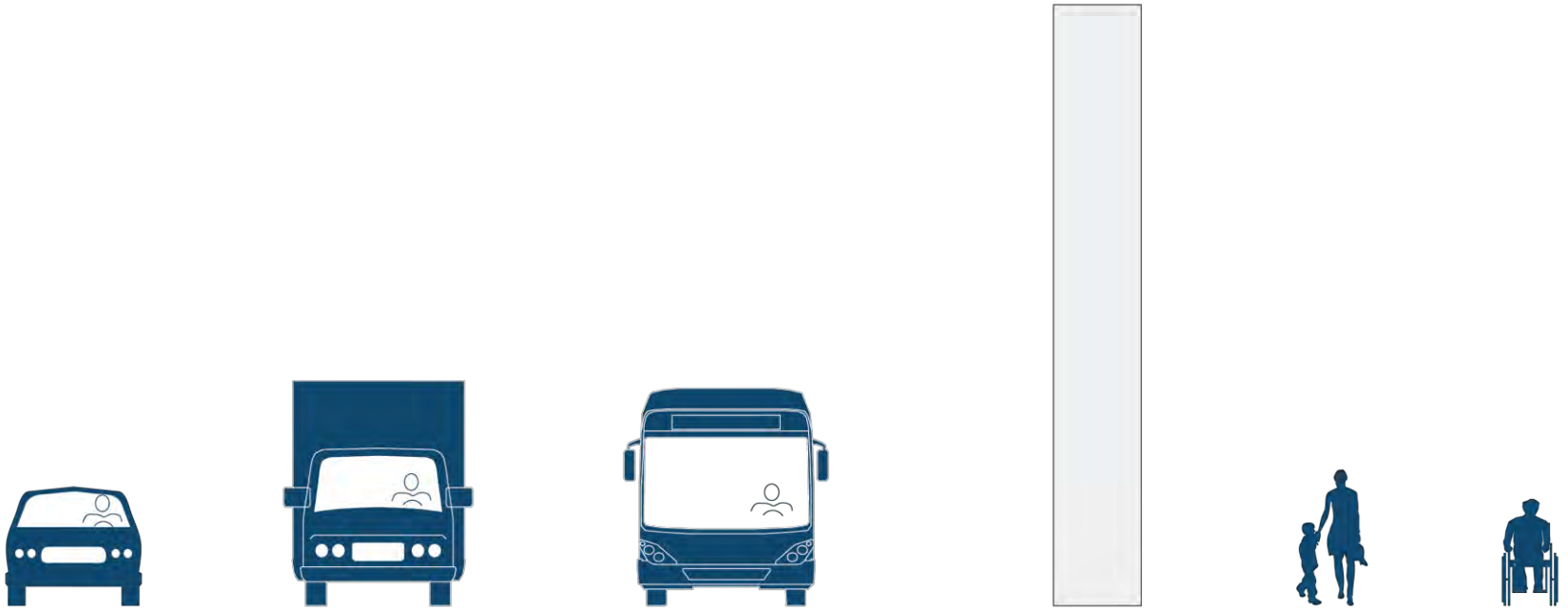
Walls

Morgan Maiolie, IBR Architect

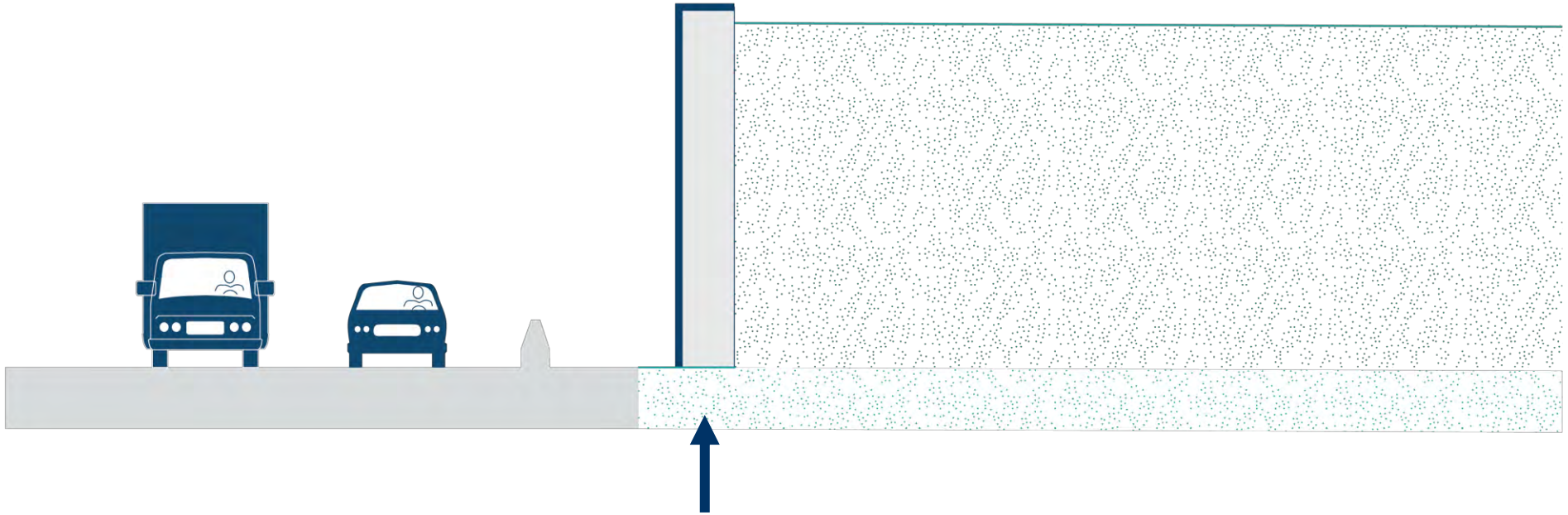
many walls throughout IBR



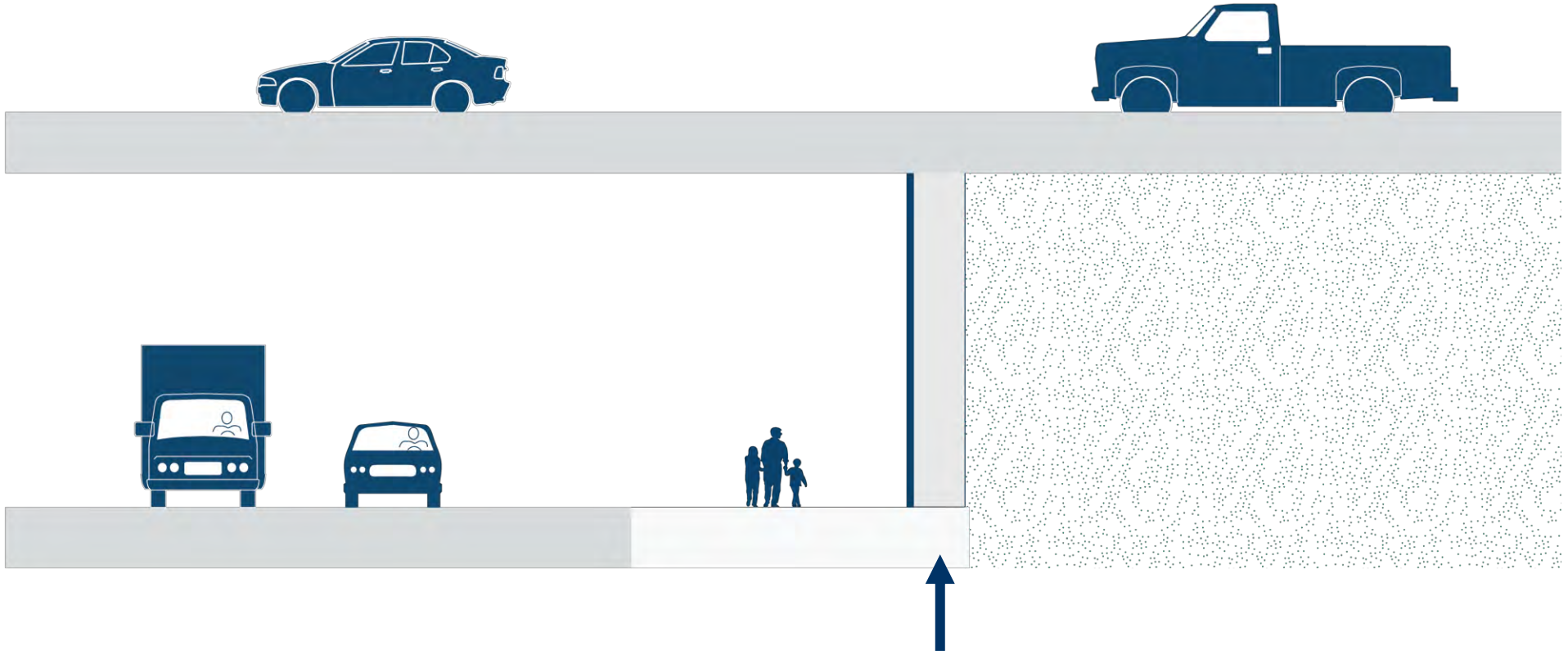
Experience



Retaining Walls

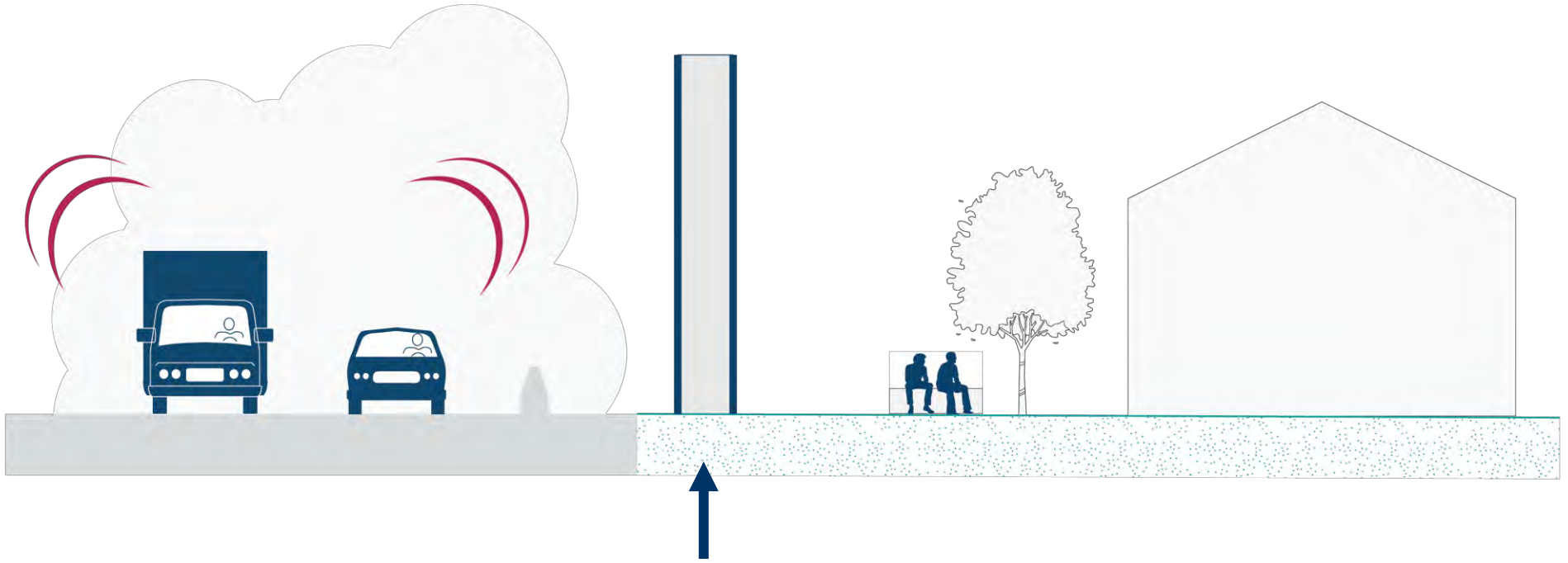


Abutment Walls



Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

Noise Walls



Principles and Goals

Purpose and Need

Desired Outcome + Partners + Tribes + Advisory Groups + Draft SEIS public comment period

Local Identity:

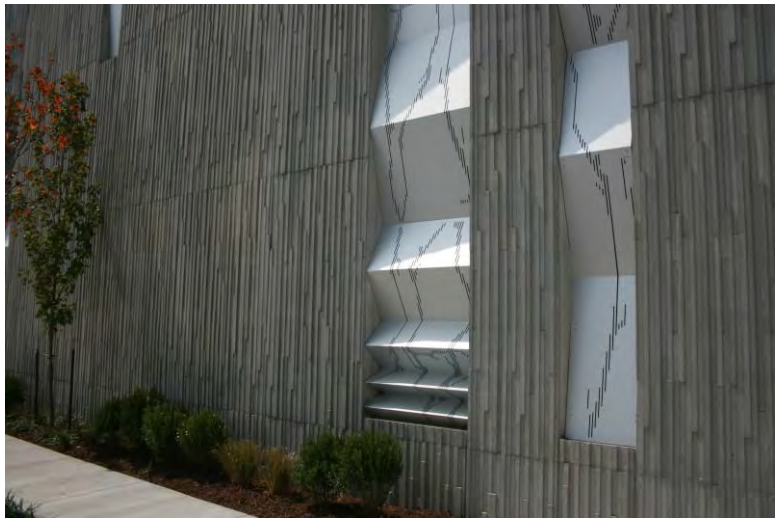
Themes, art, and cultural interpretation on the walls are an expression of the community.

Local Identity

Community-artist collaboration

The Path Most Travelled; Pima Freeway noise wall in Scottsdale, Arizona; created by Artist Carolyn Braaksma.

Place-specific installations



JE Dunn Building, with art integration by Fitzgerald Formliners.

Indigenous leadership

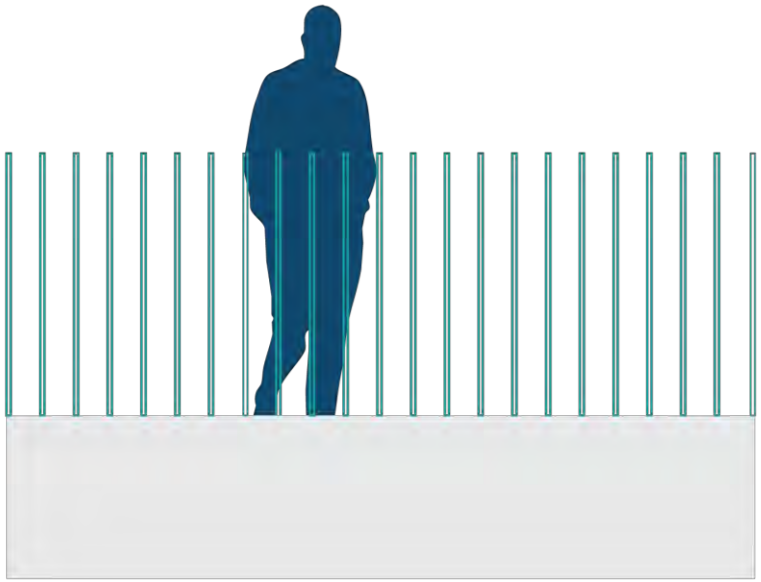
Nchemús mural on a highway noise wall in Vancouver, Canada. Created by Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish) artists, carver Aaron Nelson-Moody (Splash) and weaver Angela George.

Continuity:

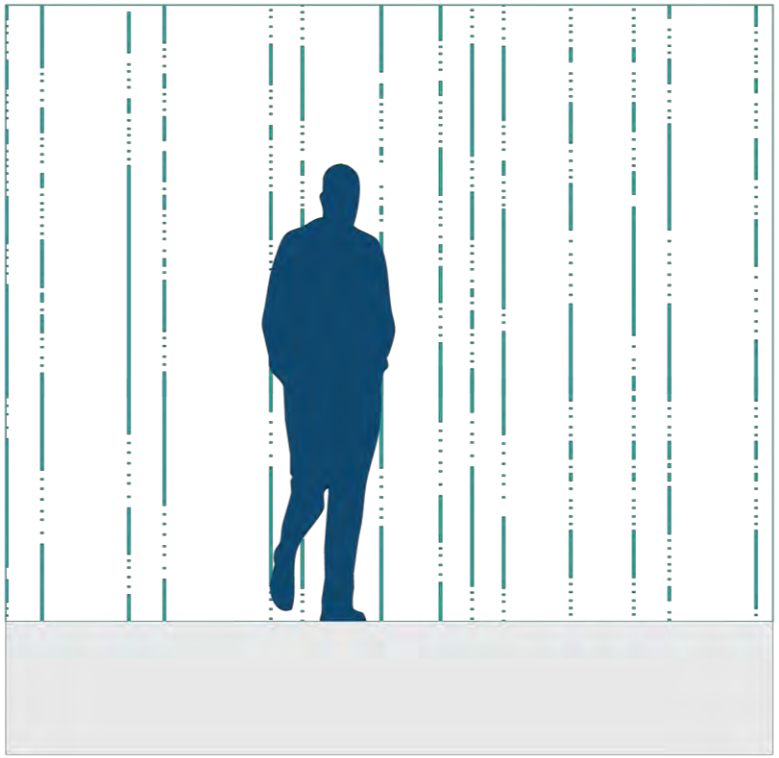
Walls share an aesthetic that relates to the bridge architecture and integrates with the landscape.

Continuity with the bridge

Example: Pattern



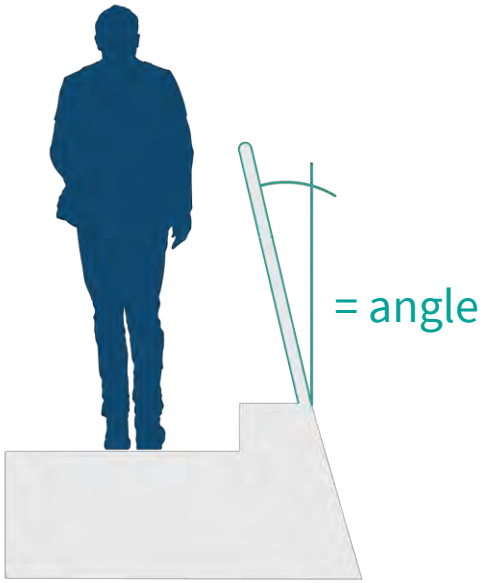
bridge architecture



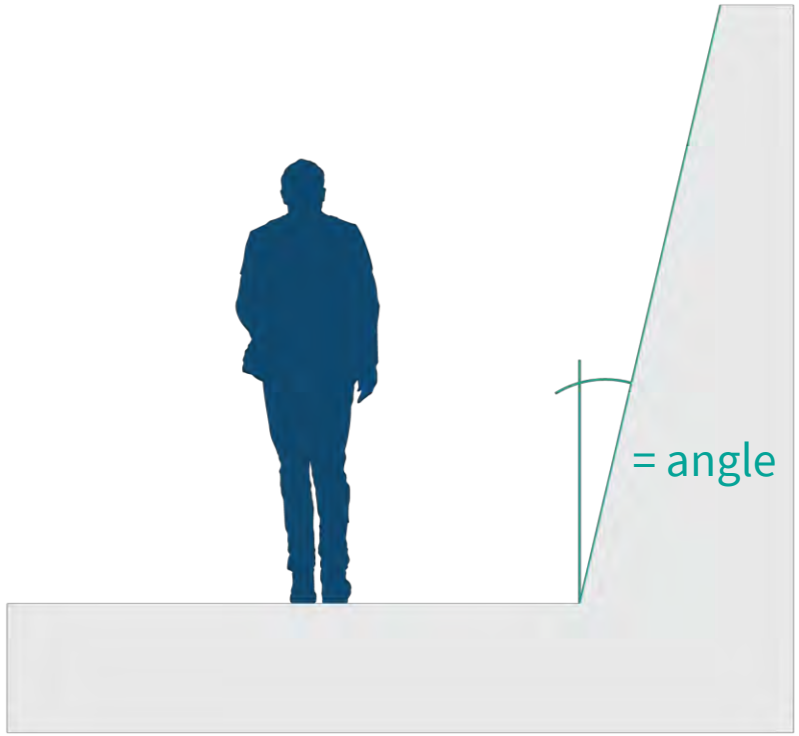
walls

Continuity with the bridge

Example: Angle



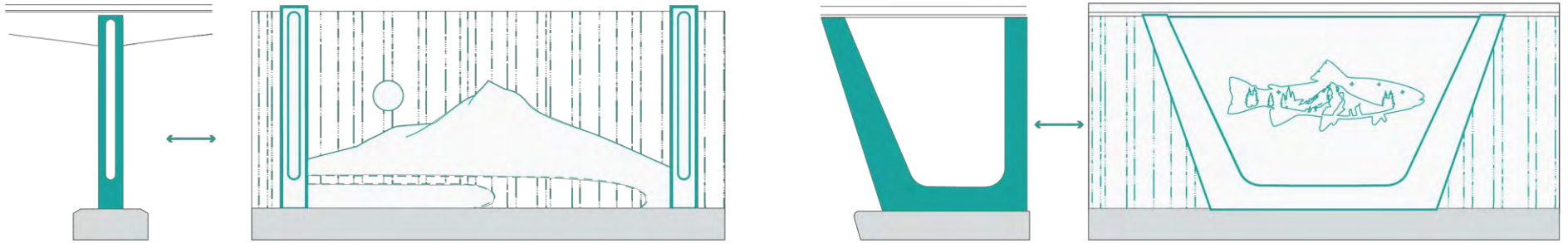
bridge architecture



walls

Continuity with the bridge

Example: Forms



Continuity

Example: Different wall types, different construction, related vertical texture

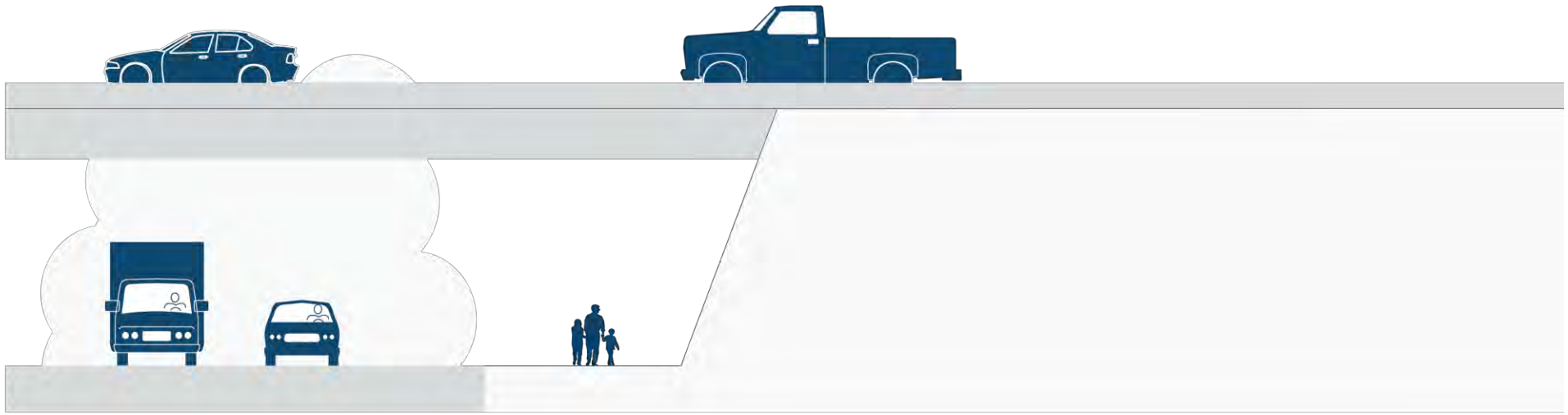
Vertical texture example

Abutment wall I-5 at Joint Base Lewis McChord

Retaining wall I-5 at Joint Base Lewis McChord

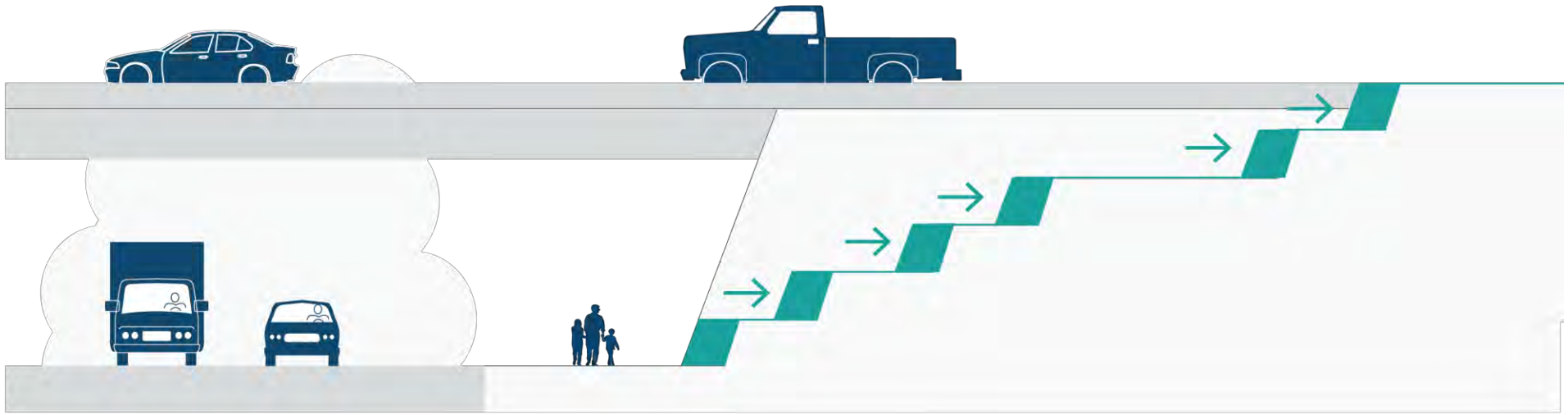
Continuity with the landscape

Constrained condition: battered



Continuity with the landscape

Opportunity: Terracing



Continuity with the landscape

Opportunity: Terracing

Continuity with the landscape

Existing planted walls in Oregon and Washington

Abutment & retaining walls I-405, Portland, Oregon

Noise wall I-5, Lacey, Washington

Continuity with the landscape

Wall planting systems

Retaining Wall MSE Vegetated System

Noise Wall Gabion, Vegetated

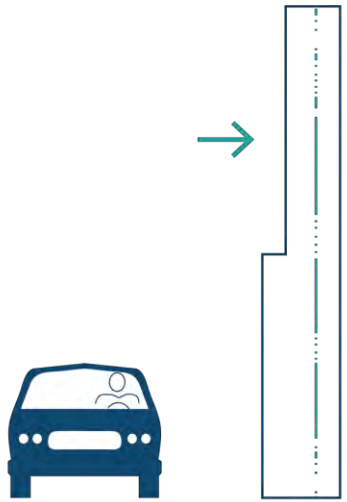
Abutment Wall Terraced Gabion, Vegetated

Comfort:

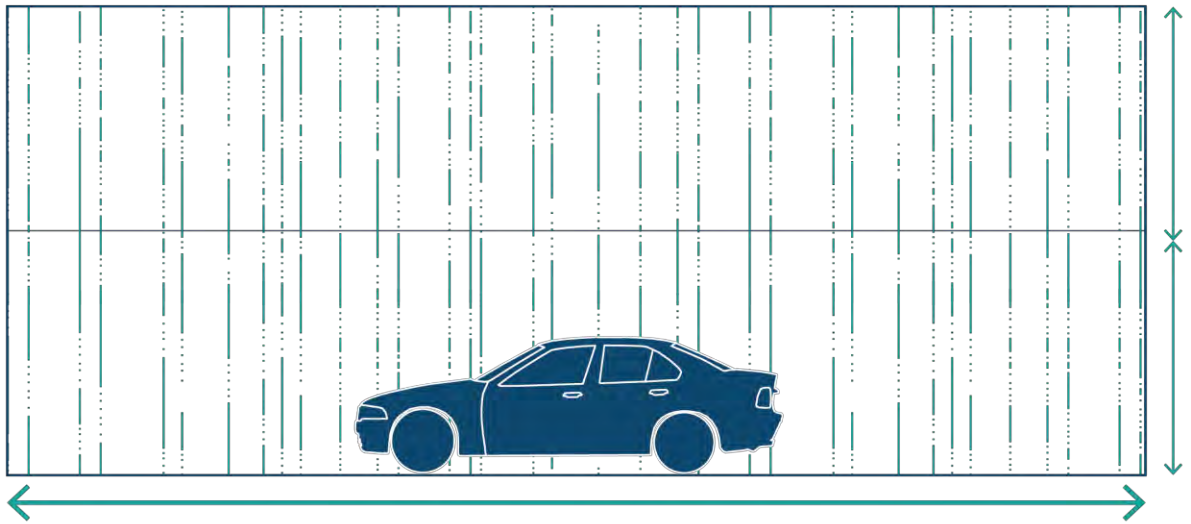
Walls support a comfortable, welcoming urban environment.

Comfort

Larger scale on highways



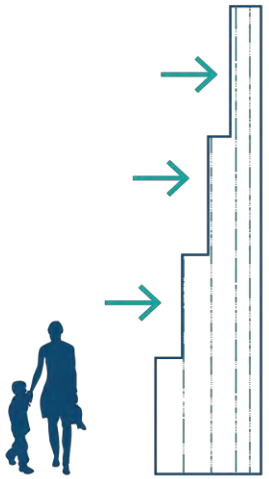
section



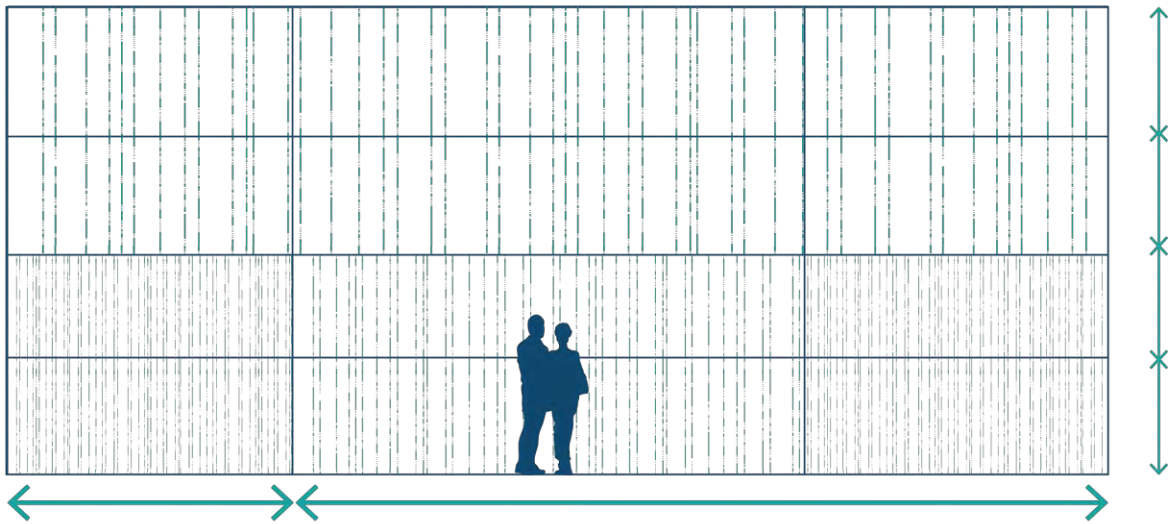
elevation

Comfort

Human scale in neighborhoods



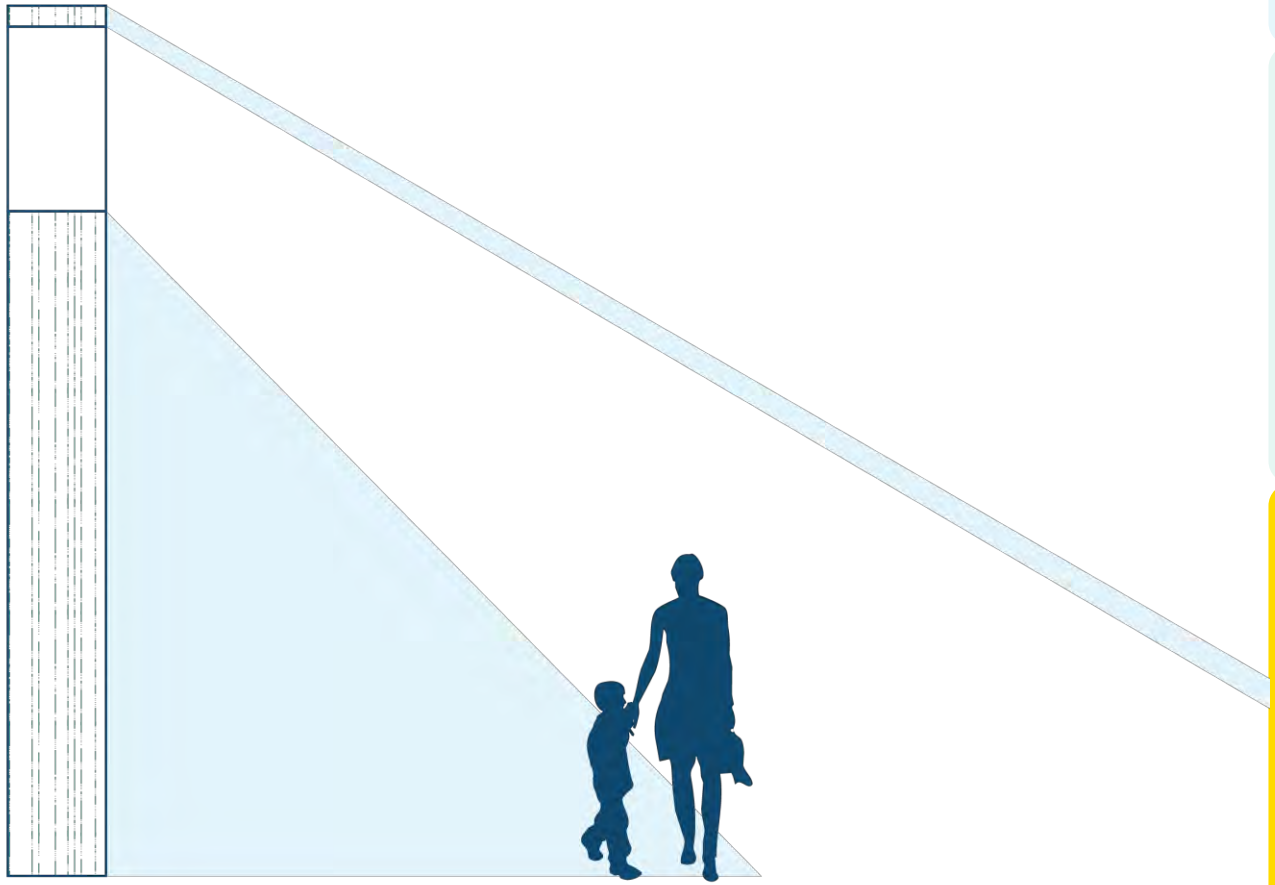
section



elevation

Comfort

Transparency



Comfort

Example: human-scale, terraced walls frame a pedestrian underpass

Terraced abutment wall Speer Blvd. Denver, CO

Terraced Abutment Wall Sand Creek Byway. Sandpoint, ID

Comfort

Example: landscape-integrated walls create an environment that welcomes active transportation

Vegetated retaining wall Sand Creek Byway. Sandpoint, ID

Questions & Discussion

- What wall design ideas did you like or not like, and why?
- Do you have a favorite example of good wall design?
- What patterns, art, or themes express our region's character well?

Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

Breakout Session in Progress

Wall Design

Landscape Design

Sam Jones, IBR Landscape Architect

LANDSCAPE
Portland
Vancouver
Interstate
BRIDGE
Replacement Program

Fundamental Design Tools

- Elements
- Speed & Scale
- Hierarchy

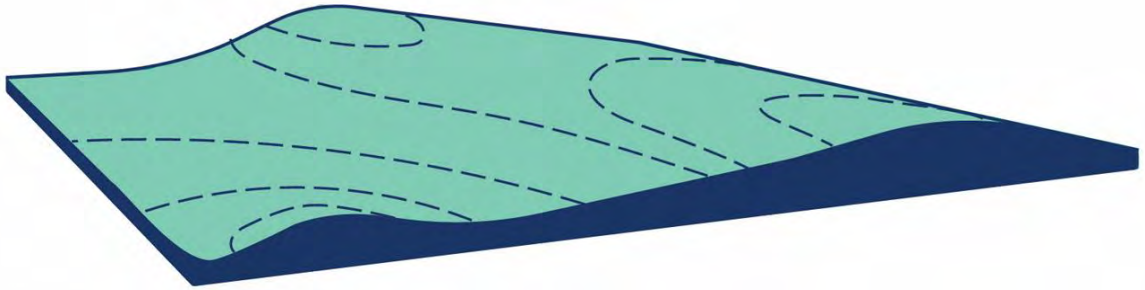
Design Principles

- Continuity
- Context
- Ecology

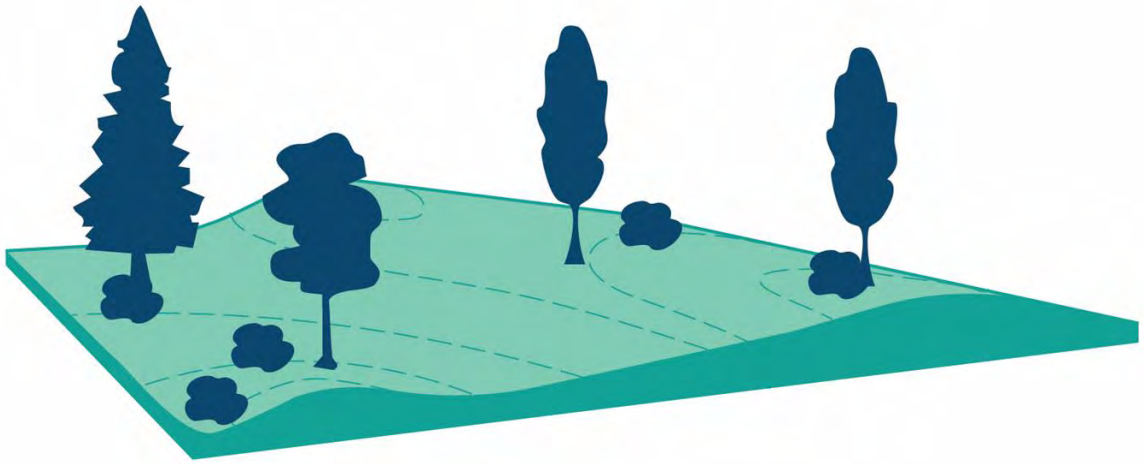
Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

Landscape Elements

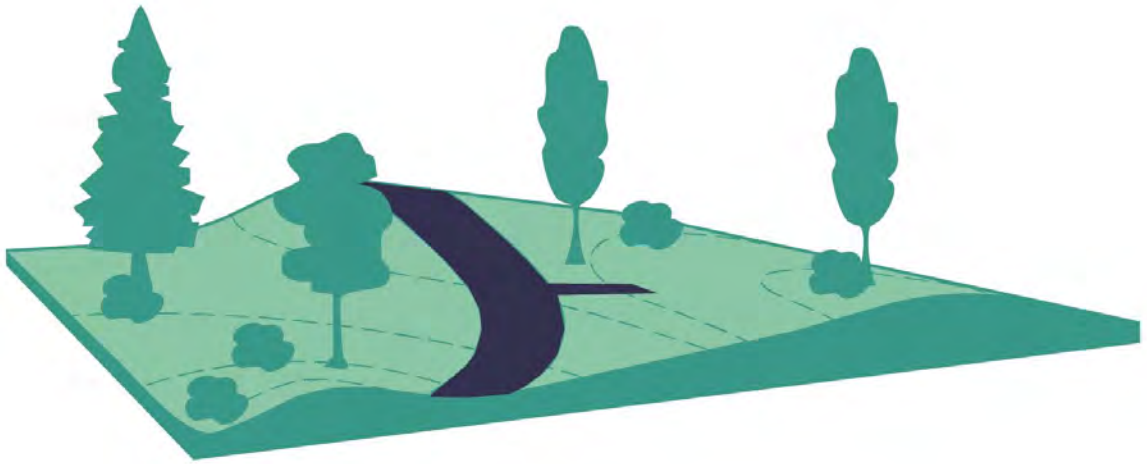
Topography



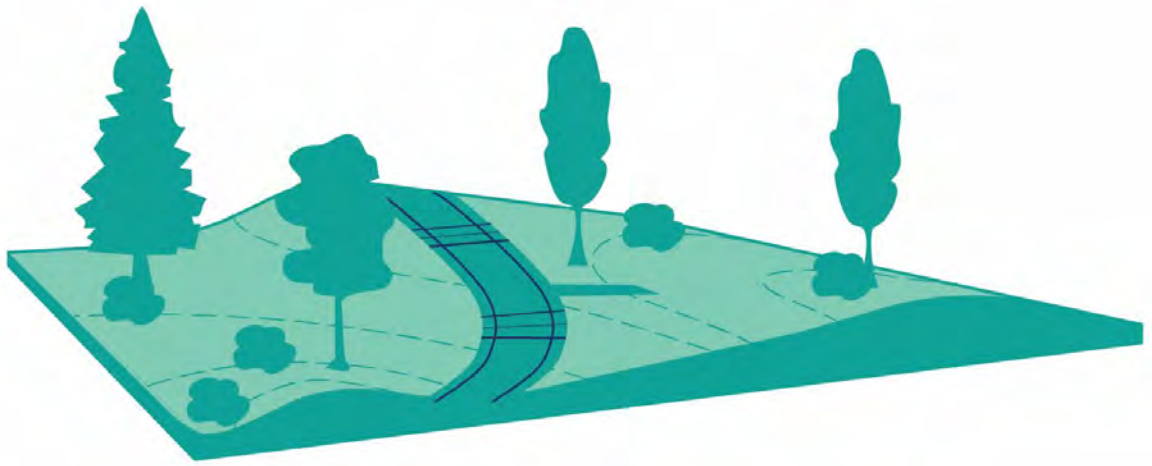
Planting



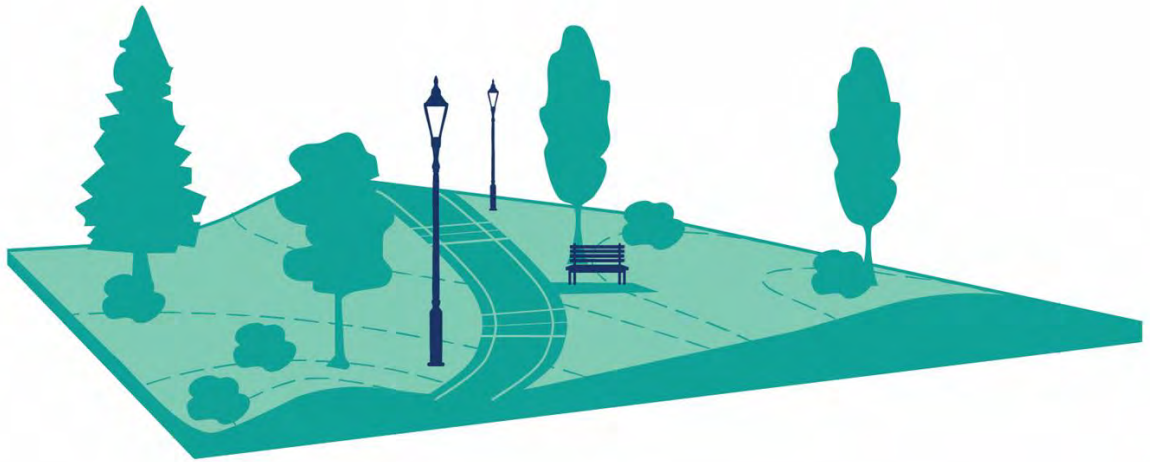
Circulation & Hardscape



Surface & Materials



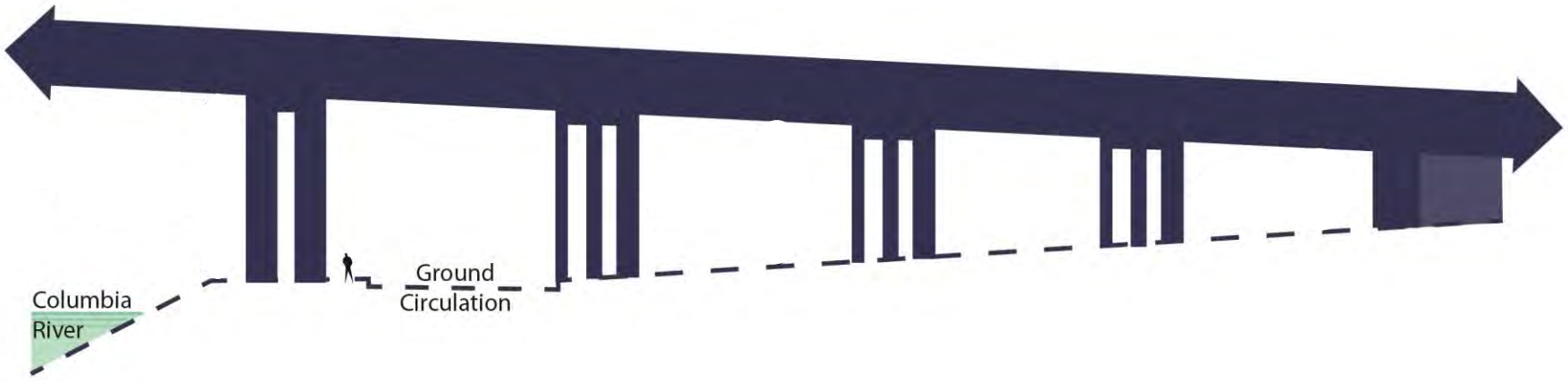
Site Furnishings



Speed & Scale

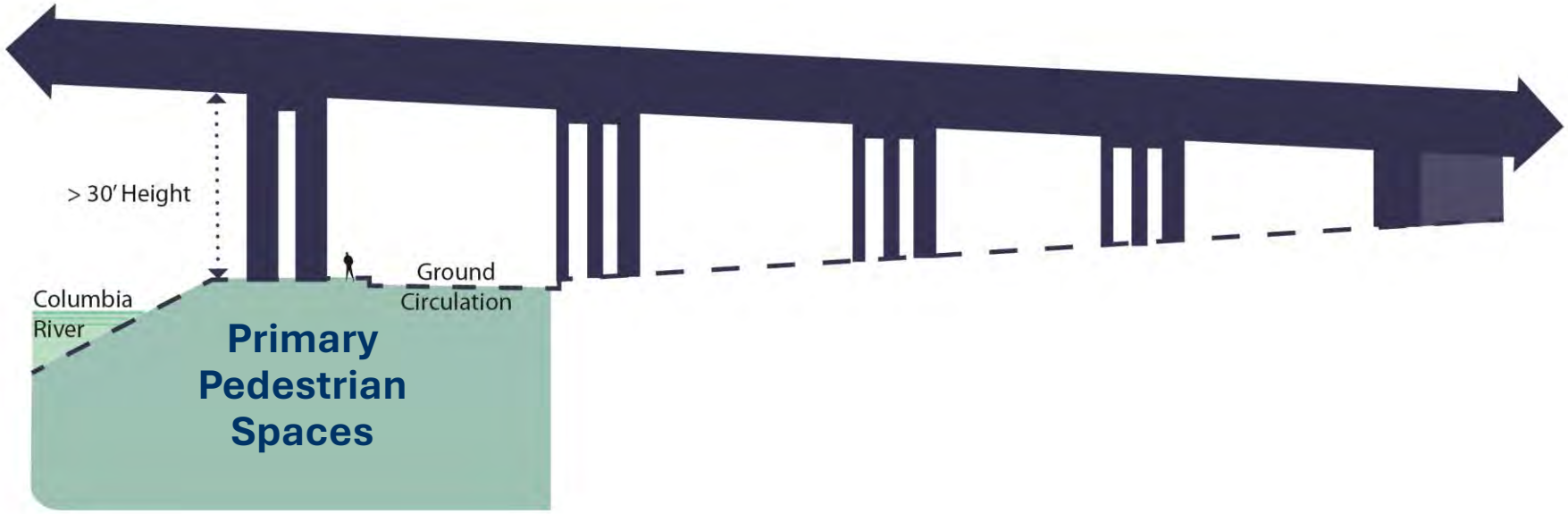
- Detailed Planting
- Textures
- Materiality
- Multi-Sensory Design
- Transition scale between slow & fast
- Prioritize shade trees
- Large plant massing
- Species with wide spreading mature growth

Hierarchy



Hierarchy

1. Areas adjacent to waterfront
2. Overhead infrastructure is greater than 30’ high
3. Locations with bridge pier on dry land
4. Locations with ground circulation crossing infrastructure



Hierarchy

1. Visible from primary pedestrian spaces
2. Adjacent to natural or inaccessible areas
3. Overhead infrastructure is typical less than 30’ high
4. Local roadway crossings

Hierarchy

1. **Overhead infrastructure outside of ground circulation is typically less than 18’ high.**
2. **Areas cut off by roadways or freeway ramps**
3. **Locations directly adjacent to abutments**

Fundamental Design Tools

Elements

Experience

Hierarchy

Continuity - Context - Ecology

Continuity:

Provide a **consistent**, navigable, and **clear experience** throughout the IBR Corridor.

Continuity

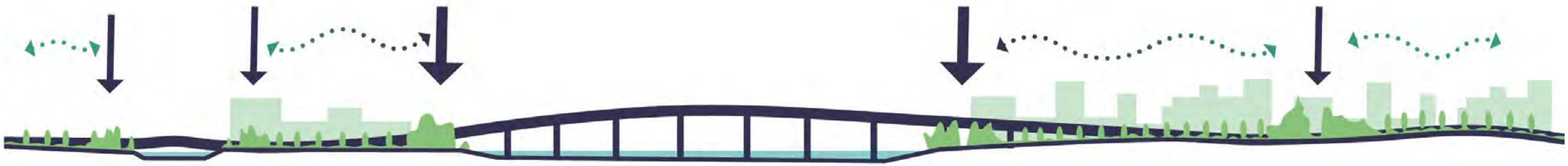
Cadence & Repetition

Continuity

Cadence & Repetition

Continuity

Cadence & Repetition



Continuity

Corridor Gateways

Welcome to Oregon, Portland, OR. State boundaries are physical gateways, often marked by signage or monuments.

White Stag Sign, Portland, OR. Signage, structures and other physical objects become landmarks in the landscape, acting as indicators that you are approaching or crossing through a gateway.

Mural, Vancouver, WA. Public art installations act as beacons, drawing you closer and announce a gateway to a place or moment to be celebrated and recognized.

Continuity

Navigation & Clarity

Continuity

Navigation & Clarity

Continuity

Navigation & Clarity

Continuity

Navigation & Clarity

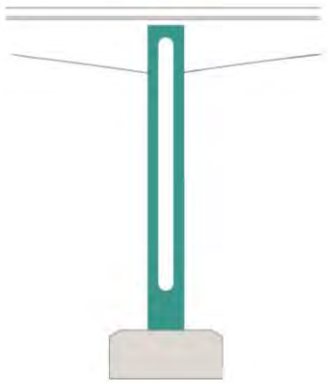
Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, Boston MA. Views of public park & circulation at the waterfront. Location & orientation of site furnishings signify a moment to pause.

Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, Boston MA. The pedestrian path is clearly defined and integrated into the landscape, softening the edges of the surrounding infrastructure.

Pedestrian circulation beneath I-5, Portland OR. The design of the landscape provides clarity and comfort, and provides ample space for separation of modes on the path. The pedestrian path is bookended by columns in the landscape.

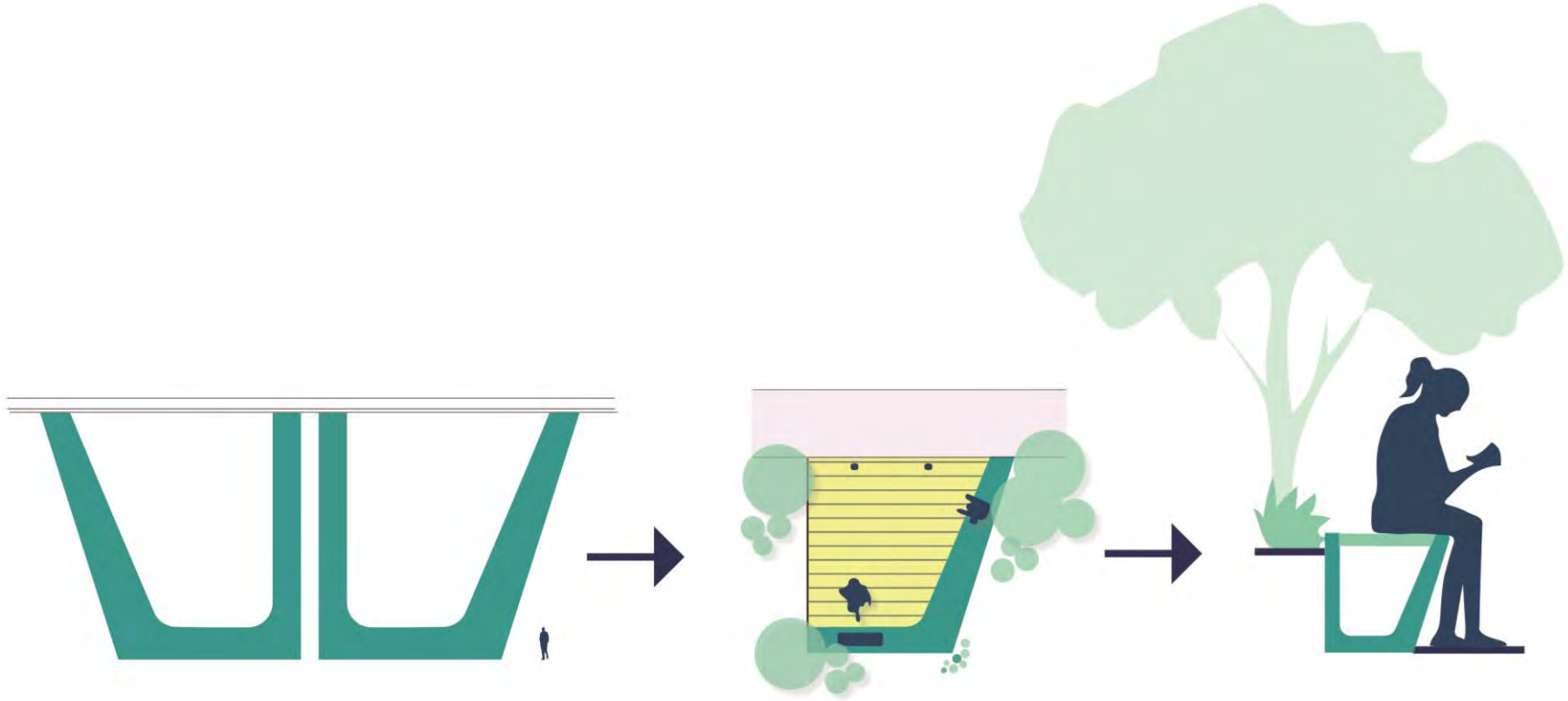
Continuity

Bridge Architecture



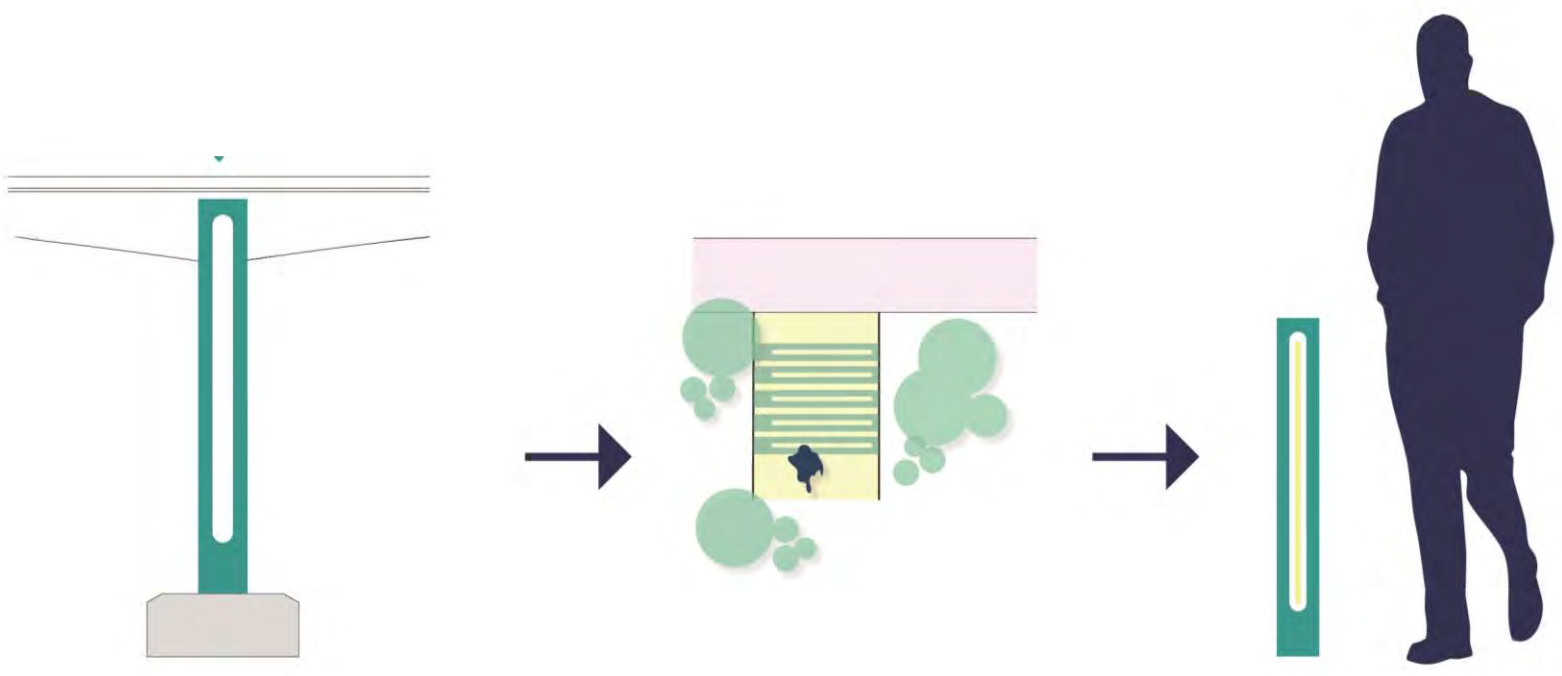
Continuity

Bridge Architecture



Continuity

Bridge Architecture



Continuity

Day Lighting

Continuity

Night Lighting

Context:

The Landscape should act as a **buffer** between the IBR Corridor infrastructure and adjacent land uses, while preserving significant regional views.

Context

Views & Interpretation

Native peoples have inhabited this area since time immemorial; the Columbia River is an important feature and source of food, transportation, and cultural tradition. WSP

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site; U.S. National Park Service.

Interstate Bridge Opening Day; The Columbian.

Context

Equity

Incorporate a **comprehensive strategy** to safeguard the Program Corridor from deterioration and to maintain safety, accessibility, and inclusivity.

Utilize **community engagement** to promote participation and empowerment.

Establish plant and material palettes that reflect the **contextual character** of communities, historic places, and identity of the Pacific Northwest.

Context

Views & Interpretation

Natural

Urban

Context

Views & Interpretation

Natural

Urban

Context

Pedestrian Gateways

Fort Vancouver National Site, Vancouver, WA. Signage and wayfinding identify a change in location or significant moment.

Cathedral Park, Portland, OR. Physical gateways, or portals, highlight a path or view. These gateways can be integrated into infrastructure or standalone features (such as the walls flanking the path).

Vancouver Waterfront, Vancouver, WA. Changes in paving, material, and furniture signifies a transition, and creates a subtle threshold between spaces.

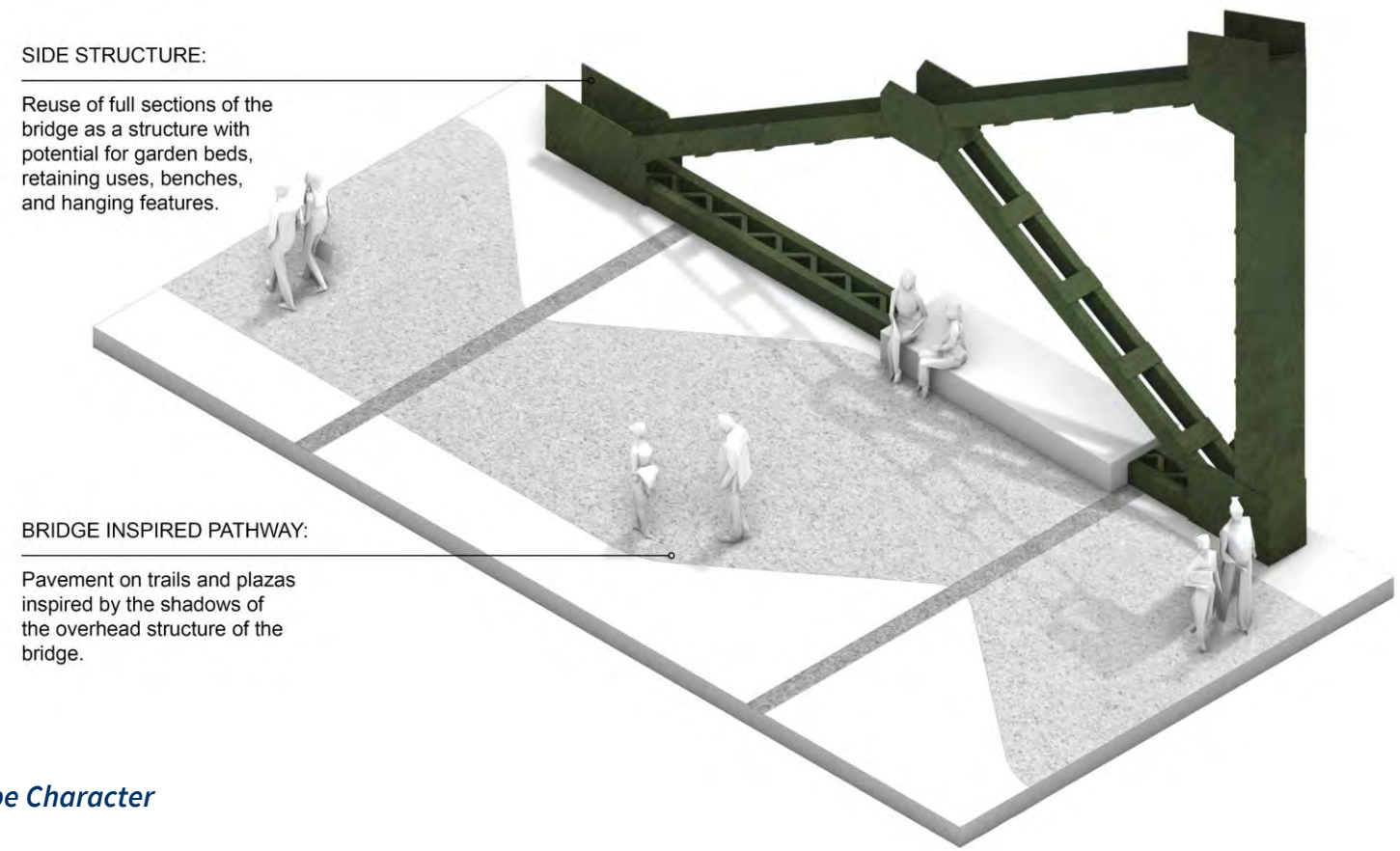
Context

Views & Interpretation

**Aspirational Image of Landscape Character*

Context

Views & Interpretation



**Aspirational Image of Landscape Character*

Context

Screens & Buffers

Fremont Bridge, Portland, OR; The continuous tree canopy along the travel route takes the attention away from the infrastructure and pushes the overhead elements into the background.

Interstate 4 Connector, Tampa, FL; Vegetation around the structures base reduces the perceived height and visual complexity of the infrastructure.

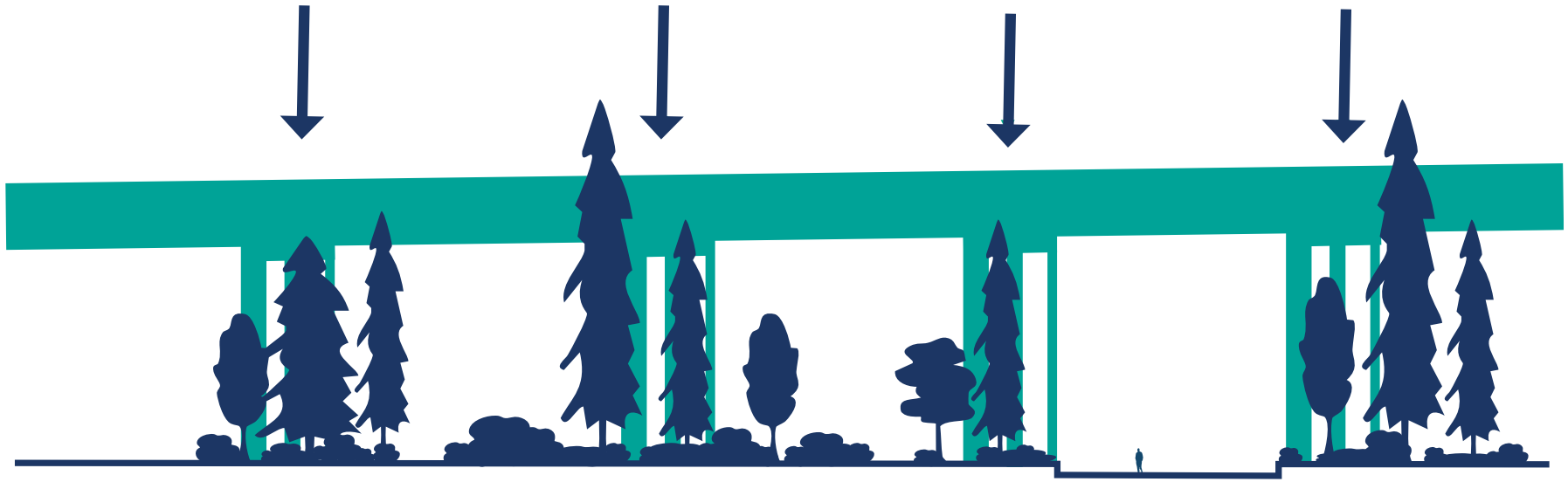
State Route 163 & Interstate 8, San Diego, CA; Tall vegetation disrupts the linear infrastructure, and reduces the perceived horizontal scale.

Context

Screen & Integrate

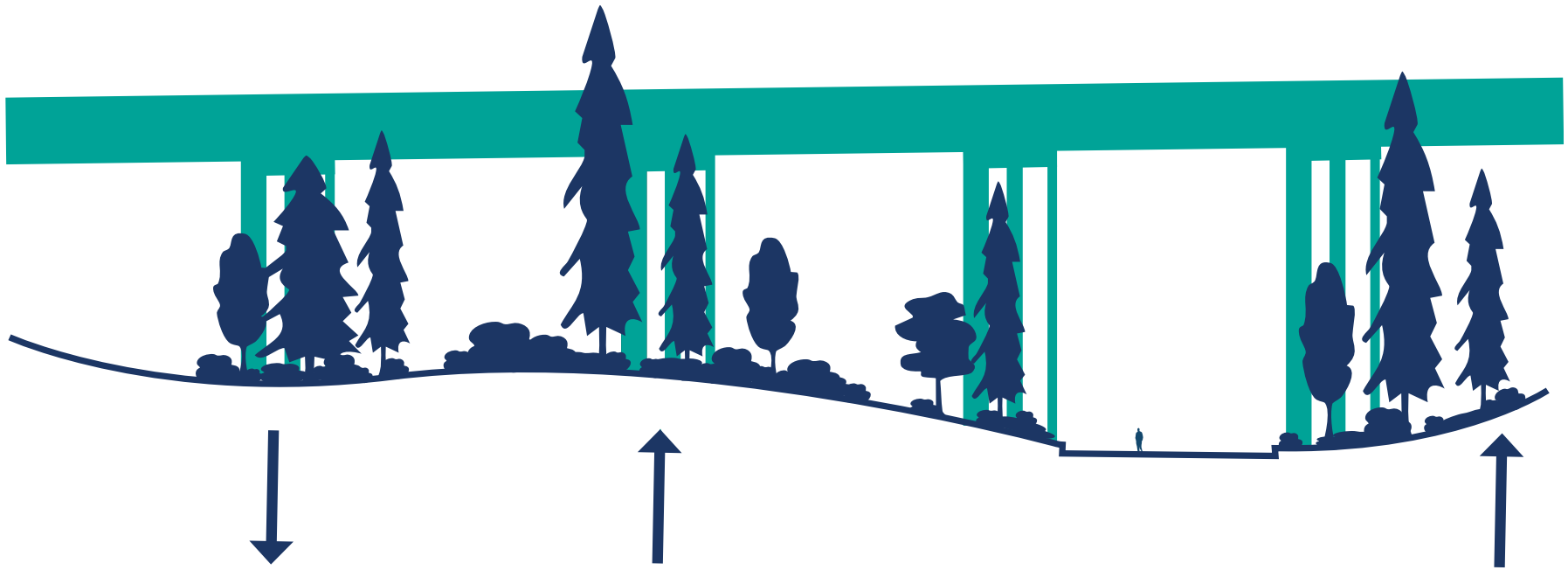
Infrastructure Screening

Screen & Integrate



Infrastructure Screening

Screen & Integrate



Corridor Screening

Screens & Buffers

**Aspirational Images of Landscape Character*

Reduced ROW

Expanded ROW

Ecology:

The design will use residual spaces for **ecosystem services** to contribute to habitat generation, improving air/water quality, and reducing the heat island effect.

Ecology

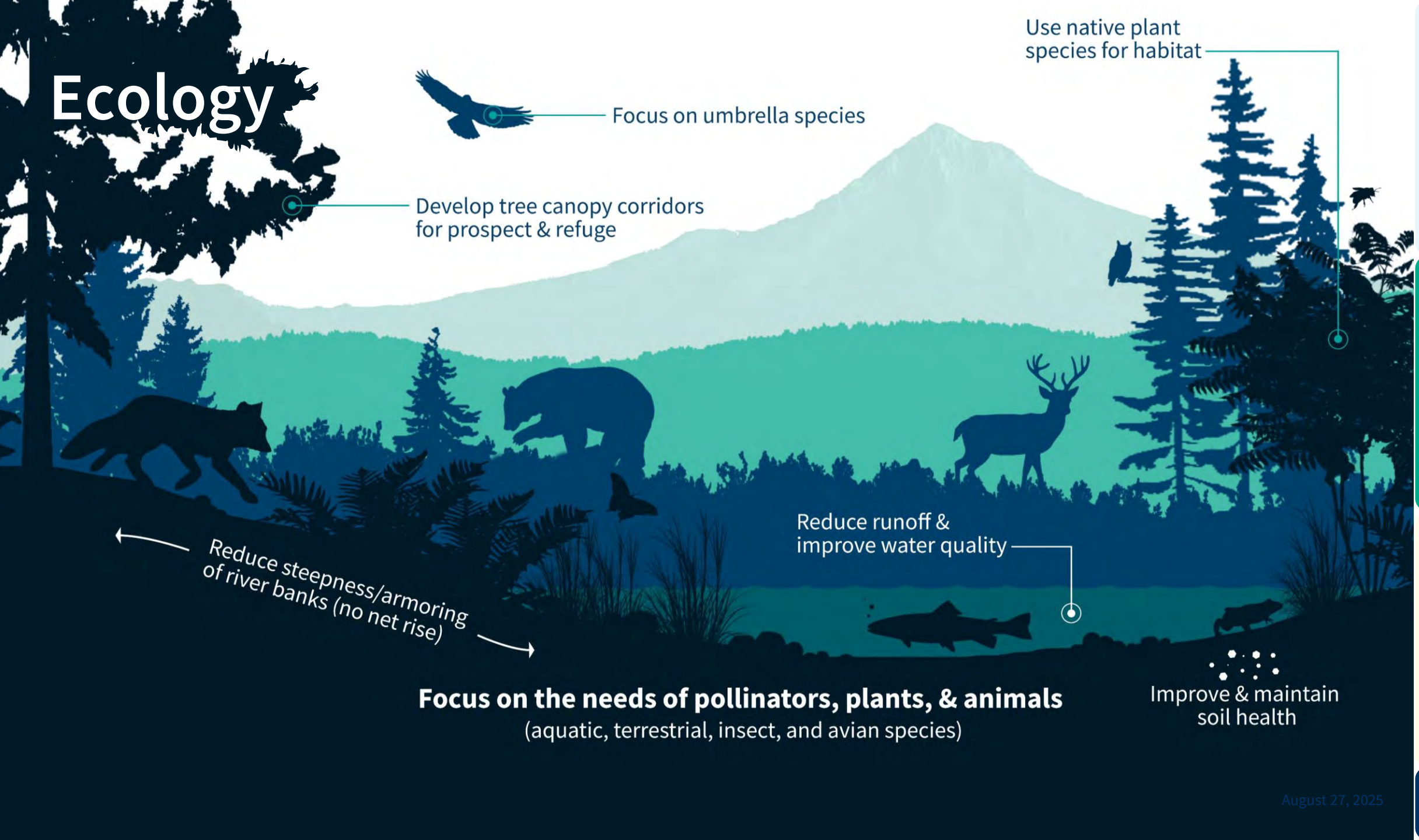
Resiliency & Sustainability

Using **xeric plantings** can increase resiliency by reducing dependency on irrigation during droughts.

Reestablishing oak savannas provides historic habitat and highlights the regions natural character.

The use of **predictive planting** insures long lived species will survive changing climate conditions.

Ecology

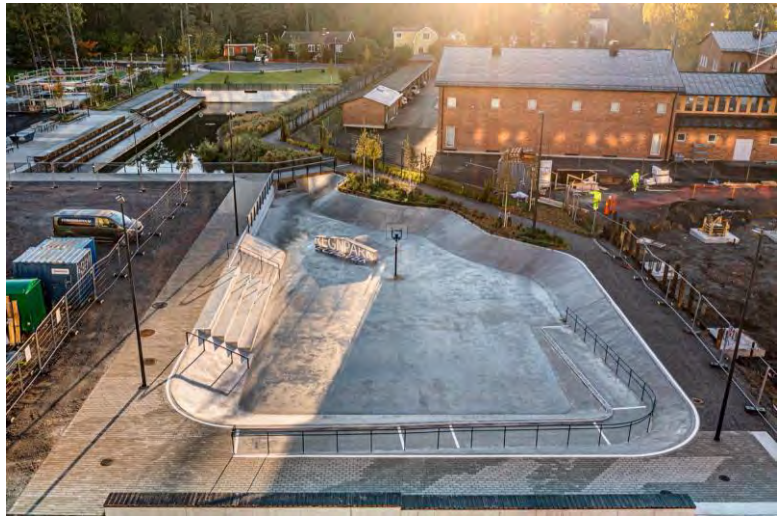

Use native plant species for habitat
Focus on umbrella species
Develop tree canopy corridors for prospect & refuge
Reduce runoff & improve water quality
Reduce steepness/armoring of river banks (no net rise)
Improve & maintain soil health
Focus on the needs of pollinators, plants, & animals
(aquatic, terrestrial, insect, and avian species)

Ecology

Stormwater

Mayfield Park, UK is a floodable landscape that keeps elevated circulation areas usable during storm events.

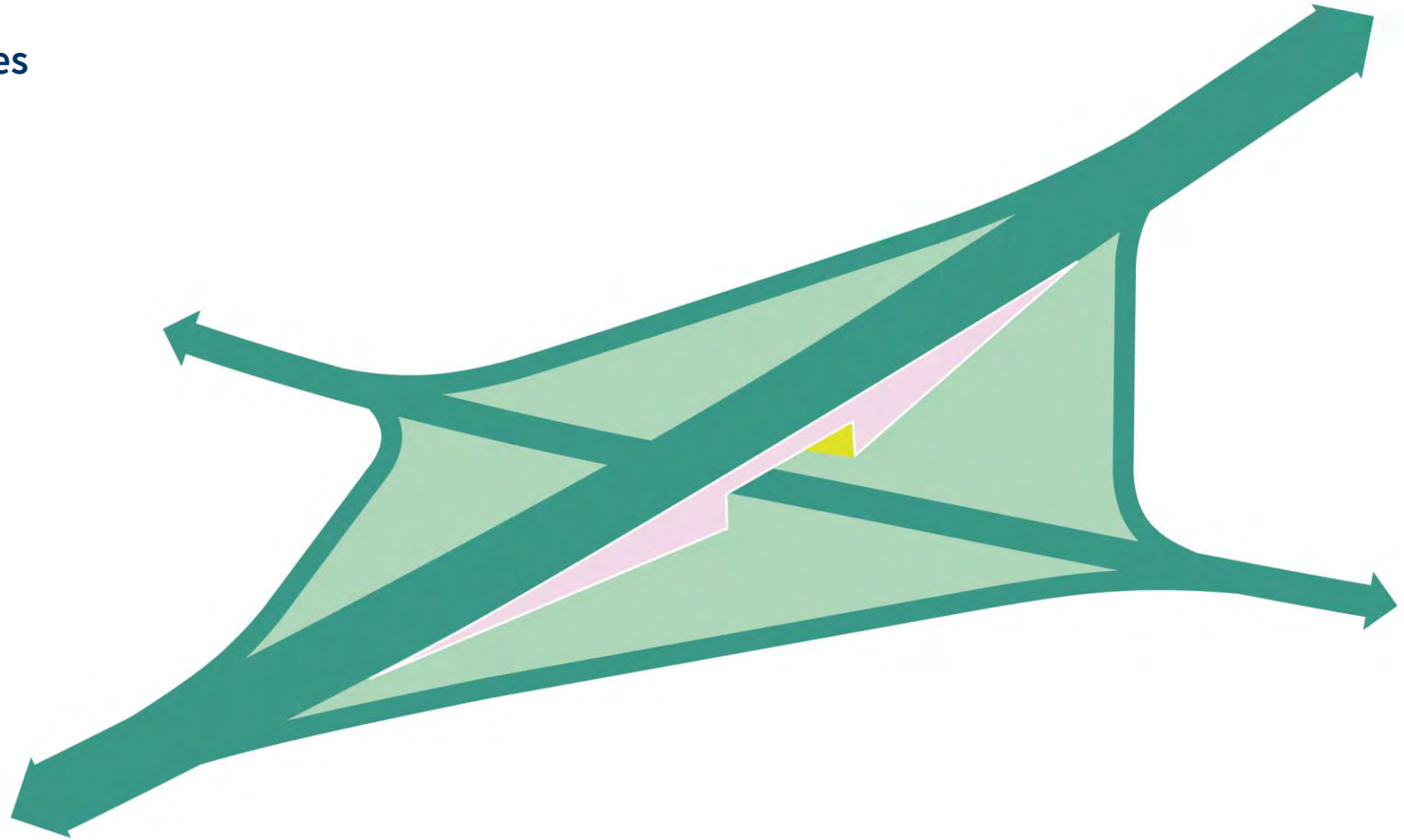
Hunters Point South Waterfront Park, NYC integrates stormwater into open space amenities.



Elsa Eschelssons Park, Sweden, uses a floodable skatepark to expand stormwater capacity during large storms.

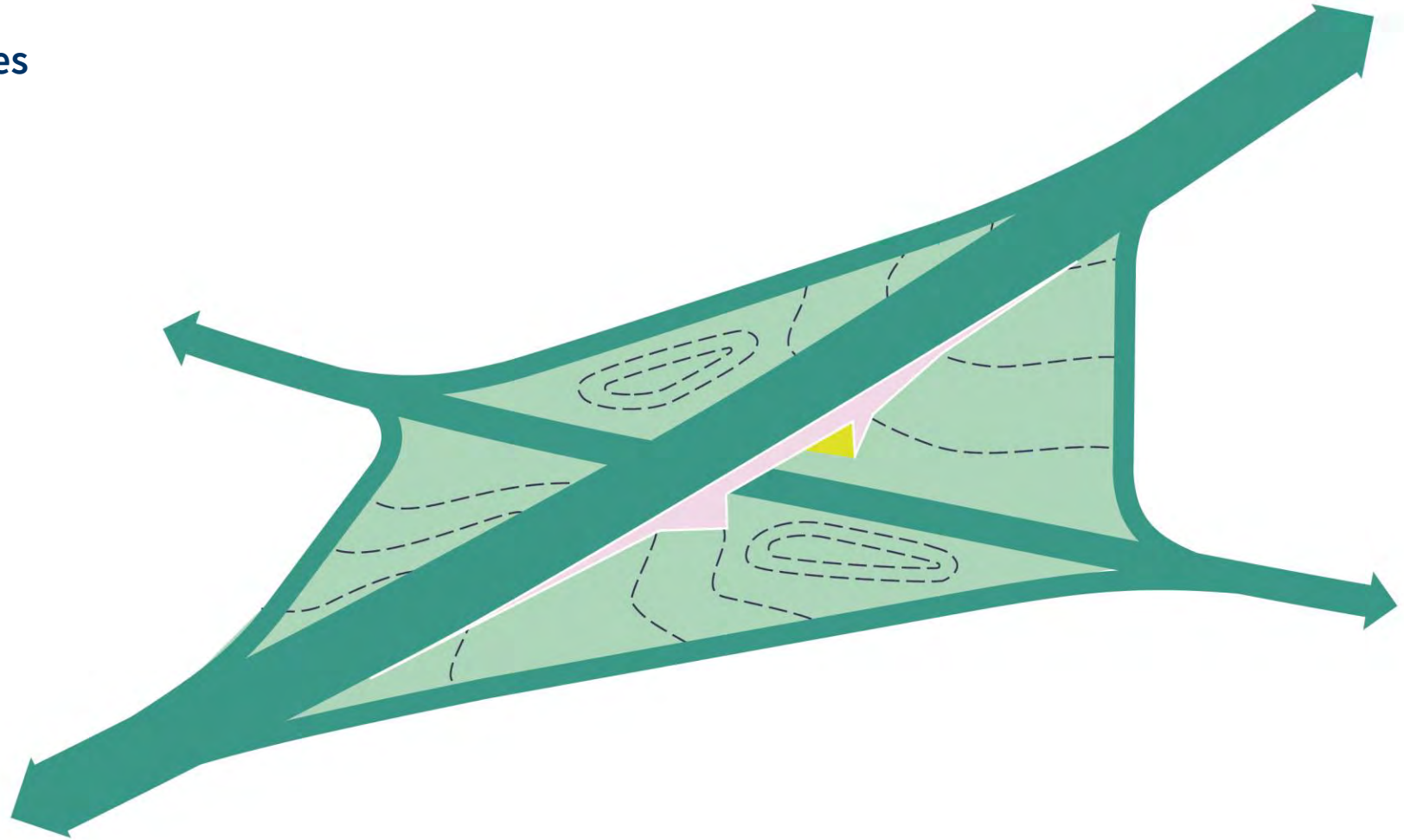
Ecology

Ecosystem Services



Ecology

Ecosystem Services



Ecology

Ecosystem Services

Ecology

Roadway Experience

**Aspirational Image of Landscape Character*

Ecology

Pedestrian/Biking Experience

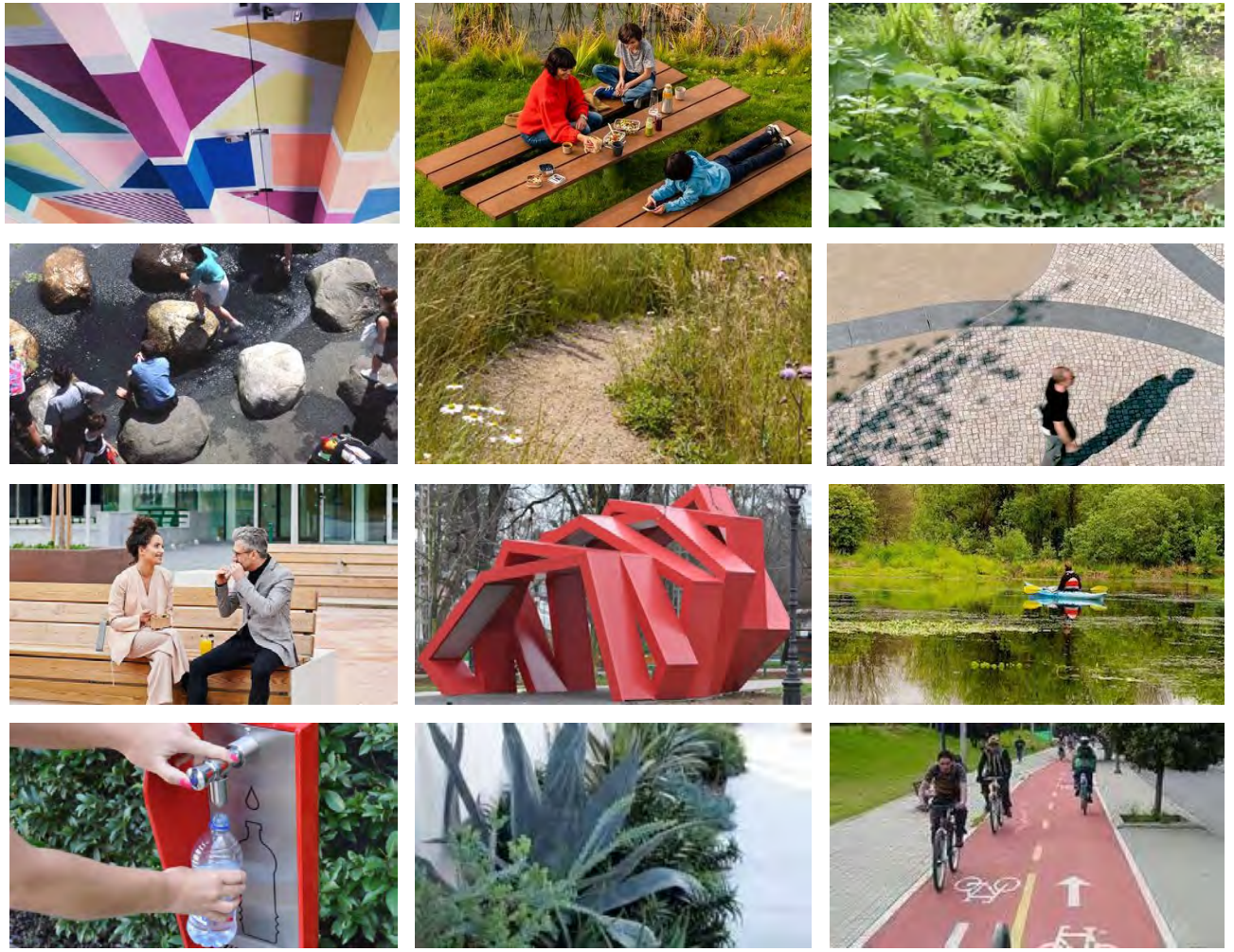
**Aspirational Image of Landscape Character*

Fundamental Design Tools

- Elements
- Speed & Scale
- Hierarchy

Design Principles

- Continuity
- Context
- Ecology



Breakout Session: (15 mins.)

Consider the following questions and use sticky notes to comment on the roll map:

- Is something is missing in the landscape design?
- What elements along the corridor should be celebrated/highlighted in the landscape?

Interstate BRIDGE Replacement Program

Breakout Session in Progress

Landscape Elements

Public Comment

Comment Instructions

To make a verbal comment:

- To make a live comment via phone, dial: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 408 638 0968
  - Meeting ID: 897 7533 8358
  - Passcode: 701942
- Dial *9 to raise your hand
- The facilitator will call on participants to provide comment
- Dial *6 to unmute yourself
- Please provide your name and affiliation
- 10-minute timeframe will be divided among the number of requested speakers

If we run out of time and you have not had a chance to speak, you can still provide comments after the meeting.

Comment Instructions

To submit comments after the meeting:

- Fill out the comment form on the program website or email your comments to **info@interstatebridge.org** with “CAG+EAG Public Comment” in the subject line.

- Call **360-859-0494** (Washington), **503-897-9218** (Oregon), **888-503-6735** (toll-free) and state "CAG+EAG Public Comment" in your message.
- Written comments need to explicitly say “**CAG+EAG Public Comment**” in the subject line or in the body of the message for them to be identified and distributed to CAG and EAG members.
- All written comments must be received prior to 48 hours in advance of each upcoming meeting in order to be distributed to advisory group members. Comments received after that point will be distributed to members in advance of their next meeting.

Next Steps

- **Provide additional feedback:**
  - Send an email: info@interstatebridge.org
  - Call the Program: 360-859-0494 | 503-897-9218 | 888-503-6735
  - Provide public comment and get additional information on the Program website: https://www.interstatebridge.org

Closing

Paige Schlupp, IBR Assistant Program Administrator

Interstate BRIDGE
Replacement Program

For more information contact:

info@interstatebridge.org
360-859-0494 or 503-897-9218
888-503-6735
https://www.interstatebridge.org

Follow us on social: @IBRprogram

Thank you!

www.interstatebridge.org