

Public Responses to Landscape Master Plan Presentation
Thursday April 17, 2008

A. LIGHTING

Most participants were in favor of the lighting concepts. All groups liked the globe lighting/cotton concept at the Highway 59 interchange. Other favorable ideas that received positive feedback include: lighting the railroad bridge, pedestrian scale lighting, downtown lighting, hanging lights.

B. SIGNAGE

Participants were also in favor of distinctive signage concepts, particularly for the downtown historic districts. Participants expressed a desire for directional signage, guiding to different points of interest throughout the towns. Participants also wanted to employ signage that unifies the district, but still maintains individual identities for the 2 towns.

C. BIKE PATHS/TRAILS

Participants wanted clarification on the purpose of the proposed bike paths/walking trails throughout towns: Are you proposing these because you think we walk a lot, or because you're trying to change our habits? If these paths are implemented they must have adequate safety lighting and ample shade from trees in order for people to really use them. Houston Wilderness could be a helpful resource for planning trails.

D. REFORESTATION

Some participants liked the highway reforestation concept, but others were concerned about reducing visibility to private properties along the highway. Suggestion to use the ag extension's list of native plant material, because certain species (like pines) won't do well in this area.

E. HIGHWAY NODE TREATMENTS

All participants favored the Cottonfield scheme. Participants suggested to pick the 2 most important nodes, 59@ 762 and 59@36, and work on those first. Another area for consideration is the Bamore/Cottonwood area near 59. Any treatment applied should have a 'wow' factor and draw people into the towns.

F. BRAZOS RIVERFRONT PARK

Some participants felt strongly that the proposed canoe/kayak landing was not a good idea because the Brazos River is too wild for canoeing. However, other participants said it might be a good idea because the Houston Wilderness group is proposing a canoe trail throughout the Houston area that would include part of the Brazos River. Participants also expressed concern that the river edges have very unstable soils- maybe keep certain elements of the park design, but scale back a bit from the edge.

G. DOWNTOWN TREATMENTS

Participants liked the 'bulb out' concept, but did not want to diminish parking capacity in downtown areas- maybe provide additional parking nearby? Bicycle racks, trashcans, benches and lighting are all welcome additions to the downtown areas.

H. ROADWAY TREATMENTS

Participants favored the open ditch idea versus curb and gutter because ditches could be 'greened' with wetland plants, more attractive. Participants also reinforced the idea that access management along Highway 90 is very important- must be organized, more uniform, less free-for-all.