

Community Participation in the Final Bridge Design and Public Participation throughout Construction



The FIGG-designed Penobscot Narrows Bridge & Observatory in Maine has won 14 design awards including the American Road and Transportation Builders Association PRIDE Award in 2006 for First Place in Community Relations.

The Figg Bridge Design Charette™ process will be used to involve the community in selecting various aesthetic features for the project. This design charette process has been used successfully in cities across America to involve the local community in the development of world-class bridge aesthetics.

A full-day Bridge Design Charette will be held early in the final design process (week of October 22nd is currently being identified) to bring a balance of stakeholders together from area residential communities, businesses, governmental officials, civic groups, education interests and cultural institutions to make choices on such items as final bridge pier shape, color, bridge railing, gateway monuments, feature lighting and landscaping.

Linda Figg, President/CEO/Director of Bridge Art for FIGG, and the project's Visual Quality Manager will lead the community design charette. Mn/DOT and the project aesthetic design team will work together with the community in this important process.

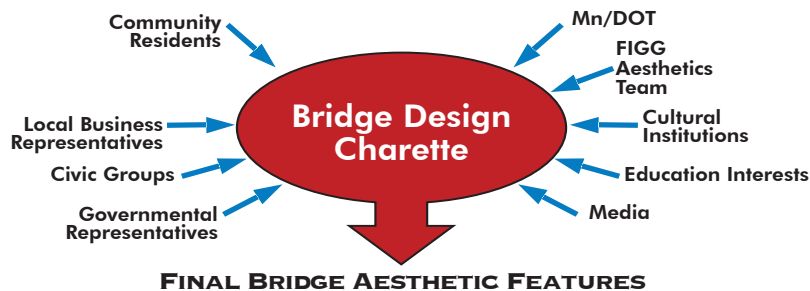
During FIGG's Bridge Design Charette™, participants are assembled and follow a set agenda. Options for specific bridge elements are presented and explained. A copy of the information will be distributed to the participants who will then be encouraged to openly discuss the options, using handheld microphones so that everyone hears all comments. Once the discussion is complete, participants vote on that particular aspect of the bridge. On-site computers tally the results, which are then shared with the entire group and used to finalize the bridge design.



A charette was an artisan's cart used in the Middle Ages. Pushing the charette through the local community aroused interest that a new project was underway and those with an interest would come to express their opinions.

Additionally, separate design charettes will be held with the community on the memorial.

For upcoming information on the community involvement through the design charette, stay tuned to Mn/DOT's web site at www.dot.state.mn.us/i35wbridge/rebuild/index.html,



Symbol of people coming together to select final aesthetic features.

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Public Participation throughout Construction

Bridge Kiosks:

Kiosks around Minneapolis will document the construction process and will serve as a learning tool for all ages. Kiosks will explain what activities are underway as well as preview upcoming activities.

Sidewalk Superintendent Talks:

Weekly informal question and answer sessions where the design/build team can interact with the community and answer questions about current and upcoming on-site construction activities.

Webcams at Bridge Site:

Webcams will be provided for continuous viewing of the construction for real time information.

Educational Outreach – Encouraging today's Minnesota students to be tomorrow's engineers and contractors:

- Provide FIGG Bridge Box – a custom created educational tool for schools.
- Educational web feeds to classrooms in real-time from construction site.
- Weekend classes for children will be provided through the Science Museum of Minneapolis.
- Quarterly design and construction updates to engineering students at the University of Minnesota.

Commitment to Mitigate Construction Noise:

Elements of the bridge are designed so that potentially noisy construction practices can be avoided/minimized wherever possible. To the maximum extent possible, noisy activities will be scheduled to occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

