



Hwy 371 & Hwy 210 Aesthetics

August 18, 2026

Visual Quality Advisory Committee

VQAC Purpose:

- The purpose of the VQAC is to help the Visual Quality Manager and Visual Quality Project Team articulate and understand what the community values and to ensure that the vision, goals, and objectives of this project are achieved.
- Provide information for the development of the VQ guidance document.

VQAC Role:

- Provide local insight.
- Provide comments and input.
- Help develop alternatives for elements affecting visual quality.
- Ensure objectives are achieved.

Community Members:

Chuck Anderson
Chris Klein
Dr. Steve Schmid
Jim Haakonson
Kevin Donnay
Mark Cross
Rob Larson
Sandy Zutz-Wiczek
Theresa McCormick
Trevor Pumnea
Brad Chapulis – City of Baxter
Josh Doty – City of Baxter

Vision Statement

The TH 371 and TH 210 interchange will reflect Baxter's identity as a lakes and forest community grounded in the character of northern Minnesota while embracing a future of growth and vitality. The interchange design will create a welcoming environment, that feels rooted in place and reinforces what people value about living in, visiting, and shopping in the community.

Drawing inspiration from the surrounding geography, the interchange will express a cohesive visual shaped by regional patterns, textures, and locally resonant materials. These elements will guide design decisions in a way that feels authentic, timeless, and distinctly Baxter.

The project will balance forward-looking infrastructure with respect for the community's history, including its ties to forestry, rail, and the evolution of the Lakes Region. Thoughtful integration of multi-modal paths and access to green space will support general wellness and accessibility, strengthening connections across the community and enhancing the overall experience of transportation in Baxter – creating a seam rather than a barrier in the heart of the community.

Aesthetic Cost & Maintenance Participation

- Aesthetic are anything above a base bridge
 - A base pedestrian bridge is plain concrete with straight picket ornamental metal railing
- Pedestrian or Aesthetic Lighting
 - Maintenance & power costs are responsibility of local agency
- Custom Features
 - Maintenance is responsibility of local agency

Aesthetic Cost Participation

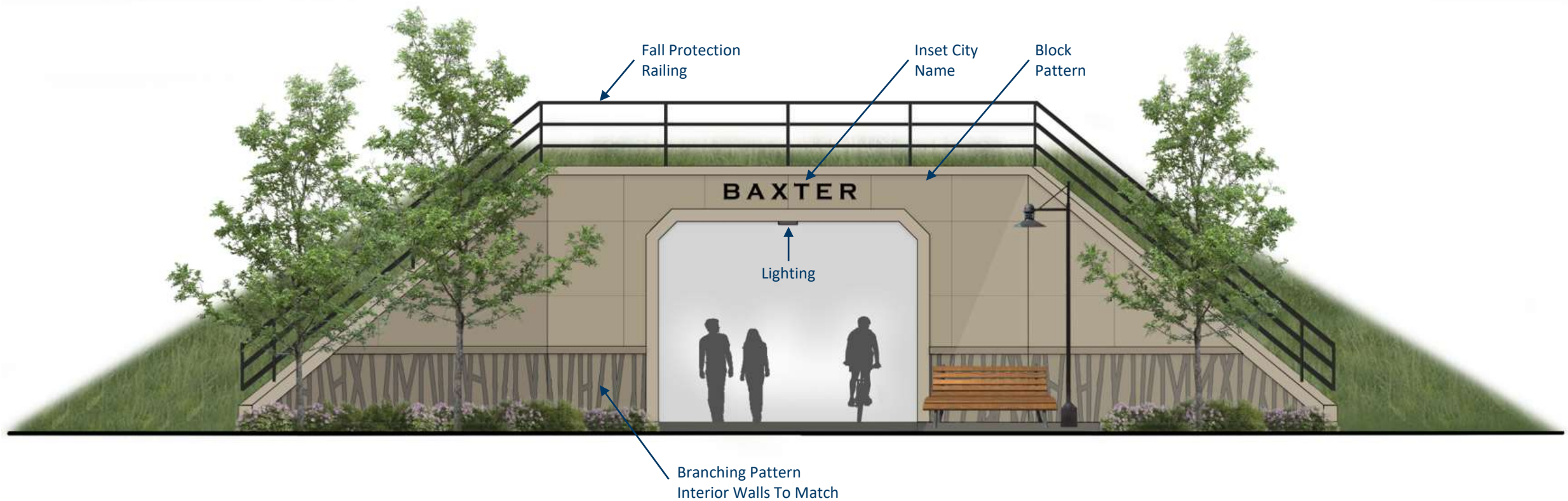
Structure	Level A	Level B	Level C	Level D
Bridges	Determined on a project-by-project basis	7% Not to exceed \$500,000 per bridge	5% Not to exceed \$500,000 per bridge	Base or standard only
Retaining Walls	Determined on a project-by-project basis	12%	10%	1% or standard treatment

- Allowances are calculated independently for each structure and are not transferable between structures.
- Aesthetic costs exceeding the limits are the responsibility of the local unit of government. Calculated at bidding.
- Participation percentages for aesthetic elements will not be adjusted based on bid prices.

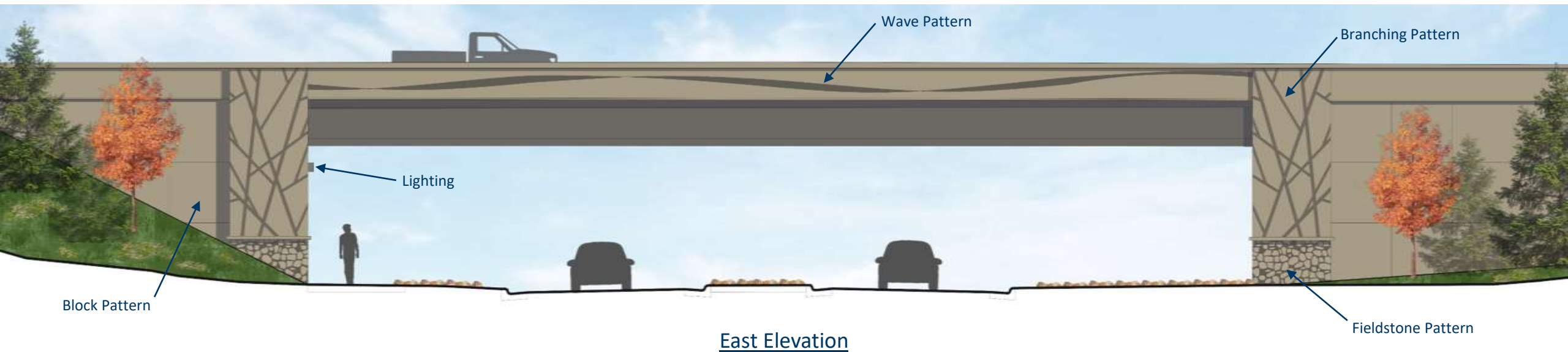
Aesthetic Cost Participation

Structure	Scoping Cost Estimate	Aesthetic Allowance
Bridge 18011 MN 371 over MN 210 & BNSF Rail	\$15,120,000 5/22/2025 Scoping Estimate	\$500,000 Maximum
Bridge 18012 MN 371 over Excelsior Road	\$2,700,000 6/3/2026 Scoping Estimate	\$189,000
Pedestrian Culvert 18X09 MN 371 Ramp over Ped. Trail	\$1,075,800 6/16/2026 Scoping Estimate	\$75,306

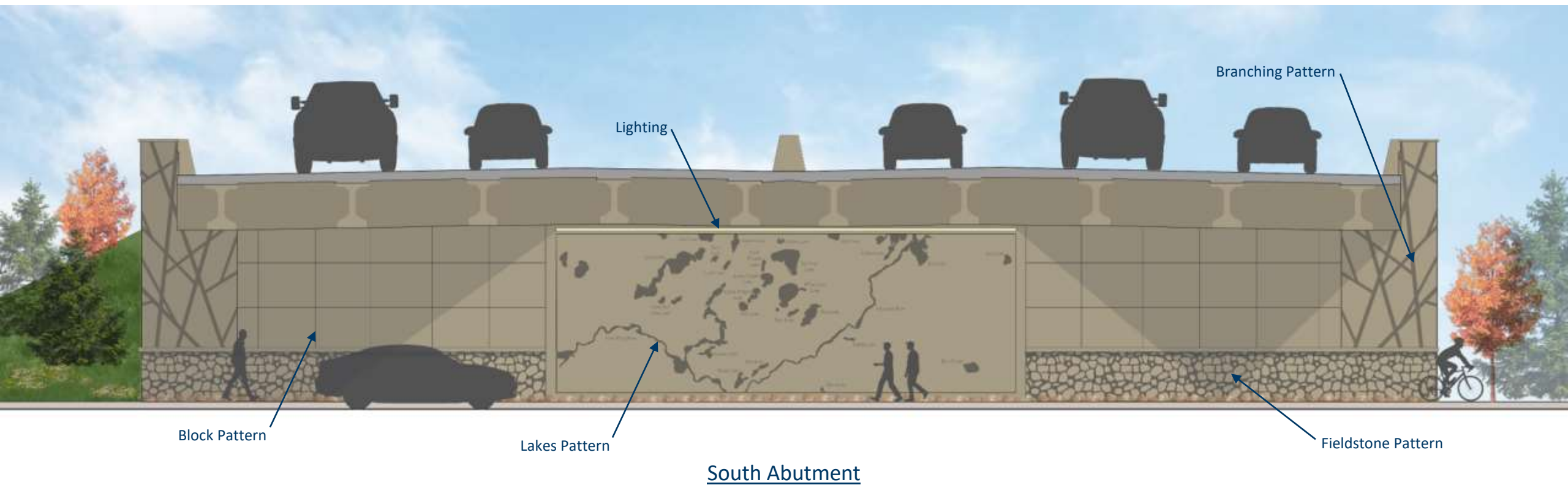
Pedestrian Underpass Concept



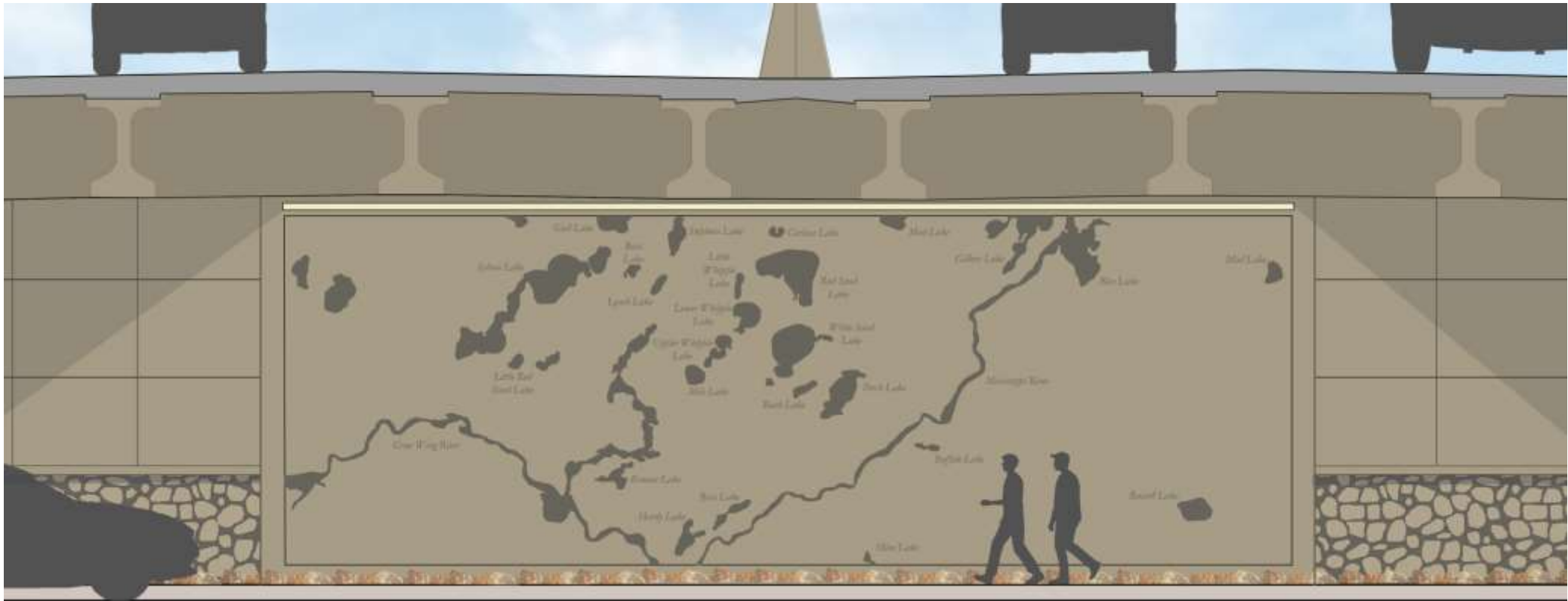
Hwy 371 / Excelsior Concept



Hwy 371 / Excelsior Concept

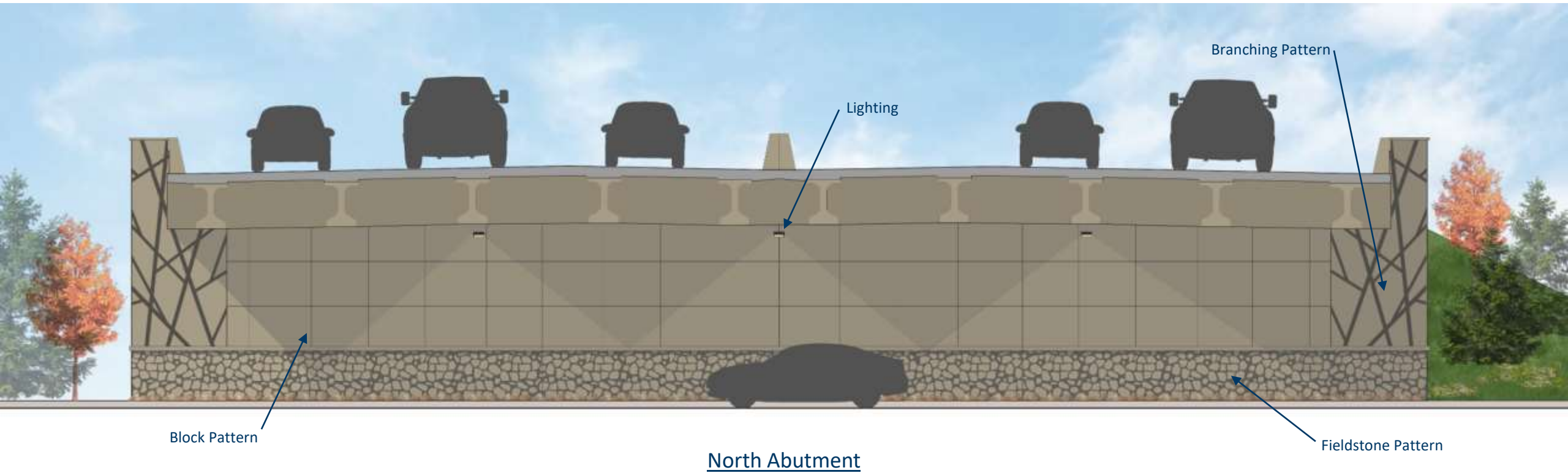


Hwy 371 / Excelsior Concept

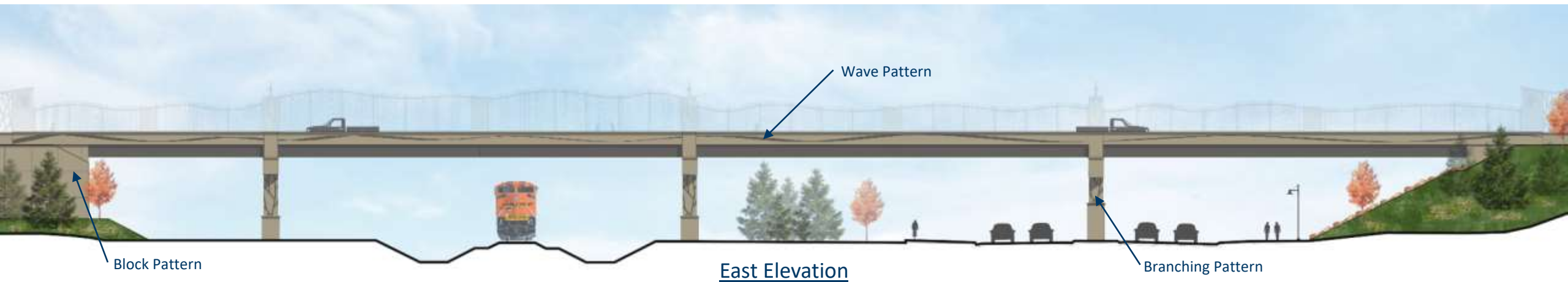


South Abutment

Hwy 371 / Excelsior Concept



Hwy 371 / Hwy 210 Concept

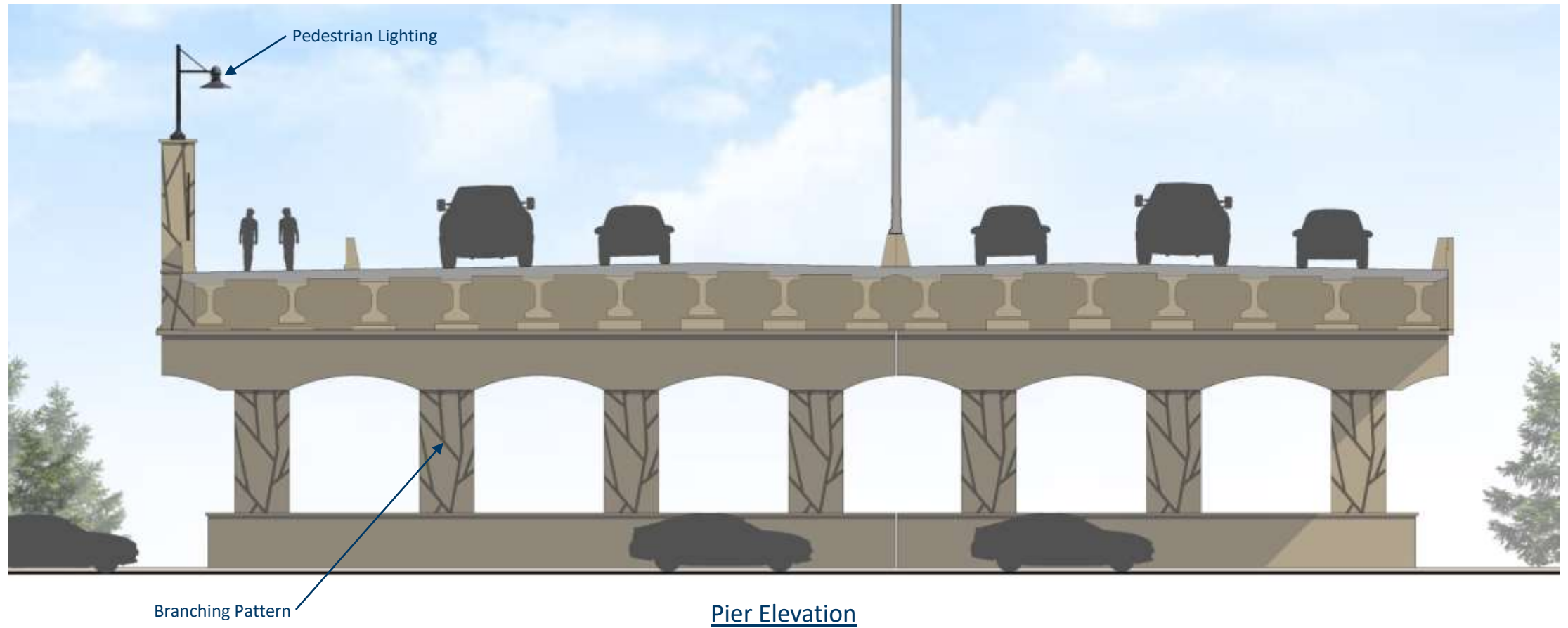


Hwy 371 / Hwy 210 Concept

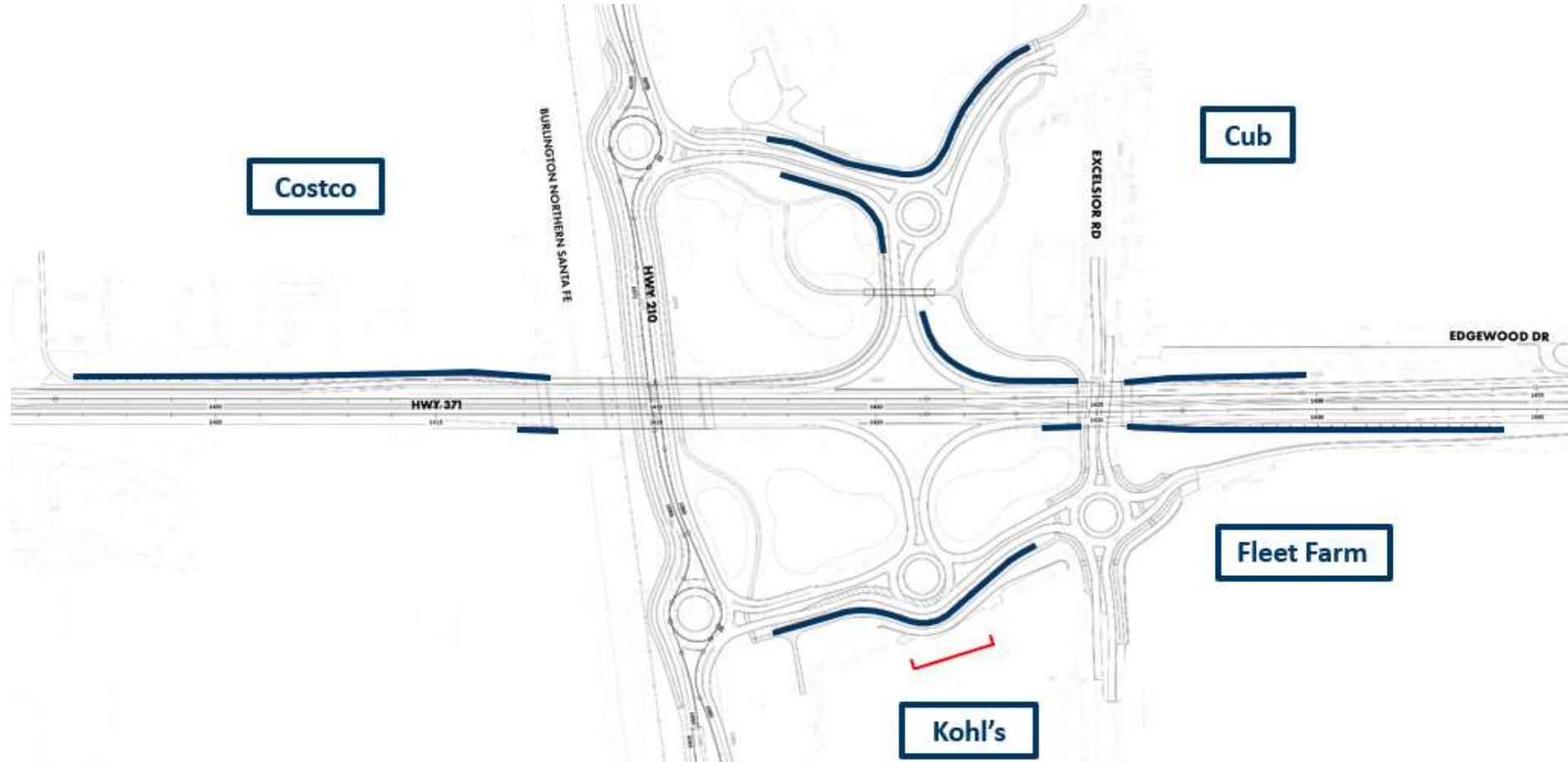


West Elevation

Hwy 371 / Hwy 210 Concept

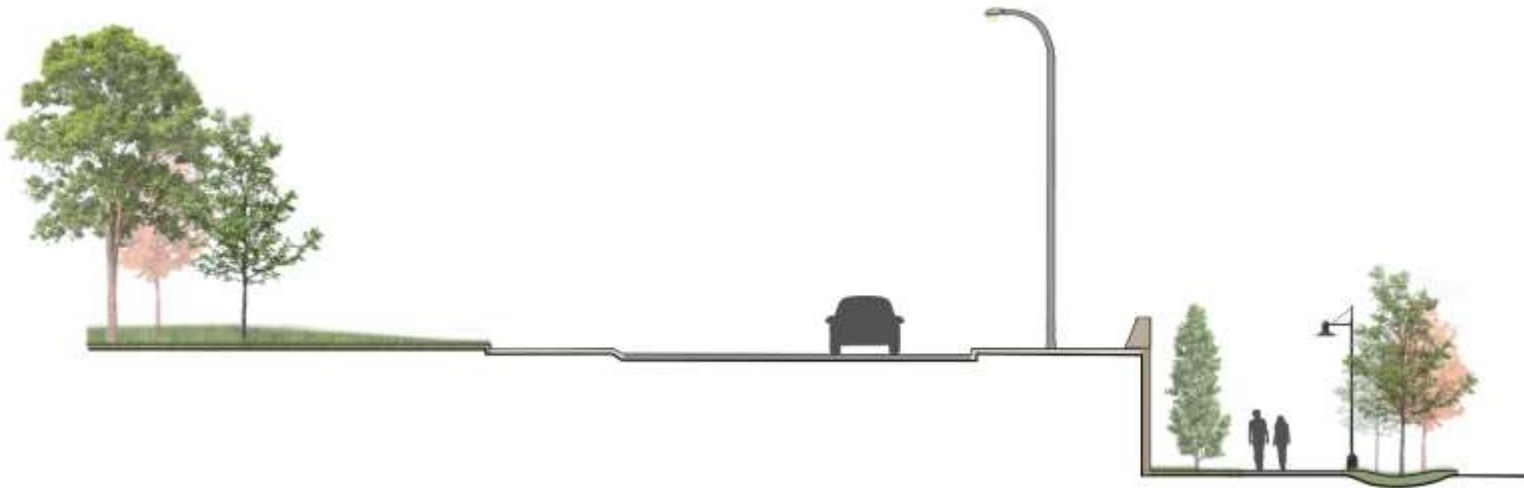


Retaining Wall Concept

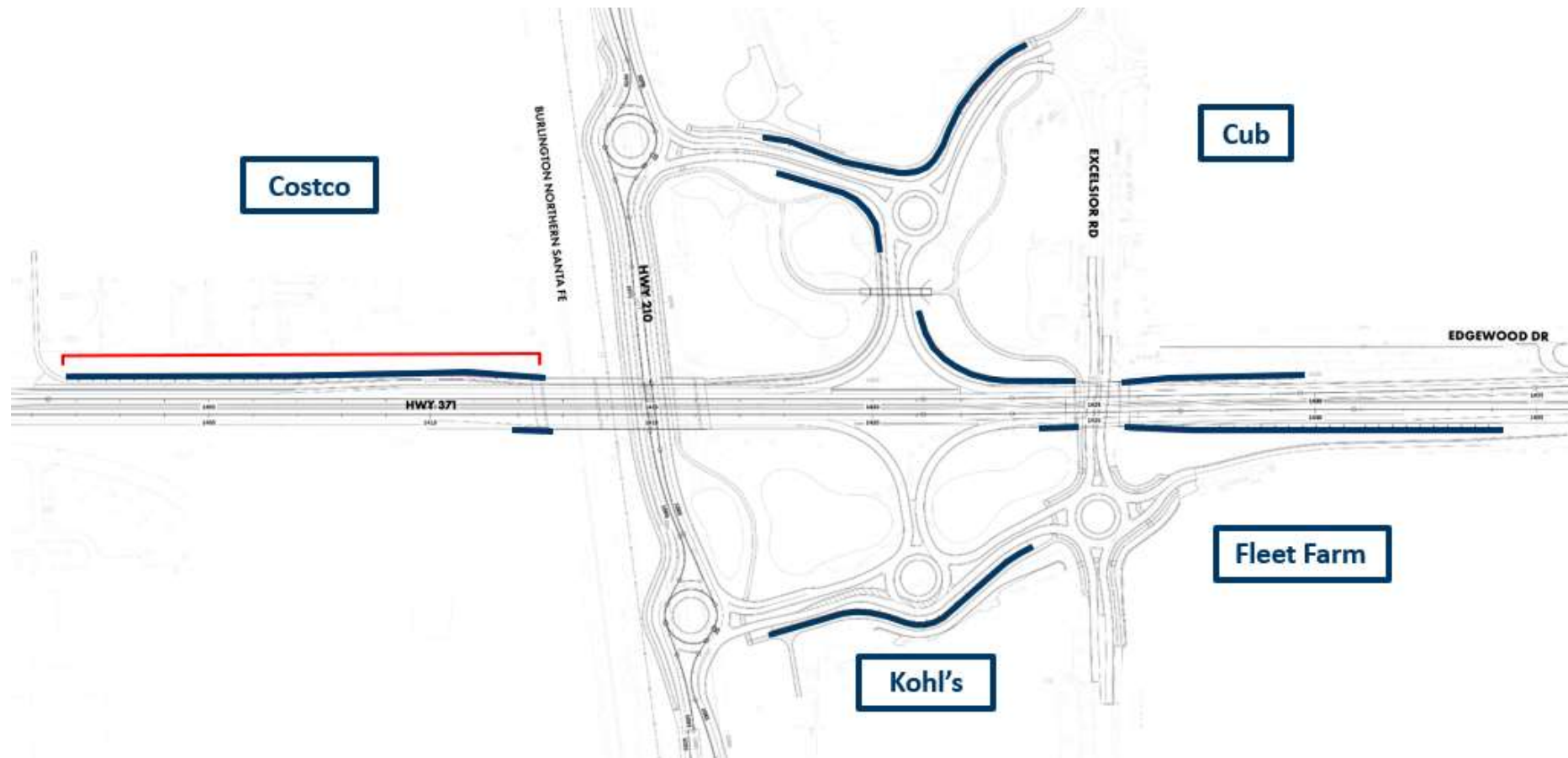


Retaining Wall Concept

View from Kohl's



Retaining Wall Concept



Retaining Wall Concept

View from Costco



Aesthetic Cost Participation

Structure	Aesthetic Allowance & Estimate	Partner Contribution
Bridge 18011 MN 371 over MN 210 & BNSF Rail	\$500,000 Maximum	\$93,450 City Contribution
Bridge 18012 MN 371 over Excelsior Road	\$189,000 Allowance \$163,650 Estimate	\$0
Pedestrian Culvert 18X09 MN 371 Ramp over Ped. Trail	\$75,306 Allowance \$61,162 Estimate	\$0

Discussion & Questions



Thank you again!

Melissa Schultz

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