

Wasena Bridge Replacement

DATE AND TIME	Tuesday October 16, 2018 at 7:00pm
LOCATION	Alexander Gish House, 641 Walnut Ave SW
SUBJECT	Focus Group Meeting #1 (<u>Old Southwest, Inc.</u>)
ATTACHED	Agenda List of community attendants Meeting Notes completed during the meeting

The second of three public meetings was held in the historic house Alexander Gish House. The meeting was a standalone project meeting specifically for the Wasena Bridge. A community meeting is held regularly on the third Thursday of every month. The meeting started around 7:00 and lasted for one and a half hours.

Approximately 15 people attended the meeting. The presentation was started by city staff, followed by Mattern & Craig, and finished by Volkert. The powerpoint presentation introduced the public to basic bridge design principles, concepts about visual design elements, and aesthetic qualities. The goal is to initiate a meaningful dialogue early in the design process. The presentation was well received followed by a discussion about concerns and design preferences.

The city has a public engagement campaign for this project. Ms. Whitney Slightham was in attendance and announced the current engagements with local businesses and residents who will be impacted by the project. A project website can be found at <https://planroanoke.org/wasena-bridge/>

The meeting notes taken that night are attached, and are summarized below:

- The community has concerns about traffic impacts during construction, especially if the bridge is closed for several years. Detour plans need to consider keeping local businesses profitable and not clog local streets like Ferdinand Street.
- Consider constructing a temporary pedestrian / bicycle bridge to allow accessibility and connectivity during the construction of the bridge.

- Provide meaningful (horizontal) separation between modes of transportation, and create a place for pedestrians to take in the view of the mountains at the top (north end) of the bridge – at this end of the bridge there is a great view of the mountain which should be capitalized. Consider a vertical separation between vehicles and pedestrians as well. This would allow pedestrians 360 degree viewing opportunities of the landscape – so if a pedestrian is against the bridge railing one view is directly down to the park and beyond, and another view is over the moving cars to the mountains (see sketch).
- The bridge should be a symbol of strength and a statement of Roanoke’s resilience – use of materials is important such as stone and steel. The design should find places to incorporate artwork made by local artists. Try to reuse material from the old bridge, and find places to incorporate existing historic plaques/markers located on the existing concrete bridge railings somewhere in the new design.
- The new bridge will have an impact on the surrounding community and should therefore support the park below. Coordinate with the Parks Department on programmable spaces such as the Skate Park, basketball courts, and boat launches below the bridge. Provide better pedestrian access from the bridge to the park, as well as access for bicyclists.
- Do not over illuminate the bridge.
- Think outside the box! Create something unique which could provide benefits beyond transportation to the surrounding communities and the city of Roanoke. The bridge should be part of a long-term sustainability effort. Can the bridge be designed to harness power - via solar, wind, water power or something else? Consider harnessing kinetic energy created by the traffic volume on the bridge. Investigate the possibility of converting kinetic energy to electricity by harvesting the mechanical energy created when a vehicle passes over a patch of pavement.
- Use cables to replace piers and save the old bridge.

Team Members participating in the meeting:

Josephus Johnson-Koroma, City of Roanoke
 Luke Pugh, City of Roanoke
 Whitney Slightham, City of Roanoke
 Chad Thomas, Mattern & Craig
 Oliver Boehm, Volkert
 Brendan August, Volkert

Next Steps:

Focus Group Meeting January 8 with Mountain View Community

Welcome

Study and Design of the Wasena Bridge

Old Southwest, Inc.

Location: Alexander Gish House, 641 Walnut Ave SW

Meeting #1: October 16, 2018 @ 7:00pm

Three separate meetings will be held with each neighborhood impacted by this project. The goal is to introduce the project and solicit input separately because each neighborhood has slightly different needs and perspectives.

Agenda for Focus Group Meeting

1. Team introductions and purpose of the meeting
2. Overview of the need to replace the bridge. Description of the City's inventory process and background information about the project.
3. Presentation of the overall project schedule. Dates of the other Focus Group Meeting(s):
 - 10/4 Wasena (completed)
 - 1/8 Mountain View
4. Introduction of the public engagement process.
5. Brainstorming with the public.

Next Steps: **Old Southwest Focus Group Meeting #2:** February 19, 2019 @ 7:00pm
Display of preliminary bridge design

For additional information please visit

<https://planroanoke.org/wasena-bridge/>

Space for comments has been provided on the back of this sheet. Please feel free to leave any comments you may have with the team. Thank you!

Comments:



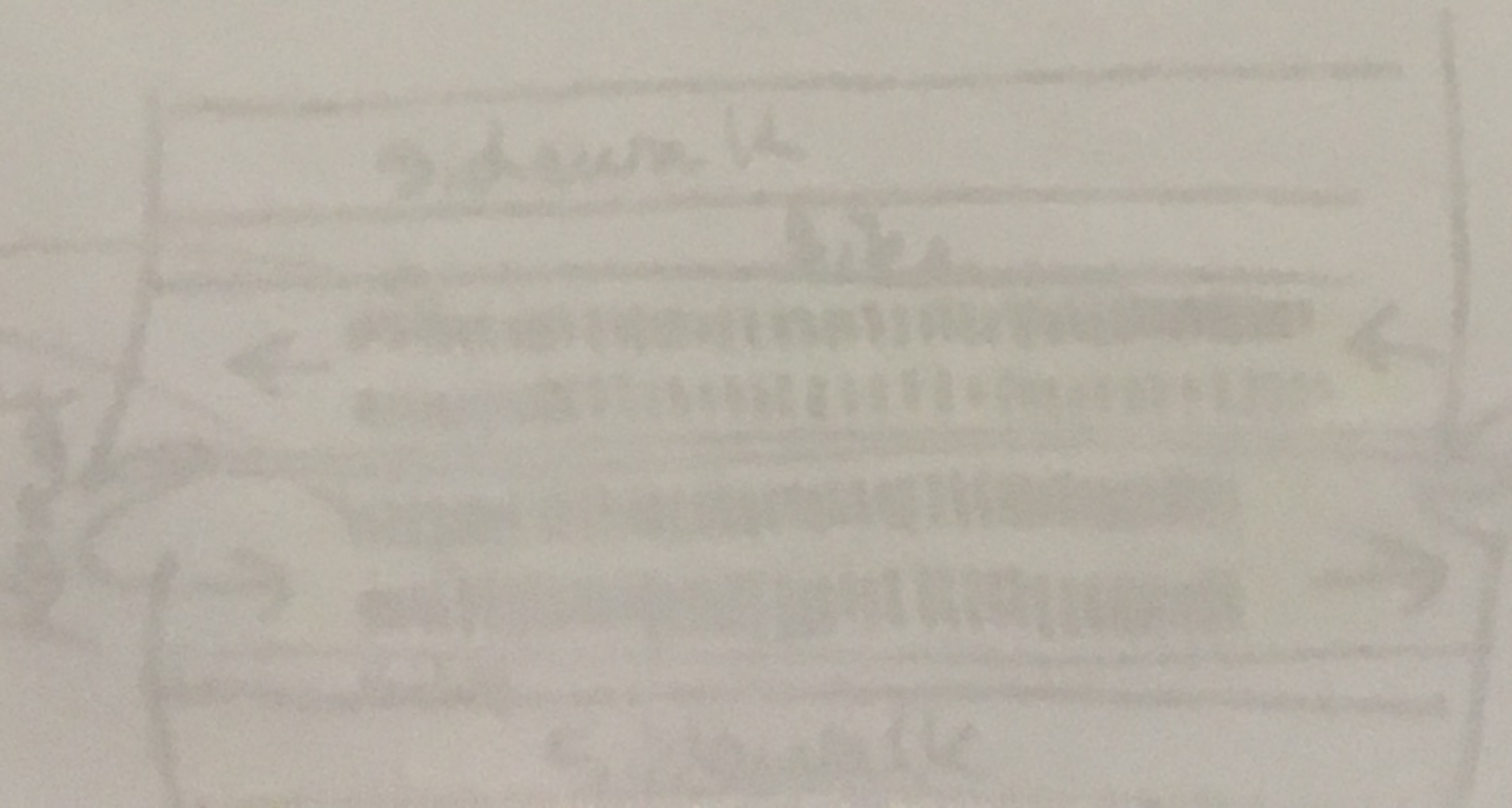
WASENA BRIDGE MEETING 10/16

- connects neighborhoods directly
 - how can we accommodate useful program under the bridge
- experience as you travel along the bridge (ped + vehicular) and view the surrounding areas
- fantastic views from ~~existing~~ existing bridge
- access from new bridge to the park below
- detour plans (MOT)
- ensure that people understand traffic patterns due to construction
- temporary pedestrian/cycle bridge during construction
 - opportunity for something more permanent
- Ferdinand is highly traveled already avoid rerouting
- Physical separation between modes of traffic

- long-term sustainability
 - reuse of existing material
 - less material use w/ cable or suspension to remove the need to use piers
- What else can the bridge do?
 - can it provide energy/waterwheel/wind
 - look into innovative technologies the bridge can incorporate to provide services back to the residents of Poanoke

*Energy generating pavement

- Think outside the box to provide something unique and innovative and beneficial to the city
- ~~places~~ places for art installations
- don't lose the historic character of the bridge
- how can we remove the piers slowly to keep the existing bridge deck using tensile, embedded into bedrock
- public plaza; south end of the bridge, connections to the park
- kayaking / public beach (further connections to the water)
- reach out to skate club
- maintain views (emphasis on pedestrian use)
- timed ~~lights~~ lights
- don't over illuminate the bridge (respect the natural beauty of the surrounding area)
- How many vehicles per day?
- yellow belt / blue belt (Pittsburgh)
 - ↳ signage for detours
- 2 bridges during construction



Investigate possibility to integrate renewable energy devices on the bridge, such as energy sensors in areas where cars are likely to travel.

• Look @ traffic coming from Ferdinand

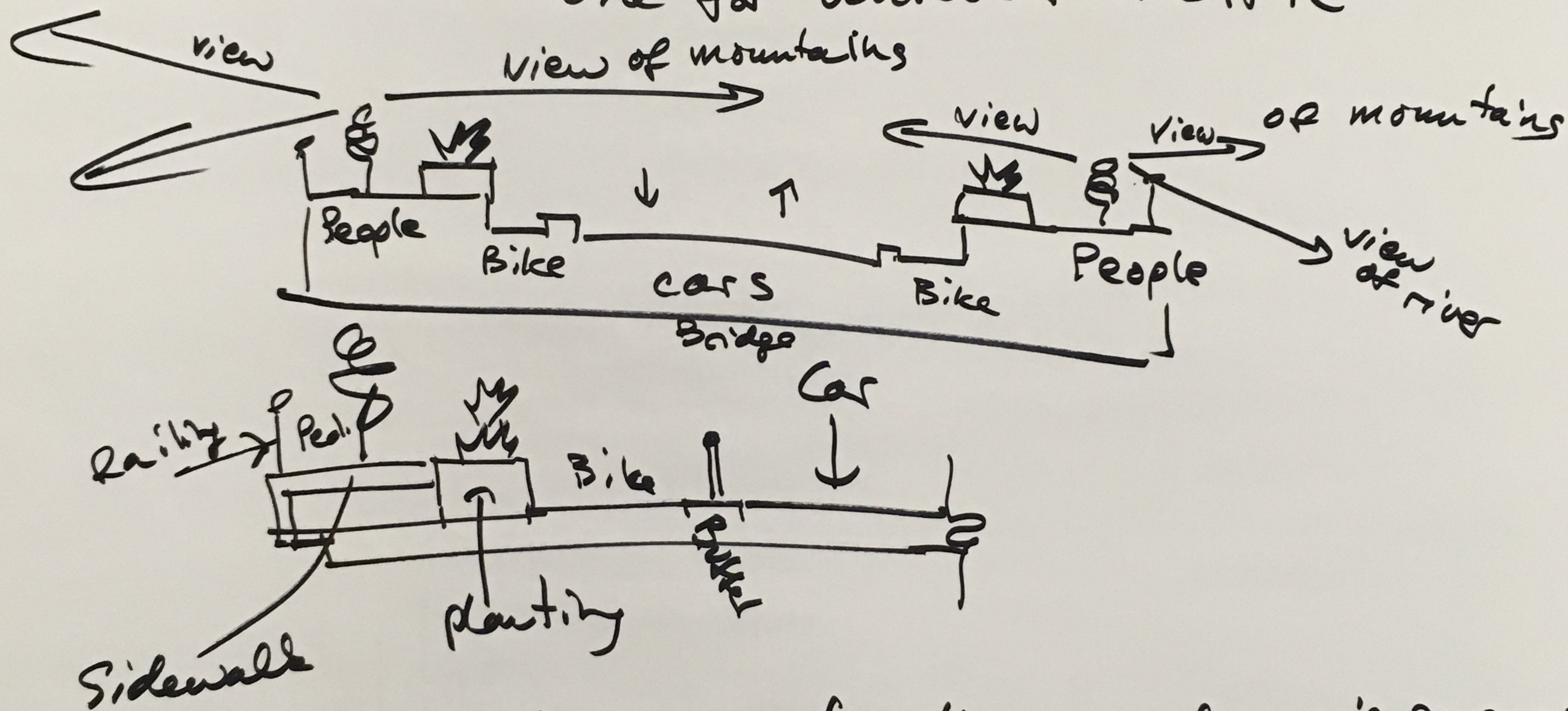
• Beautiful / Sturdy / Symbol of strength in form + materials

• incorporate existing plaques into new design

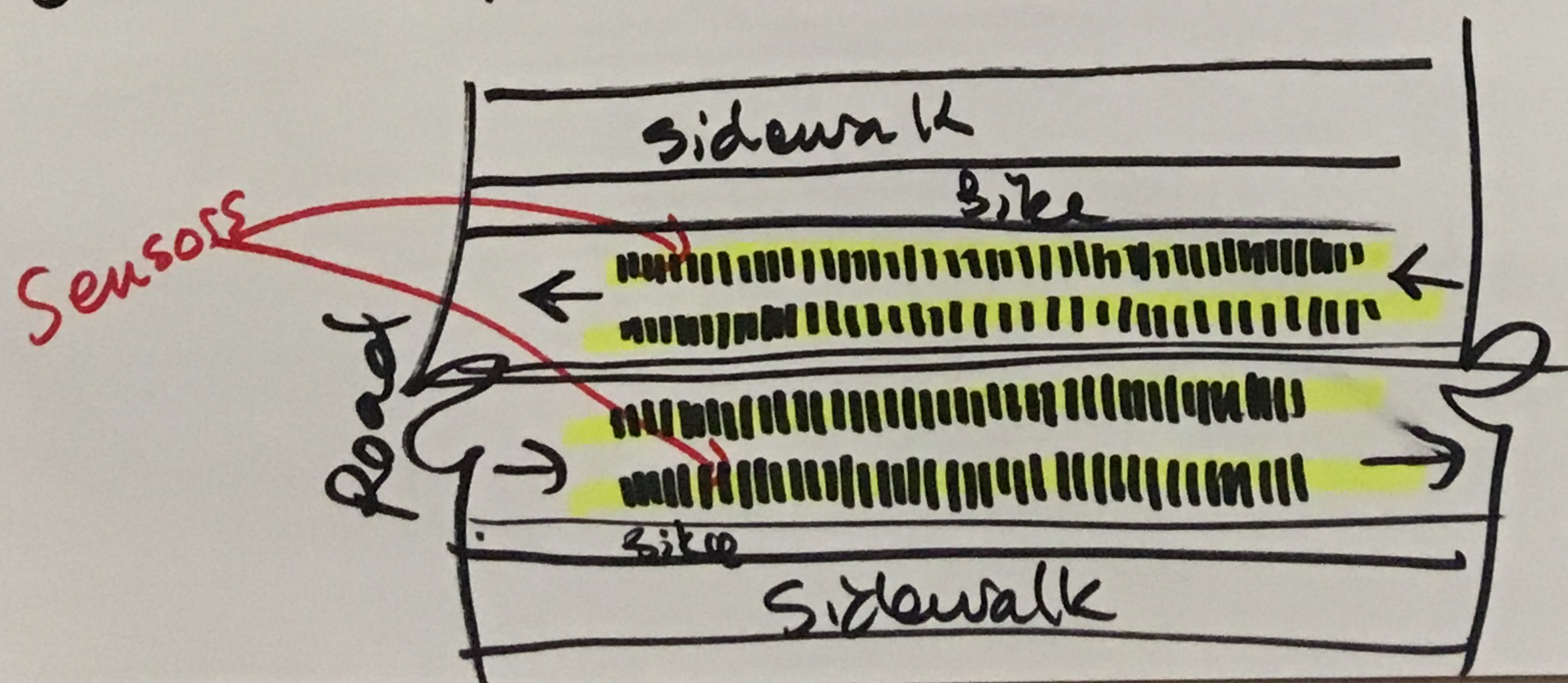
- Provide a separated pedestrian gathering area

- multi level deck. one for pedestrians

One for vehicular traffic



- Harness the kinetic energy from the roadway's pavement to power electrical requirements on the bridge such as lighting, irrigation, artwork. If enough power is stored ~~in~~ provide power to park.



Investigate possibility to integrate renewable energy devices on the bridge, such as energy sensors in areas ~~where~~ where cars are likely to travel.