

Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Council
Task Statement 26-03: Implementing the Principles of Beautiful Design

I. Task Title

Provide feedback to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT or Department) on the mechanisms through which principles that guide and direct the development of more aesthetically pleasing transportation projects can be substantively implemented by DOT, its partners, and stakeholders.

II. Background

Public and private project proponents rely on documents and guidance provided at the Federal- and State-level when developing and designing transportation projects. This may include design manuals, award selection criteria, and program requirements. Though these documents, manuals, and guidance may reference visual preferences and elements, they are often focused on engineering and safety specifications. In addition to these Federal-level documents and requirements, States and municipalities may have their own specifications that project proponents must follow.

III. Task

For Task 26-03, DOT asks the Council to consider the mechanisms that could be put in place to ensure that the principles that guide the incorporation of beauty into transportation infrastructure and facilities are used in practice. DOT asks that the Council explore the barriers to putting the principles into practice, and provide concrete ideas on how to overcome these barriers to yield positive momentum towards more beautiful transportation projects. DOT asks that the Council review background material and draw on professional experiences to identify the documents and guidance that project proponents, both public and private, use when designing projects and identify how and if modifications to those documents and guidance could lead to the cultivation of inspirational design.

VI. Estimated Time to Complete Task

DOT asks the Council to deliberate on this task at an early summer 2026 meeting and, if necessary, continue its deliberations at subsequent or subcommittee meetings. The results of this and other tasks will be compiled and submitted to DOT's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy.

VI. DOT Technical Representatives

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