

Eagle Hill Substation Design Focus Group

Meeting 2
Monday November 15, 2021
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Virtually via [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com)

Design Elements

Six different design elements were presented and reviewed during the first focus group meeting on October 25, 2021 at the Salesian Boys & Girls Club in East Boston.

The presented design elements and the pros and cons of each follow for your review, ahead of the second focus group meeting on November 15, 2021.



PRECAST ELEMENTS



OPAQUE GLAZING



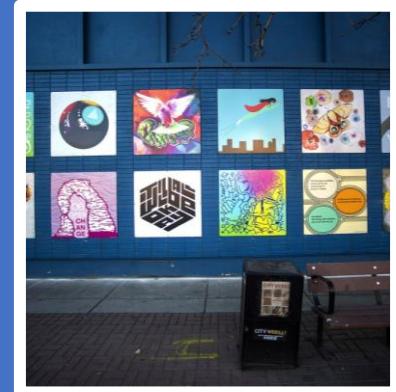
PERFORATED METAL



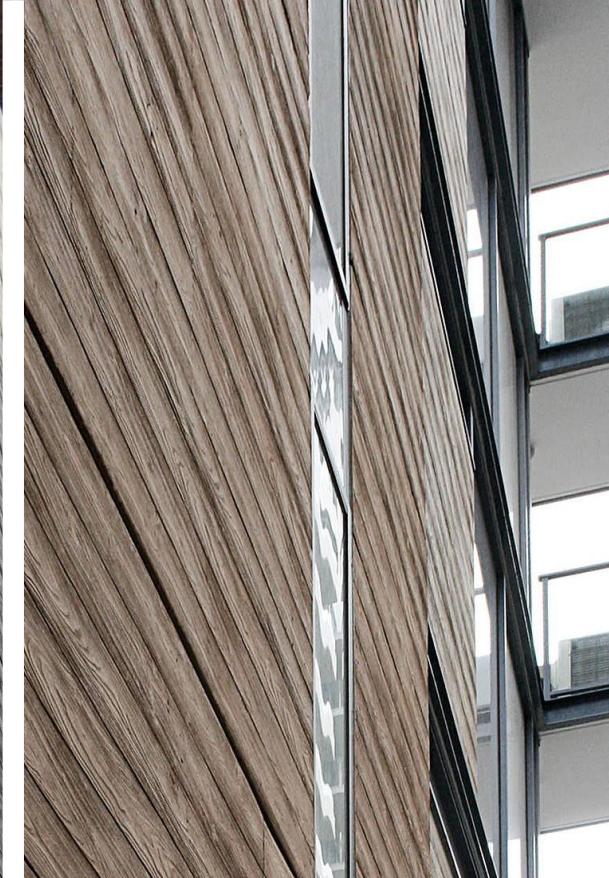
TRANSLUCENT



GREEN WALL



PUBLIC ART



PRECAST ELEMENTS



PRECAST ELEMENTS

Pros

- Very low maintenance and extremely durable
- There is a wide array of designs, ranging from blank flat panels to abstract patterns. Panels that match the neighboring police station are available.
- Panels can be installed relatively quickly.

Cons

- Precast elements would most likely require a graffiti resistant coating.
- Precast elements would need to be mixed with other materials in order to prevent the station from being perceived as a large, heavy, industrial structure.
- A crane would be necessary for the installation of precast concrete panels.



OPAQUE GLAZING

OPAQUE GLAZING



Pros

- Should not require much maintenance with only minimal cleaning.
- This material provides the opportunity to reflect the surrounding areas, to help blend the station with its surroundings visually.
- Different types of glazing can be specified to create a wide array of aesthetics, from mirror surfaces to colored panels with differing levels of opacity.

Cons

- Panels could be more susceptible to damage such as cracking, shattering or scratching.
- This material could be a prime target for graffiti and vandalism.
- Would require detailed design to ensure it does not create glare to park visitors.



PERFORATED METAL PANEL



PERFORATED METAL

Pros

- Low maintenance that should only require minimal cleaning, and is extremely durable
- Differing perforations could provide a dynamic and intriguing element to the building façade.
- Panels can be fully or partially backlit to add to the depth of the façade and light the surrounding areas at night, which could provide additional security in the area.
- Panels can be fully customized in color, shape, perforation shape & size, material, etc.
- Perforations could become larger in less sensitive areas to reduce the visual mass of the station.

Cons

- The panels would need to receive a protective coating to allow graffiti to be washed away easily.
- Distinct difference in look during the day/night that would need to be studied in varying times of day.



TRANSLUCENT WALL



TRANSLUCENT

Pros

- Minimal maintenance and durable enough to withstand the passing foot traffic.
- Provide a dynamic and intriguing element to the building façade.
- When backlit, this system could provide a soft light to surrounding area to improve safety.
- The modular design of the panels would allow small areas to be replaced, if necessary, without impacting the remaining portion of the façade.

Cons

- Requires a graffiti resistant coating if installed within reach of sidewalk.
- Distinct difference in look during the day/night that would need to be studied in varying times of day.
- Needs to be mixed with other materials to prevent it from being perceived as a large, heavy, industrial structure during the day.



GREEN WALL



GREEN WALL

Pros

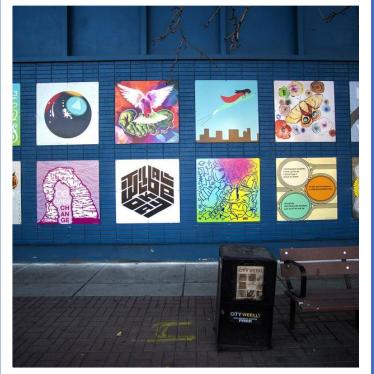
- Naturally resistant to graffiti.
- Planter boxes could provide additional “canvas” space for local artists during different times of year.
- Help to blend the station with the neighboring park.
- Different types of plants could be installed in the wall to provide different colors to the station at different times of the year.
- The uneven texture could help break up the mass of the station at the street level.

Cons

- New concept that is more frequently used and successful in warm climates.
- On-going maintenance of vegetation could be a challenge; additional care of plants and plant replacement will be required if damaged; vegetation gaps likely over time.
- Vegetation would need to be appropriate for the location and provide four seasons of interest.
- The watering system for the wall requires seasonal maintenance that is timed with the temperatures and weather.



PUBLIC ART



PUBLIC ART

Pros

- Increases civic participation in the immediate community.
- Will help the community develop a vested interest in both the use and upkeep of the area.
- Design can accommodate either removable panels for artists to use or large wall space for art murals, or both.

Cons

- Provides a perfect canvas for graffiti.

NOTE: the city of Boston requires a distinct public process and approval by the Boston Art Commission before any public art is installed. This is a community-driven process.

SCAN

