

Livable Boulevards Symposium

Westside Cities Council of Governments, CA

FTS

The Westside Cities Council of Governments (COG), made up of Beverly Hills, Culver City, Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood, engaged FTB to assist the cities explore the issues related to creating Livable Boulevards and further COG members' understanding of the connection between land use, mobility and access to enrich the quality of life on and off major arterials. Through a white paper, resource CD and symposium event, FTB provided insight on how to achieve mobility through multiple modes, increase access, ensure continued economic vitality, address housing needs, create a sense of place, look at strategic infill, and foster sustainability along large streets.



As part of the Livable Boulevards Symposium, FTB brought together experts from transportation, urban design, economics, real estate and local government to provide insight about developing Livable Boulevards.

BEFORE

- Shared challenges in arterial improvement projects.
- Few opportunities to share information or collaborate.
- Community resistance to new development on arterials.
- Lack of consensus about the benefits and possibilities for "Livable Boulevards".

ASSIGNMENT

- Build a shared understanding of Livable Boulevard concepts.
- Generate excitement, interest and new knowledge
- Assist in developing land use and transportation strategies to redesign regional arterials
- Create a lasting resource to expand the influence of the project ideas and stimulate further action.

OUTCOMES

Project Completed October 2006

- A White Paper providing a framework for guiding change along arterial streets.
- A Toolkit CD of resources about and examples of Livable Boulevards.
- A One-Day symposium addressing key issues, state-of-the-art urban design concepts, and needed skills.

CLIENT: Southern California Association of Governments and Westside Cities Council of Governments, CA

IN COLLABORATION WITH: Ikkanda Design Group

FTB: When this project was completed the firm name was Freedman Tung & Bottomley (FTB).



Among the concepts discussed at the Symposium, and illustrated in the multiway boulevard image above, is the need to create buffers between residential and pedestrian areas and fast moving traffic. Urban design techniques were discussed, such as using vertical elements to increase the size of the pedestrian realm without moving curbs or interfering with travel lanes. This concept is illustrated in the two images below.

