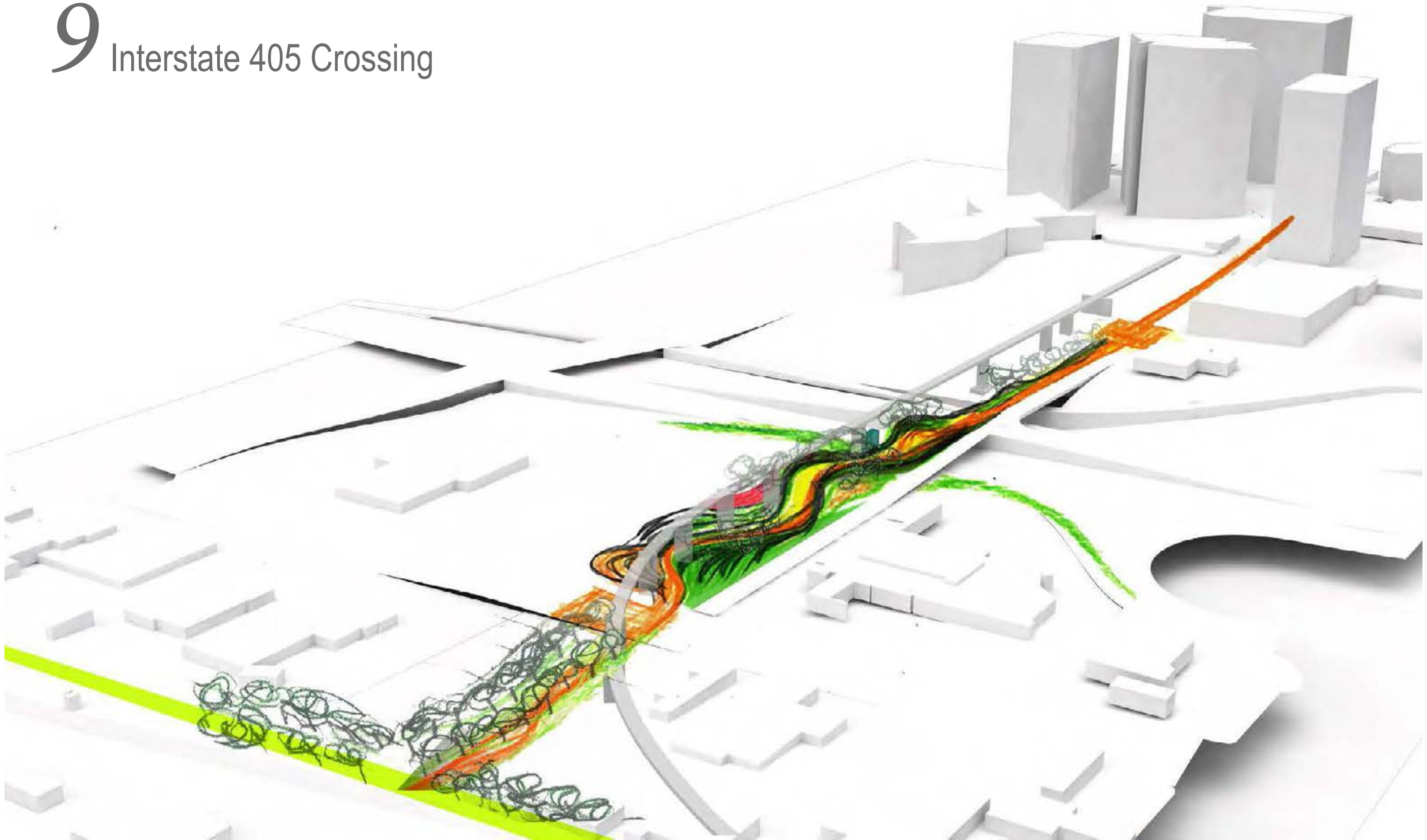


Chapter

9

Interstate 405 Crossing



Interstate 405 Crossing

Overview

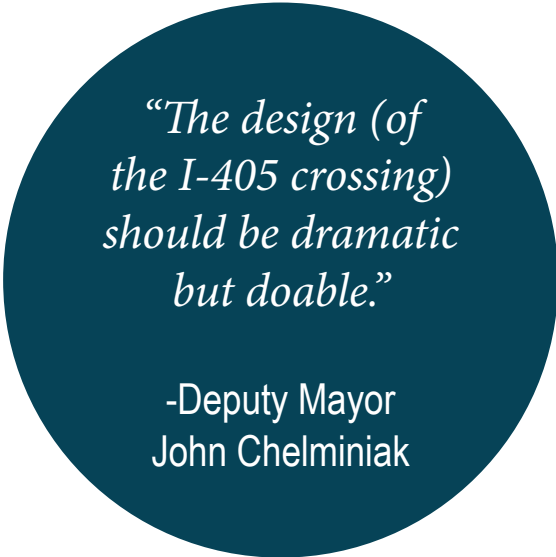
The following information for the Interstate 405 crossing is being offered as information and comment only, and is currently in draft form. No decision will be made on the crossing as part of this framework plan. The Interstate 405 crossing will be evaluated as part of the Wilburton Commercial Area Environmental Impact Statement. Evaluation is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2018 along with the release of a subsequent report highlighting the design intent, strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of each alternative.

The Interstate 405 crossing represents an opportunity to heal the divide created between Downtown Bellevue and the Wilburton Commercial Area. Ambitious as it is in nature, it is not without precedent. Cities across the region and the country have pursued a multitude of strategies to cross interstates, reconnect communities, and serve as a catalyst for new neighborhoods. Strategies to cross interstate and infrastructure have ranged in complexity and scale. Cities such as Atlanta, Dallas, Philadelphia, Washington, and Glendale have and are pursuing strategies to fully cap their infrastructure with new parks and developments. Other cities, such as Denver, Seattle, and Atlanta have created sculptural and non-motorized bridges that mitigate the impacts of infrastructure below, making for a safe, enjoyable, and comfortable crossing. In many cases these dramatic improvements were a catalyst for change in underdeveloped areas, creating new opportunities for urban neighborhoods.

The design team was tasked with developing three distinct alternatives that ranged in scale and complexity. Consistent with Council direction as well as public and stakeholder engagement, each alternative was tasked with developing a safe and comfortable

crossing for non-motorized transportation, pursue opportunities of creating public space, a signature structure or place that is unique to Bellevue, and integration with future land use opportunities in the Wilburton Commercial Area including the Eastside Rail Corridor.

The alternatives range from a sculptural bridge that capitalizes on existing infrastructure assets, a signature stand alone bridge, and the creation of a public space with a partial capping of Interstate 405 between NE 6th Street and NE 4th Street. Careful consideration was given to each alternative to ensure a unique and signature proposal, but recommendations that strive for achievable goals as well as the flexibility to respond to changing development patterns in the immediate area.

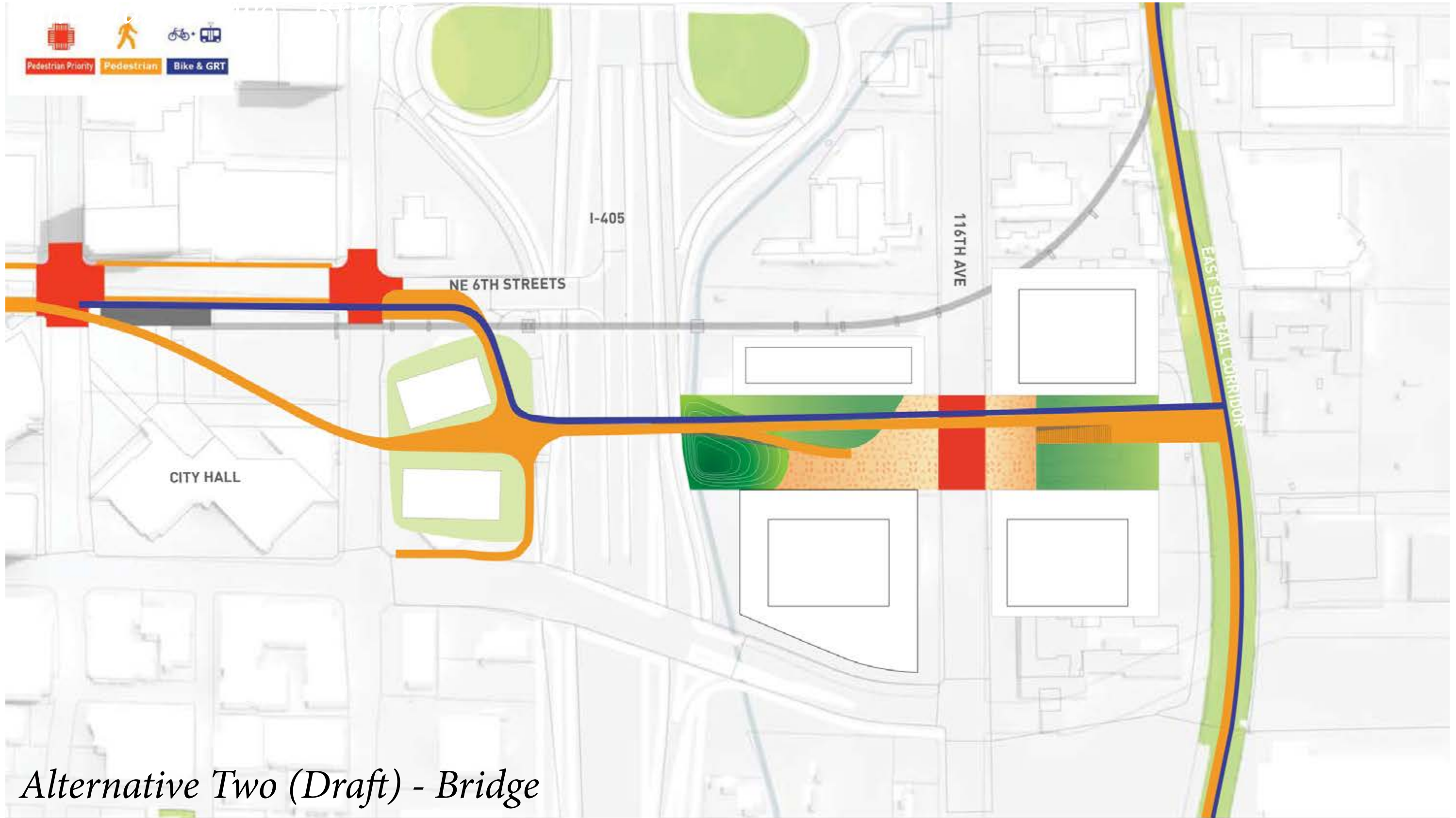


“The design (of the I-405 crossing) should be dramatic but doable.”

-Deputy Mayor
John Chelminiak



Alternative One (Draft) - Sculptural Bridge



Alternative Two (Draft) - Bridge



Alternative Three (Draft) - Lid