

# PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE BRIDGE DESIGN COMPETITION

## Introduction

Since 2001, The Energy Corridor District (ECD), Houston, TX has worked diligently to improve livability and attractiveness for our property owners, businesses, residents, employees and visitors. To meet both current needs and future growth projections, the ECD will continue to pursue focused initiatives that ultimately benefit property owners in The District. These programs include security and public safety, Transportation Demand Management (TDM), esplanades and public right-of-way (ROW) enhancements, environmental urban design, business development and regional leadership through professional, efficient staffing and administration.

## Problem Statement

One of the most significant challenges facing the future development of the ECD is the physical division of the district by IH-10. Currently, the nearest opportunity for pedestrians and bicycles to traverse IH-10 (one of few such opportunities in the ECD) exists along SH 6, requiring at least a half mile of circuitous travel with multiple road crossings before reaching the transit center site from the south of IH-10. This distance and route will inhibit achieving the critical mass of pedestrians necessary to create and sustain a vibrant mixed-use and entertainment hub at the transit center site.

One solution identified by the 2015 Energy Corridor District Master Plan is the construction of an iconic pedestrian and bicycle bridge spanning IH-10, connecting the new developments in the north to the existing restaurant and retail spaces to the south. For the purposes of conceptualizing this possible connection, the master plan depicts the bridge crossing adjacent and parallel to the existing Park and Ride Drive to the north, and terminating at the south at the Grisby Square—another restaurant destination and focusing area of the ECD master plan.

Pedestrian and bicycle bridges are bold statements for communities with similar infrastructure hurdles. In addition to expanding the reach of the districts they serve, these bridges offer and encourage alternative means of mobility for residents and workers previously limited to passenger car travel and transit options. The bridge can also serve as a significant architectural and engineering gesture, which in time can contribute to The Energy Corridor District's overall cohesive branding and messaging.

## Design Competition Goals

The primary goal of this design competition is to create a conceptual design proposal for pedestrians and bicycles to traverse IH-10 as proposed by The 2015 Energy Corridor District Master Plan (Figure 1). The goals of this competition are as below:

- Creating a design for a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over IH-10 that allows pedestrians and bicycles to traverse the highway in a safely manner.
- Making the bridge an iconic element that identifies one of the gateways into the district.

- Designing bike-share stations at different destinations on both sides of IH-10 that can be reached by riding on the bridge (Grisby Square and the Addicks Park & Ride, The Energy Corridor Transit Center).
- Providing a list and design of the street amenities that are needed along the bridge and at the destinations (e.g. signage, wayfinding system, bike racks, etc.)



Figure 1. Proposed location (red line) of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge over IH-10 at the ECD

## Eligibility

The competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Architecture Texas A&M University. Both individual and group submissions will be accepted.

## Awards

The awards are supported by the ECD. The prizes will be distributed at the discretion of the juries following the bases scheme.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$500
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$200
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$50

## Timeline

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|--|---------------------|
| • November 2015                            | Registration opens  |
| • February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2016 @5:00 pm | Registration closes |
| • April 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2016 @ 11:59 pm | Submission deadline |
| • May, 2016                                | Award Notification  |

## Registration

Please find the attached registration form and submit it to **Dr. Jun-Hyun Kim** (jhkim@arch.tamu.edu, Langford Building A318A) in order to register for the competition and get more detailed information.

## Deliverables

A compilation of images of the design should be submitted as 11"x17" PDF document in portrait format, with a maximum of 3 pages. The file should be named with your Project Name. File size limit: 10MB.

The project images should include at least a brief design statement, a plan view, a section, and a perspective. The image resolution should be 300 dpi.

## Evaluation Criteria

Prizes will be awarded considering the following criteria:

- Effective investigation of the competition topic;
- Clearly documented analysis and design process;
- High level of creativity but consistent with the ECD Master Plan principles (Master Plan download link: [http://www.energycorridor.org/sites/e cd/media/about/master-plan/20150625\\_ECD\\_MasterPlanReport\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.energycorridor.org/sites/e cd/media/about/master-plan/20150625_ECD_MasterPlanReport_WEB.pdf), principles on page 10) ;
- Effective production of place-making measures to create a bridge as a gateway and a landmark into the district;
- Illustration of best methods for improving the existing conditions of the district with a pedestrian and bicycle bridge;
- Integration of practical, constructional and aesthetic aspects in the final bridge design;
- Graphic communication qualities;
- Sustainability qualities.

## Contact & Submission

All the registration form and competition entries should be submitted by email to **Dr. Jun-Hyun Kim** (jhkim@arch.tamu.edu). If you have questions regarding the Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge Design Competition, please contact:

**Dr. Jun-Hyun Kim**  
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