Aesthetic Effects Evaluation

OBJECTIVE

Determine the project's compatibility with the existing and planned physical character, as well as the aesthetic values, of the affected community.

CONSIDERATIONS

Community Goals

Potential effects to noise sensitive sites such as residential areas, hotels, nursing homes and parks.

Vibration

Potential vibration effects as a result of the project to sensitive sites such as residential areas or health care facilities (e.g., eye clinics, nursing homes, dentist offices, hospitals, etc.).

Viewshed

Potential for project to impede/enhance a designated viewshed(s) of the community.

Compatibility

Compatibility of project features (e.g., landscaping) with the local aesthetic character/context; project consistency with highway beautification plans, overlay district/streetscape standards, etc.

RECOMMENDED EST DATA AND BUFFER WIDTHS

"Residential, Agricultural, and Recreational/Conservation Land Uses"	→ 100 Feet / 500 Feet
"Community Focal Points"(e.g., group care facilities, hospitals and hotels)	→ 100 Feet / 500 Feet
"Historic Features"(e.g., historic districts, landmarks and neighborhoods)	→ 100 Feet / 500 Feet
"Recreational Features"(e.g., greenways, trails, parks and waterbodies)	→ 100 Feet / 500 Feet
"Special Designations"(e.g., overlays and scenic highways)	→ 100 Feet / 500 Feet
"Noise Barriers	→ 100 Feet / 500 Feet

DOCUMENTATION

Develop commentary on conditions and issues that are relevant to potential direct effects on community aesthetics. Enter findings in the appropriate EST input fields in the SCE module under ***"Direct Effects - Aesthetics."***

EST Comment Box: ***"Identify Resources and Level of Importance"***

Minimum Content:

- → Inventory and list the prominent aesthetic features within the selected buffer area(s) that contribute in a positive way to the community's visual character (e.g., tree stands, historic structures, scenic vistas, etc.)
- → Identify noise and vibration sensitive uses (i.e., residential areas, hospitals, eye clinics, etc.)
- → Identify special area/neighborhood plans that indicate the community's aesthetic preferences
- → Assign a level of importance to identified resources as indicated through public input

EST Comment Box: ***"Comment on Effects to Resources"***

Minimum Content:

- → Provide an overview of the aesthetic character of the project area
- → Characterize the community aesthetic by describing scenic viewsheds, focal points, special buildings, urban form, tree canopies, etc.
- → Assess the physical characteristics of the project and potential effects on the existing community character and aesthetics (review scenic highway documentation), existing and future development patterns, community's aesthetic vision, and sensitive noise and vibration sites

Appendix G - Aesthetic Effects Evaluation (Continued)

- Indicate if the project is compatible with the community's existing or planned aesthetic character
- Indicate the basis for the assigned Degree of Effect

***EST Comment Box:** "Additional Comments (Optional)"*

Provide additional comments as needed.

***EST Comment Box:** "CLC Commitments and Recommendations"*

Minimum Content:

As applicable, provide recommended actions for:

- Identifying potential effects on aesthetic resources or the achievement of aesthetic goals
- Resolving potential project effects including methods to avoid effects

As appropriate, indicate commitments on behalf of the planning agency such as:

- Targeted community outreach (e.g., residents along corridor) to refine understanding of effects and potential methods for addressing effects
- Technical study to help clarify significant issues identified

Tip: Evaluating Aesthetic Effects

While the EST GIS analysis results may indicate features that contribute to a community's aesthetic, the best method for identifying aesthetic resources is a field review of the project area. Highway beautification or community redevelopment plans may also indicate a community's aesthetic values and preferences.