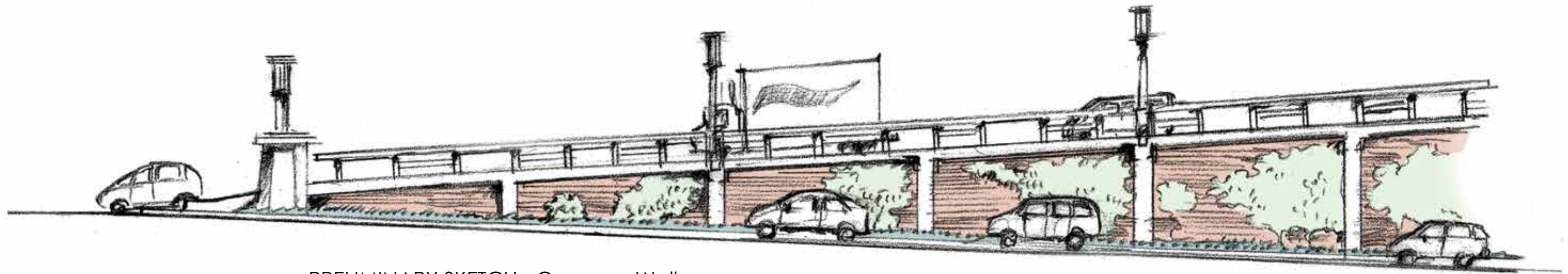


PRELIMINARY SKETCH - Overpass Facade





PRELIMINARY SKETCH - Overpass Walls





PRELIMINARY SKETCH -  
Intersection Aerial



# Route 29/Rio Intersection Design

Southern Environmental Law Center  
Kennon Williams Landscape Studio

**Goal:** Ensure that an efficiently functioning and compact interchange can significantly improve traffic flow while: (a) reflecting the community's identity and visual aesthetic; (b) enhancing bicycle and pedestrian access as well as vehicular traffic; and (c) minimizing environmental impacts.

- a. The intersection will function as a highly visible gateway in an important commercial section of the Route 29 corridor. It should convey a positive sense of the community and reference Charlottesville's unique sense of place.
- b. Although cars are a primary focus of the interchange, it should also provide safe and pleasant pedestrian and bicycle access across the intersection.
- c. Reflecting the community's identity, the design should incorporate "green/sustainable" features as much as possible.

## **Key recommendations:**

- 1. Establish specific monetary allowances in the RFP for design elements** (architectural treatment of bridge and wall facings, lighting, decorative railings, custom landscaping, custom streetscapes). Proposals should explain how the bidders will most effectively spend that specific allowance to achieve the design goals.
- 2. Ensure a prominent role on the design team for an Architect/Landscape Architect.** The design should be considered an architectural effort as well as an engineering one. Require the design team to be composed of engineers (traffic, structural, civil) and a Design Architect and/or Landscape Architect who has a clear record of urban work or knowledge; ensure the architect has a primary role in the design effort.
- 3. Architectural elements:**
  - a. Articulated overpass façade that looks like a bridge. (*See sketch and photo examples.*)
  - b. Break up the mass of the retaining wall facings with some articulation (e.g., column-like relief in front of façade of textured concrete or brick or stone). Consider growing clinging tough vines such as Boston Ivy on walls between columns. (*See sketch and photo examples.*)
  - c. Use lighting with fixtures that hang low to the ground; adhere to County's lighting ordinance; night-time lighting of bridge façade from below.
- 4. Safe pedestrian/bicycle crossing:** Make road crossings safe by providing:
  - a. A simplified street design: It will be safer for pedestrians and bicyclists if the layout of the deck is as simple and direct as possible—especially the sidewalks and crosswalks (avoid diagonals). (*See sketch.*)
  - b. Textured crosswalks that are wide enough for bike and pedestrians and painted a contrasting color to the street; generous medians and resting zones.
  - c. Sidewalks differentiated from the road edge by curb and planting strip.
- 5. "Green"/sustainable bridge:**
  - a. Maximize use of plantings.
  - b. Incorporate low-impact stormwater BMPs into design, including consideration of the green spaces on the deck.
  - c. Use energy-efficient lighting.
  - d. Use local materials wherever possible (brick, stone).

**Note:** Many of these same concepts and treatments are also needed for the Berkmar Bridge.