

Visualizations



CENTRAL AVENUE



CENTRAL AVENUE WITH VIADUCT



CENTRAL AVENUE WITH RETAINED FILL



SHAFTER RAIL DEPOT



SHAFTER RAIL DEPOT WITH VIADUCT



SHAFTER RAIL DEPOT WITH RETAINED FILL



WALKER STREET



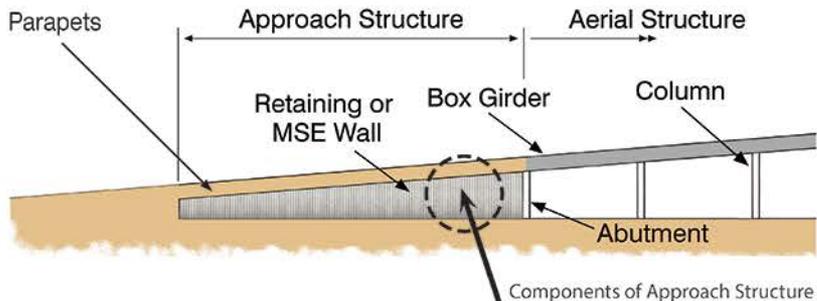
WALKER STREET WITH VIADUCT



WALKER STREET WITH RETAINED FILL



WHAT IS AN APPROACH STRUCTURE?



What is an approach structure?



An aerial structure will begin and end with an **approach structure**. These approach structures provide a gradual vertical transition from grade elevation up to the aerial structures, bridges, or overpasses.

The surface of the approach structures will be exposed to view and therefore require aesthetic attention. Horizontally, the approach structures can extend 1,500 feet or more, with heights up to 30 feet or more.

Approach structures can be constructed of **mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls** or **conventional retaining walls**. These two wall types differ structurally but provide similar opportunities aesthetically.

Although the function of approach structures is primarily structural, their extensive vertical surfaces provide a "canvas" for textural or sculptural motifs.



Typical Retaining Wall with Vertical Rib Texture

EXAMPLES: PARAPET DESIGNS



Recessed Panel Reveal



Repeating Pattern Texture



Local Agricultural Pattern



Local Landscape Reference

Examples of Parapet Designs

The pictures on the left show examples of parapets similar to those that may be constructed by the Authority.

These examples show how this relatively small vertical component can play a major role in achieving an attractive aesthetic expression throughout the diverse geography and unique communities that the California high-speed rail system will serve.

EXAMPLES: AESTHETIC TREATMENTS OF RETAINING WALLS



Exposed Aggregate Texture



Simulated Stone



Vertical Board-Format Concrete Texture



Smooth Concrete with Reveal Lines



Rectangular Panels in
Horizontal Pattern



Fractured Granite



Smooth Concrete with Local Art Image

Examples of Walls for Approach Structures

The pictures on the left show examples of retaining walls for approach structures similar to those that may be constructed by the Authority.

The images illustrate aesthetic treatments of retaining walls throughout the United States.

Whether MSE walls or conventional, cast-in-place concrete retaining walls are used, the following aesthetic principles should be considered:

- Coordinate the walls' appearance with adjacent aerial structures, bridges, and overpasses by introducing smooth transitions and cohesive detailing between the different structure types;
- Use similar design features throughout the region, particularly concrete finish, texture, and color ; and
- Use vertical surfaces as opportunities for local participation, including developing patterns or artistic themes based on local history, culture, or images

7TH STANDARD ROAD IMPROVEMENTS



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