



Update



BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

OCTOBER 2011

Neighbourhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

ARTS AND CULTURE
Gas Station Theatre

BUSINESS
Osborne Village BIZ
Downtown BIZ

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNER
Great-West Life

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
Osborne Village Community Gardens
Gertrude McMillan Neighbourhood Group
West Broadway community organizations representative

CYCLING/ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
Bike to the Future

GOVERNMENT
Legislative Building

HERITAGE
Manitoba Historical Society

PROPERTY MANAGERS – RESIDENTIAL
Globe General Agencies
Manitoba Property Managers Association

REGIONAL
Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS
Augustine United Church

SOCIAL SERVICES
Oak Table Ministries

CITY OF WINNIPEG DEPARTMENTS
Public Works
Planning, Property and Development
Transit
Community Services

CONSULTANTS
Wardrop Engineering
Dillon Consulting
Hilderman Thomas Frank Cram
Landscape Architects

CONSULTANTS
COLLABORATIVE PLANNING/PUBLIC CONSULTATION
Freig and Associates

Osborne Bridge Rehabilitation Construction Wraps up for Winter

Roadway construction on the east side of the bridge and on Osborne Street from River Avenue to Broadway is complete. Two northbound lanes on the rehabilitated portion of the bridge and street are now open, as are two southbound lanes on the west side. Construction work to rehabilitate the west side of the bridge and street will begin in April 2012.

The east sidewalk will remain closed for a few more weeks until construction is complete. In winter, both sidewalks will be open for pedestrians. Work will proceed on the centre portion of the bridge until the middle of November.

In April 2012, traffic will be detoured to the rebuilt east side and roadways, and the west side will be closed for rehabilitation. Public art on the east side of the bridge is currently being installed.

Public Art – Integral to the Bridge Aesthetics

The City of Winnipeg partnered with the Winnipeg Arts Council to integrate public art into the bridge design, in response to feedback from collaborative planning and public consultation. **spmb**, a firm based on partnership between artists and architects Eduardo Aquino and Karen Shanski, joined the community-based design strategy for a bridge that marks and celebrates two distinct neighbourhoods on each side of the Assiniboine River.

The City of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Arts Council
would like to invite you to:

Osborne Bridge Public Art Preview Presentation and Tour

Wednesday November 2, 2011

Gas Station Theatre, 445 River Avenue (corner of Osborne Street)

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

A preview about the Osborne Bridge Public Art titled **FROM HERE UNTIL NOW**

“ But a central objective of community-based site specificity is the creation of a work in which members of a community – as simultaneously viewer/spectator, audience, public, and referential subject – will see and recognize themselves in the work, not so much in the sense of being critically implicated but of being affirmatively pictured or validated.”

- Miwon Kwon,
in *One Place After Another*

For the Osborne Bridge Public Art Project, **smb** devised a concept based on recognizing the *bridge infrastructure as art* by integrating art components within the bridge structure. **smb** based its work on the most significant aspects community members identified during the collaborative planning phase of the bridge’s redevelopment, developing the three-component theme “*From Here Until Now*”.

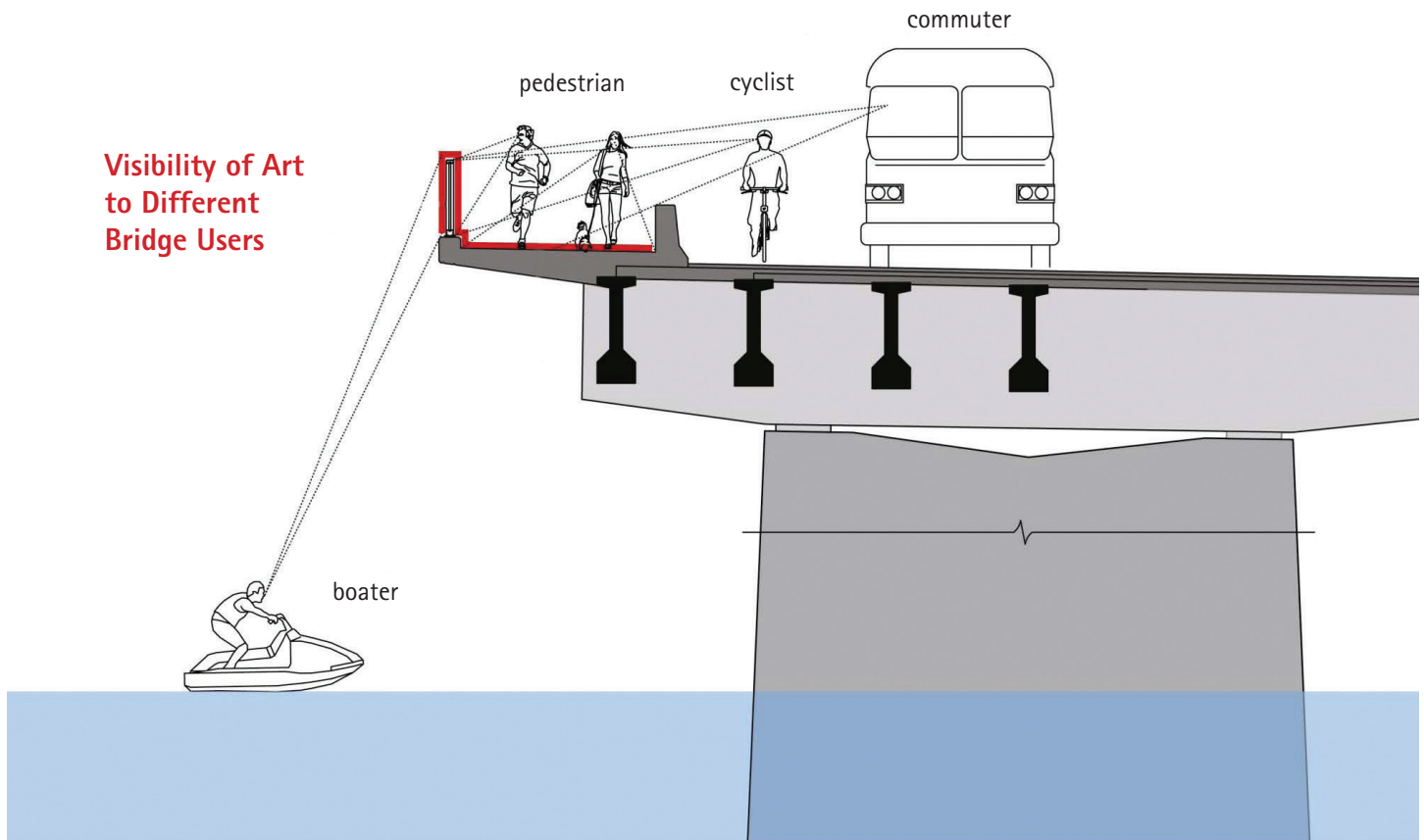
Components of the Public Art

The title “From Here Until Now” refers to the physical locale of the art (the village and bridge), in the “present-perfect”: a neighbourhood/community that, by continuously recognizing its heritage, lives in an exciting present.

Three main components form the artwork:

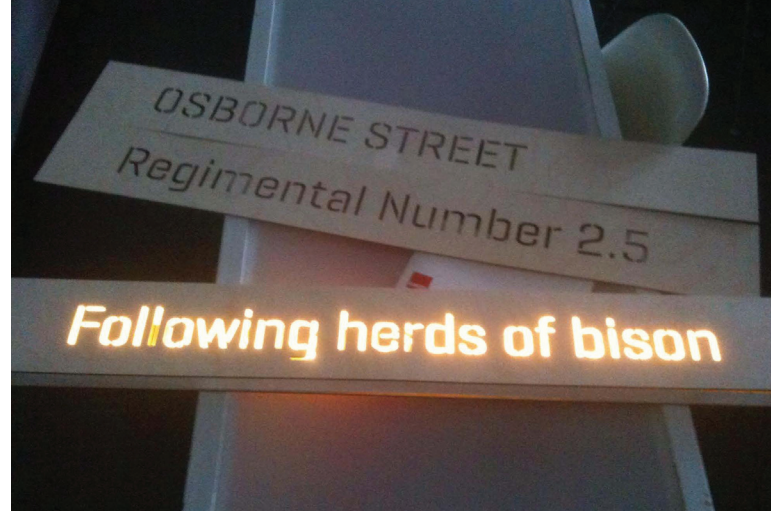
1. The sidewalk, by integrating the neighbourhood’s physical map, translated into contrasting concrete tones and stainless steel trimming;
2. The bridge handrails, through LED lighting and text inscribed in digitally-cut aluminium plates transforming the existing balusters (pickets);
3. Two illuminated gateway zones at both bridge entries celebrating four important architectural moments of the neighbourhood’s history (the Legislature, the Granite Curling Club, the Roslyn Apartment Building, and the Evergreen Towers) through renditions fabricated with water jet-cut aluminium plates and LED lighting.

Visibility of Art to Different Bridge Users



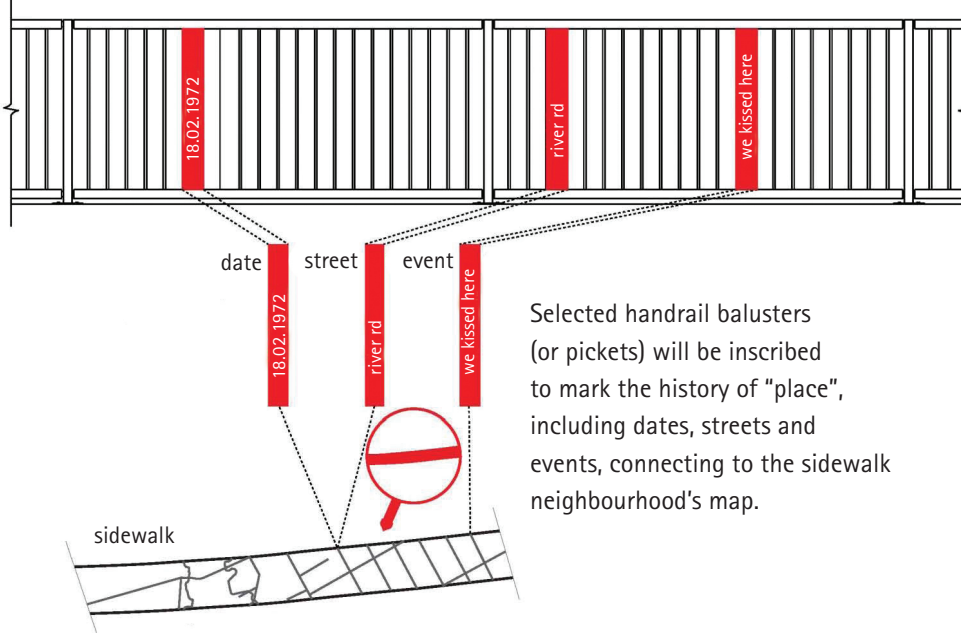
Features of the Osborne Bridge Public Art

- A sense of place, identity and celebration of the cultural life of Osborne Village;
- Art as infrastructure: integrating the art into the bridge;
- Engaging and responding to the community through public consultation; and
- Careful site analysis and literary/historical research in collaboration with Osborne community members.



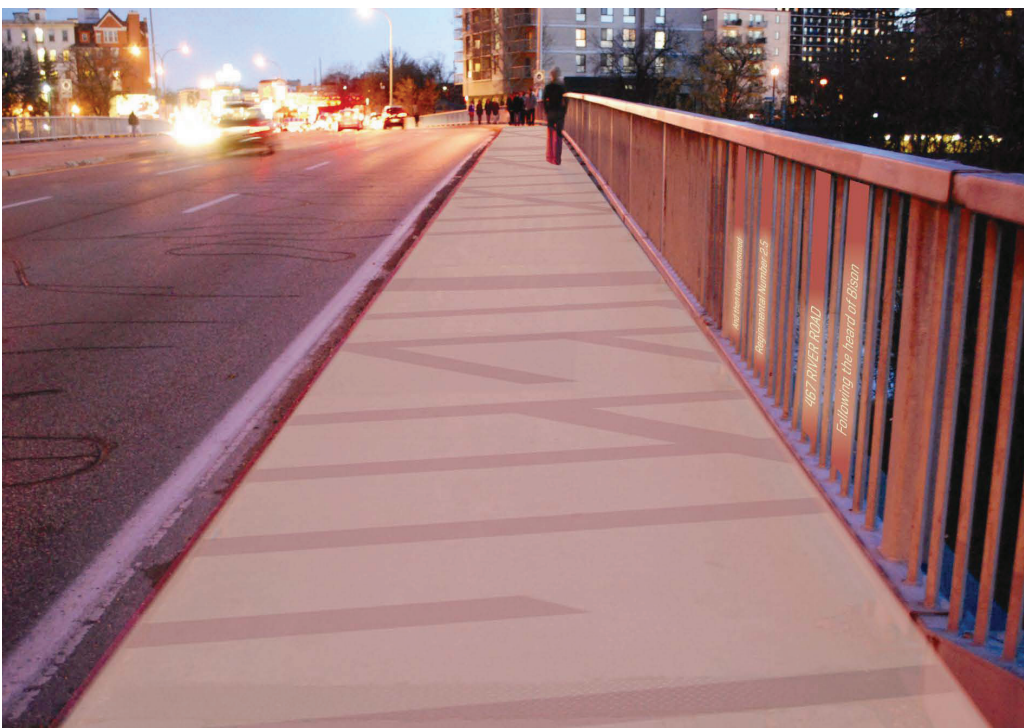
Sample Balusters (pickets)

Connection between Handrail Balusters (pickets) and Sidewalk Map



Selected handrail balusters (or pickets) will be inscribed to mark the history of "place", including dates, streets and events, connecting to the sidewalk neighbourhood's map.

Sidewalks (representation)



Artists' Message

spmb [São Paulo-Manitoba] practices in the intersection of art and architecture. Karen Shanski and Eduardo Aquino taught together in 1998, triggering a practice that has generated more than 50 projects in the past decade. spmb's main area of practice is public art, but the firm also handles education, landscape design, furniture, public spaces, urban design, research, publications, and exhibitions. spmb values collaborative processes and community-oriented projects where ideas develop from dialog, to achieve innovative thinking that leads to ground-breaking directions. As artists, we collaborate with communities, other designers, engineers, city officials, and fabricators. To practice in the intersection of art, architecture and public space means that we view collaboration as a major force in the process.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:

Why aren't you working 24 hours per day, 7 days per week?

The contractor must conform to the City of Winnipeg Neighbourhood Liveability By-law 1/2008, as the bridge is very close to residential neighbourhoods. Usual construction hours are Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Extended hours and Saturday work are permitted; Sundays, Statutory and Civic Holidays require special permission from the City of Winnipeg.

Why is the work being done over two years? Can't everything be done in one year?

Winnipeg Transit and emergency services rely on this critical route and access must be maintained during the construction. Only half of the bridge can be closed at one time.

Why wasn't Osborne Street widened to make more room for cyclists?

That possibility was thoroughly examined, but there were few options. The mature boulevard elm trees on the Legislative Building grounds would have been jeopardized by construction, so it was not possible to obtain additional land north of the bridge. The City was able to acquire property just south of the bridge to widen the transition lane as cyclists merge onto the road, but could not obtain additional private property to widen Osborne Street fully, up to Roslyn Road.

How will Winnipeg Transit Routes be affected?

Information on Route and Schedule changes can be found on Winnipeg Transit's web site or by calling 311.

Could a temporary pedestrian/cyclist crossing at Assiniboine Avenue /Mostyn Street at street-level north of the bridge be installed during construction?

A street level, signalized crossing for pedestrians and cyclists will be installed at Assiniboine Avenue and Mostyn Street when construction concludes and sidewalks are completed. Pedestrian and cyclist traffic crossing Osborne Street north of the bridge can use the signalized crossing at Broadway or the under bridge crossing on the north bank of the river, when it is available. Street-level at Mostyn Place is a construction zone, and is unsafe for pedestrians to cross.

The current under bridge crossing level was raised as high as possible to prevent closing during high water levels in the Assiniboine River. The crossing has a roof for protection from construction debris.

What will the features of the rehabilitated Osborne Bridge include?

The rehabilitated Osborne Bridge will still have three southbound and two northbound traffic lanes. The existing middle median will be narrowed to give more space to cyclists and pedestrians: an 1.8 m (5.9 ft) cyclist shoulder on each side of the Bridge, separated by a barrier from the 2.7 m (8.9 ft) sidewalks. There will also be a new street level crossing for pedestrians and cyclists at Mostyn Place to Assiniboine Avenue, and public art integrated into the design of the Bridge.

The Project's Collaborative Planning Process

A Neighbourhood Advisory Committee developed project goals and worked with municipal representatives and the consulting team on conceptual options to ensure the project is technically sound, environmentally responsible, cost-effective, reflects the community and city's needs and is generally understood and accepted by most people affected. After reviewing community feedback, recommendations were made to the City resulting in the current plan. A Liaison Committee has continued involvement on an "as needed" basis during construction, to bring forward and work through any neighbourhood construction issues, together with the consulting team and City of Winnipeg representatives.

Detailed descriptions of the project are provided on the City of Winnipeg's website at

www.winnipeg.ca/OsborneBridge

For inquiries, please contact
311 or email 311@winnipeg.ca

