

Aesthetics Impact Evaluation

1. Visual Character of Project Corridor

The visual landscape along the project corridor consists of flat to gently rolling terrain. Land use in the project corridor includes farmland, residential areas, industrial development, and natural areas.

2. Project Effect on Visual Character

The proposed improvements would affect some natural features in the project corridor and would result in visual changes in some locations. Visual changes would be limited to interchanges in the project corridor—areas between interchanges would not be affected. At the interchanges proposed for improvements, the frontage roads would be relocated away from the interchange ramps, increasing the visual scale of the interchange area. Because the project corridor is relatively flat, the relocated roadways would not require extensive cut or fill sections which would increase the visual impact of the roadways.

3. Project Effect on Viewer Groups

The two major viewer groups are those who have a view from the road and those who have a view of the road.

The view from the road would not substantially change. Interchange ramps would remain in essentially their existing location. Views from frontage roads would change somewhat as certain features such as residences, businesses, or natural features would be further from the road while others become closer to the road.

Those with a view of the road includes those who reside or work adjacent to the interchanges. Relocating the frontage roads away from the interchange ramps, widening crossroads in the vicinity of the interchange, and creating new intersections would increase the visual scale of the interchange area. In some cases, the relocated frontage roads would be closer to residences and businesses than they are currently.

The frontage roads would remain two-lane roadways, limiting their visual impact. As mentioned above, the frontage roads would be located at essentially the same grade as the surrounding landscape, further reducing their visual impact.