

I-5 Everett, SR 526 to US 2 HOV Lanes

Everett, Washington



To complete this project on a fast track, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) awarded a \$185 million design-build contract to add I-5 HOV lanes through Everett—6 miles northbound and 4.5 miles southbound. In design-build, the experience of the landscape contractor, the desires of the client, and the negotiation skills of the landscape architect work together to make the very most of every public dollar spent on aesthetic treatment of the highway.

The aesthetic goal was to successfully integrate operational, environmental, and visual functions by introducing long-term sustainable landscaping and aesthetic treatment. Within the Everett corridor, roadside treatment to establish buffers by enclosing or screening views of the highway,

by exposing distant views of the Cascade Mountain Range, and by blending roadside elements into community enhancement areas was only surpassed by the matter of safety.

Historical light fixtures identical to those seen throughout downtown create a sense of entry to the City of Everett. Matching wall-mounted fixtures were paired at corners of newly remodeled bridge abutments to complete the theme. Osborn Pacific Group worked with an artist to incorporate concepts for three themes: Earth, Water, and Sky- onto the noise and retaining walls. Corridor re-vegetation creates a contrast between native plantings and the artistic walls. A custom blend of erosion control



seed mix containing wildflowers ensures that there will be seasonal color on the slopes for many years to come.

The largest water quality treatment feature on the project doubles as a public access site and provides access to the Riverfront Trail from the Lowell neighborhood. It features paths, pedestrian bridge and interpretive exhibits describing stormwater treatment.

Project:

I-5 Everett SR 526 to US 2 HOV Lanes

Client:

WSDOT

Location:

Everett, Washington

Site:

Approximately 8 miles of highway

Services:

Landscape & Aesthetics Task Lead, Master Plan and Construction Documents for noise wall and retaining wall aesthetics, landscaping for corridor, entry/exit ramps, and water quality ponds



OSBORN PACIFIC GROUP INC.
Landscape Architecture
Recreation Planning
Environmental Compliance