



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: December 21, 2010
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Steve Zoet, Assistant Director of Community Services/Recreation
and Parks
Subject: Presentation of the proposed Wilshire/Whittier Gateway
improvements including Wilshire median design
Attachments: 1. Conceptual Drawings

INTRODUCTION

City Council has previously approved the conceptual design of the proposed Wilshire and Whittier gateway sign feature but expressed concerns regarding the presence of the left turn pocket from westbound Wilshire into the Union 76 gas station. At its regular meeting of August 31, 2010 City Council gave direction to staff to bring the design of the Wilshire median and the proposed retention of a left turn pocket to the Traffic and Parking Commission to elicit their opinion.

DISCUSSION

The Traffic and Parking Commission reviewed design options of the Wilshire median at its November 4, 2010 meeting. Options reviewed included retention of the existing left turn pocket from westbound traffic into the Union 76 gas station. An alternative option to close off the median with the elimination of the turn pocket and an extension of its design to the westerly City limits was also presented. The purpose of this option would be for enhanced safety considerations whereby vehicles exiting the gas station would not be able to cross traffic and access westbound lanes by going through the turn pocket which could conceivably occur with the design previously presented to City Council.

The Traffic and Parking Commission heard a presentation by Steve Smith, Director of Landscape Architecture with Gruen Associates. The presentation included visual aids showing what the median would conceptually look like both with and without a turn pocket. The owner of the gas station was present, along with his attorney, and information regarding the large amount of his business that is generated through the access created by the presence of the turn pocket was presented to the Commission.

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The Traffic and Parking Commission expressed their support to retain the presence of a left turn pocket due in part to preserve the opportunity for westbound customers wishing to access the gas station to have the ability to do so. However, recognizing and being respectful of the concerns about cross traffic issues, the Commission requested that additional deterrent features be added to the original design previously presented to City Council. These features further identify the presence of the turn pocket as a restricted zone and discourages the ability to pass through it.

These additional features include installation of raised yellow curbing and the integration of reflectors and solar powered lights that will help illuminate the area at night, further identifying it as an area restricted to cross traffic. The raised curbing also affords the opportunity for the addition of even further restrictive devices, now or in the future, such as break-away uprights similar in design and function to those used on sections of Sunset Boulevard for lane separation and identity purposes.

City Council liaison members Brien and Mirisch were presented with the Traffic and Parking Commission's recommendation to retain the left turn feature and the additionally proposed enhancements at a subsequent liaison meeting and were supportive of that action.

FISCAL IMPACT

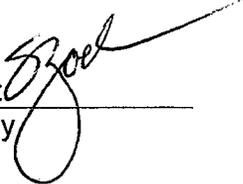
Funding for construction of the Wilshire/Whittier gateway signage and median improvements project are identified and budgeted within the approved 2010/11 CIP. Mr. Smith will be providing a cost estimate for the project as designed and presented. Staff anticipates that bids received for the project will not exceed funds available for construction. The capital account for gateway enhancements is currently funded at \$1,946,000. This sum includes funds intended for design services and construction costs associated with the next site that is selected by City Council for future gateway enhancements.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that City Council approve the design of the proposed Wilshire/Whittier gateway signage and median improvements project as revised by the Traffic and Parking Commission and authorize staff to bid the project upon completion of changes to the construction drawings which will include the additional restrictive enhancements as presented to you. The Recreation and Parks Commission has previously reviewed and approved the design of the project, inclusive of the left turn pocket.

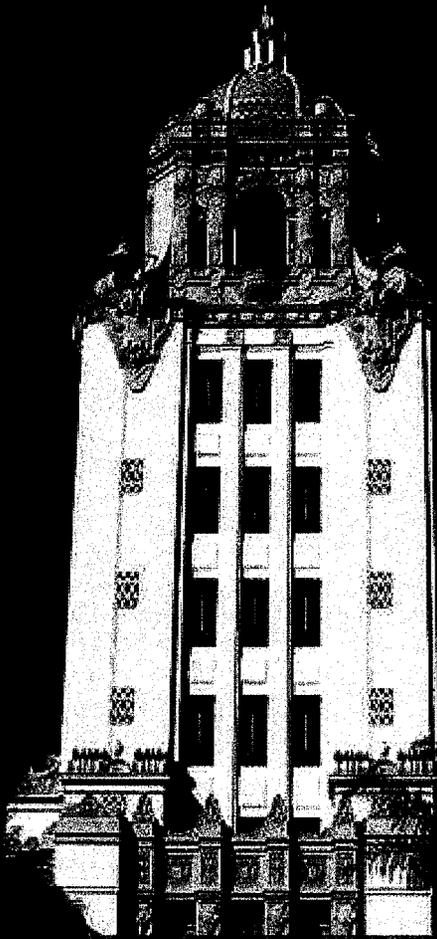


Scott Miller
Approved By

Steve Zoetel 

Approved By

Attachment 1

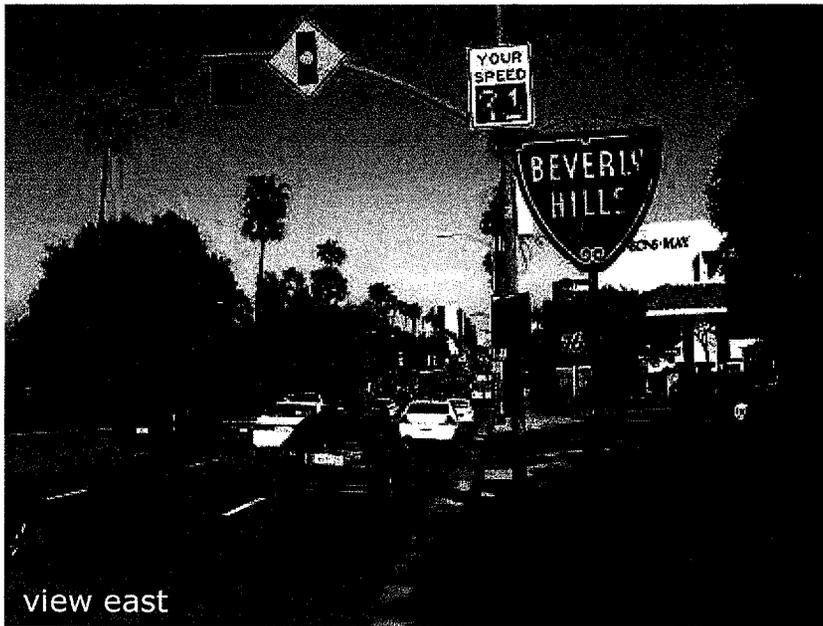


Beverly Hills Gateways

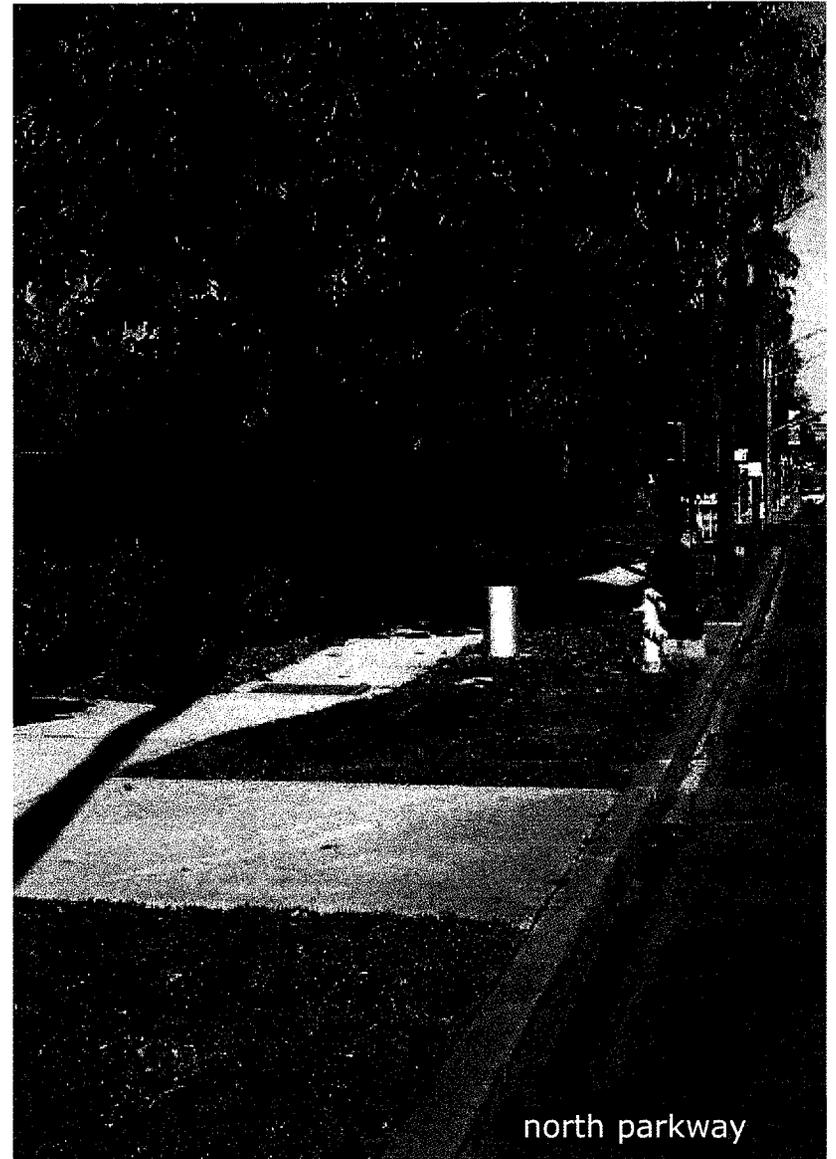




median



view east



north parkway

Wilshire Blvd at Whittier Dr.

Beverly Hills Gateways

Plan View



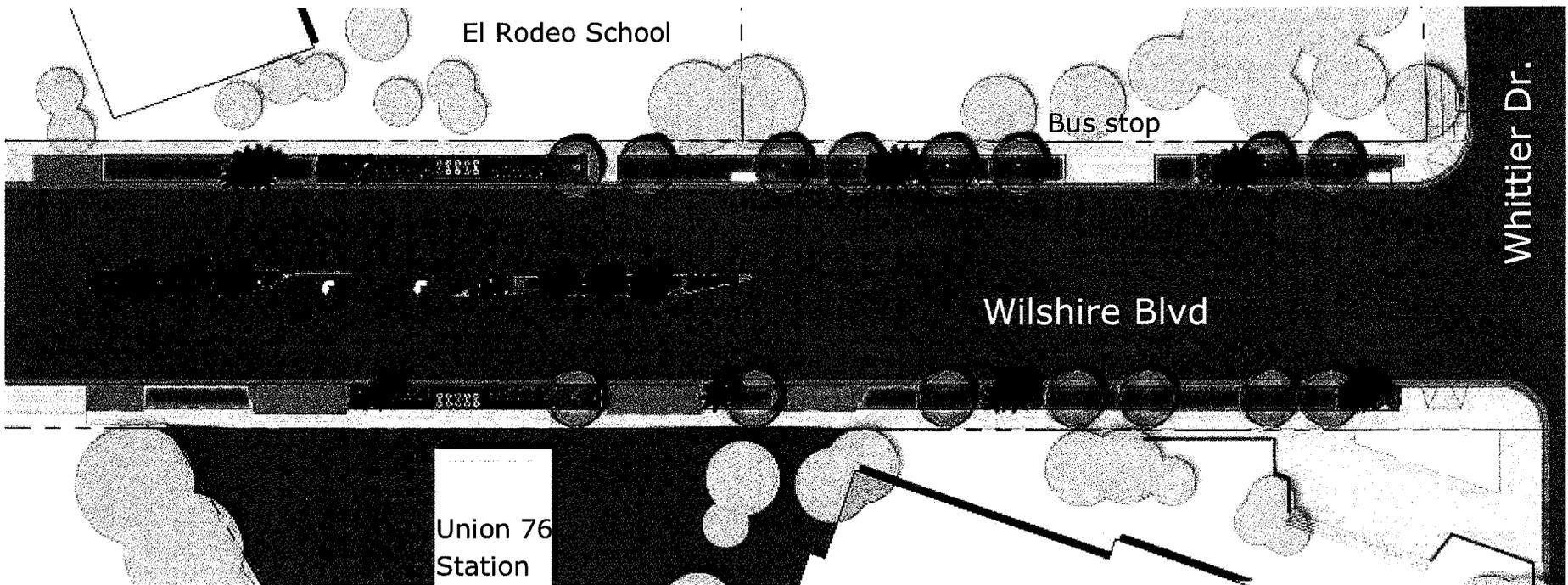
- Enlarged and new Median
- Enhanced Streetscape with drought tolerant planting
- Flowering Street Trees
- Gateway signage
- Landscape lighting



Wilshire Blvd at Whittier Dr.

Beverly Hills Gateways

Plan View



- Enlarged and new Median
- Enhanced Streetscape with drought tolerant planting

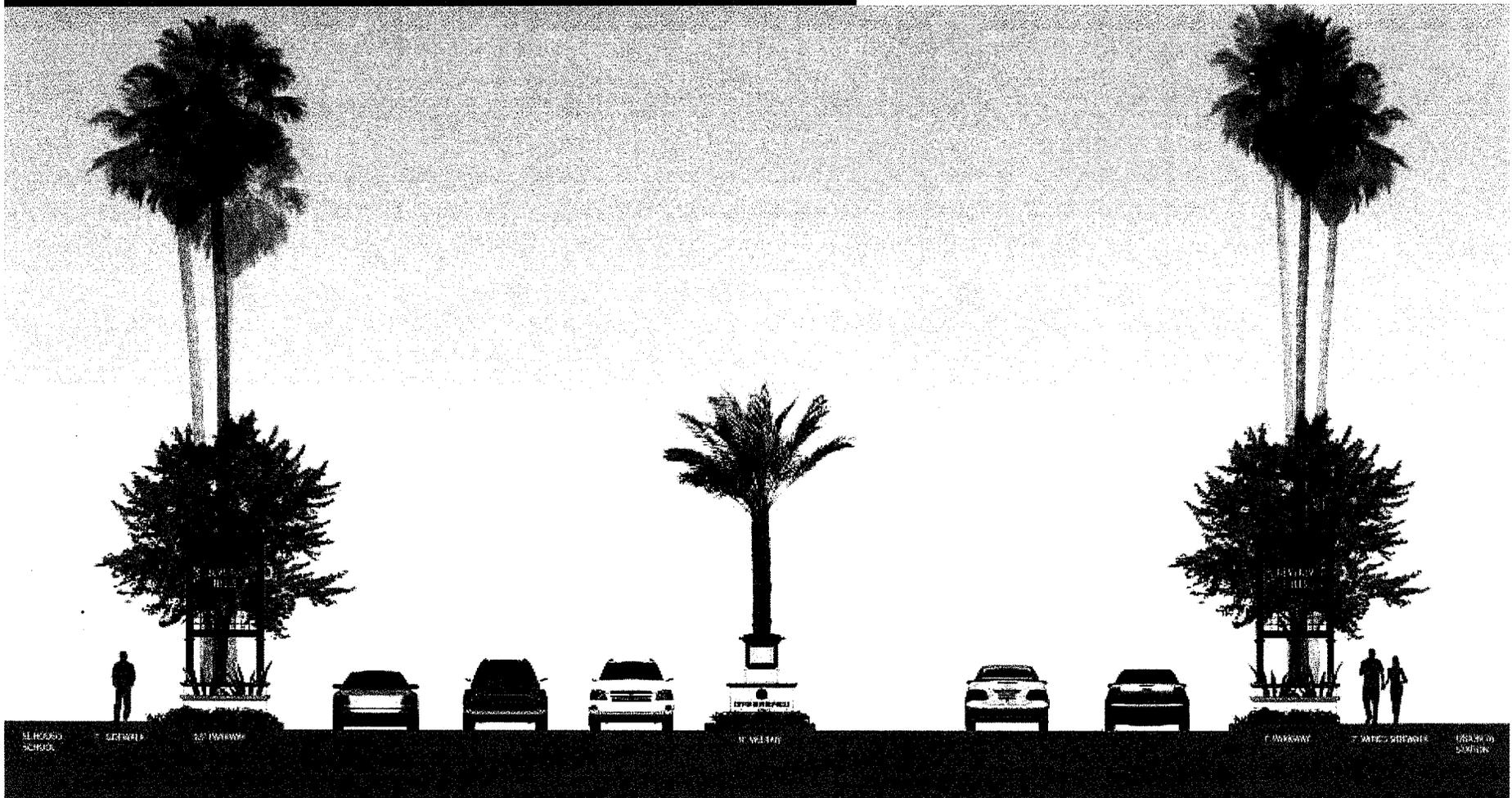
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Wilshire Blvd at Whittier Dr.

Beverly Hills Gateways

Overall Elevation View- looking East



Gateway signage and Streetscape

Beverly Hills Gateways

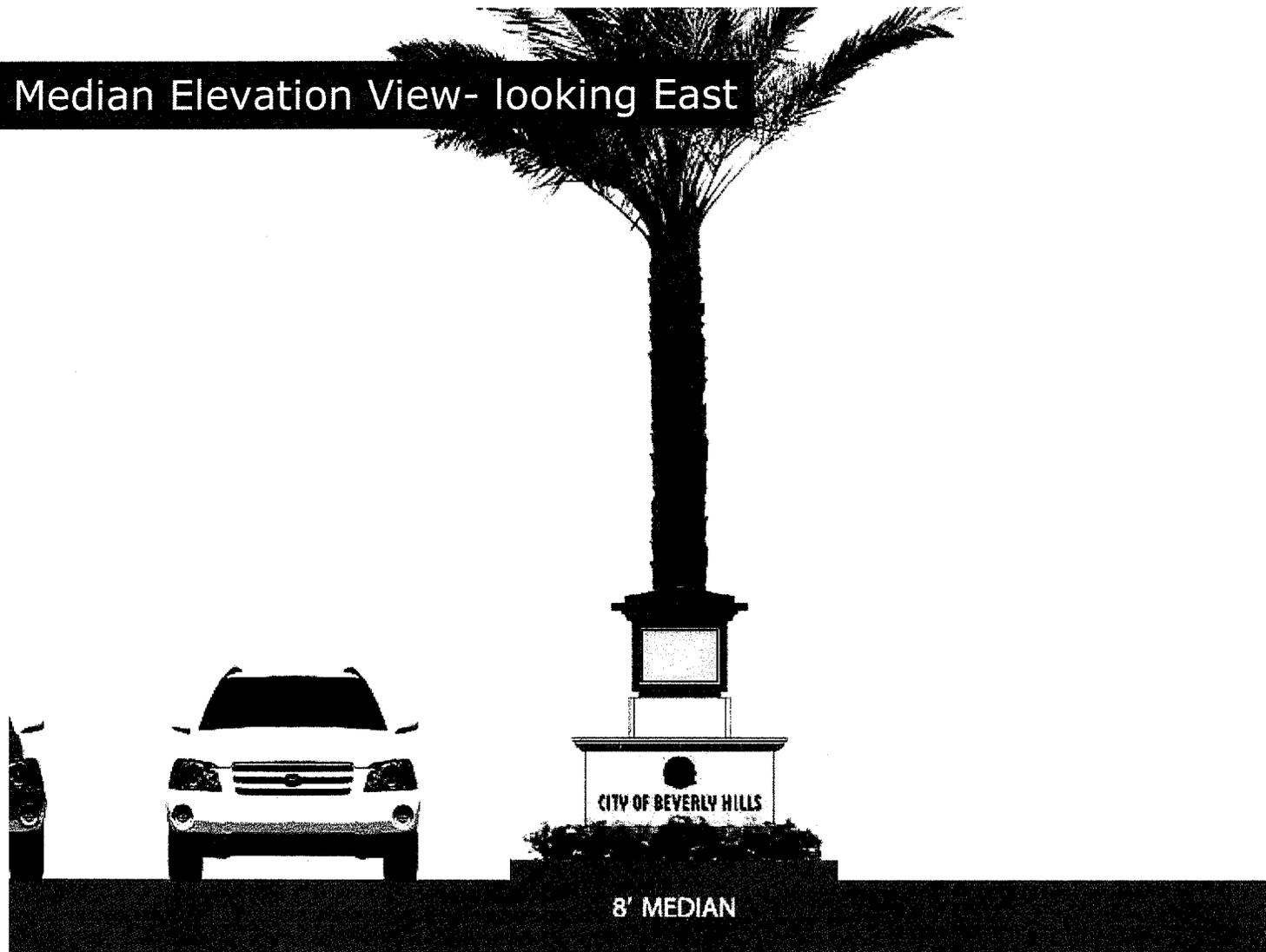
Parkway Elevation View- looking East



Gateway signage and Streetscape

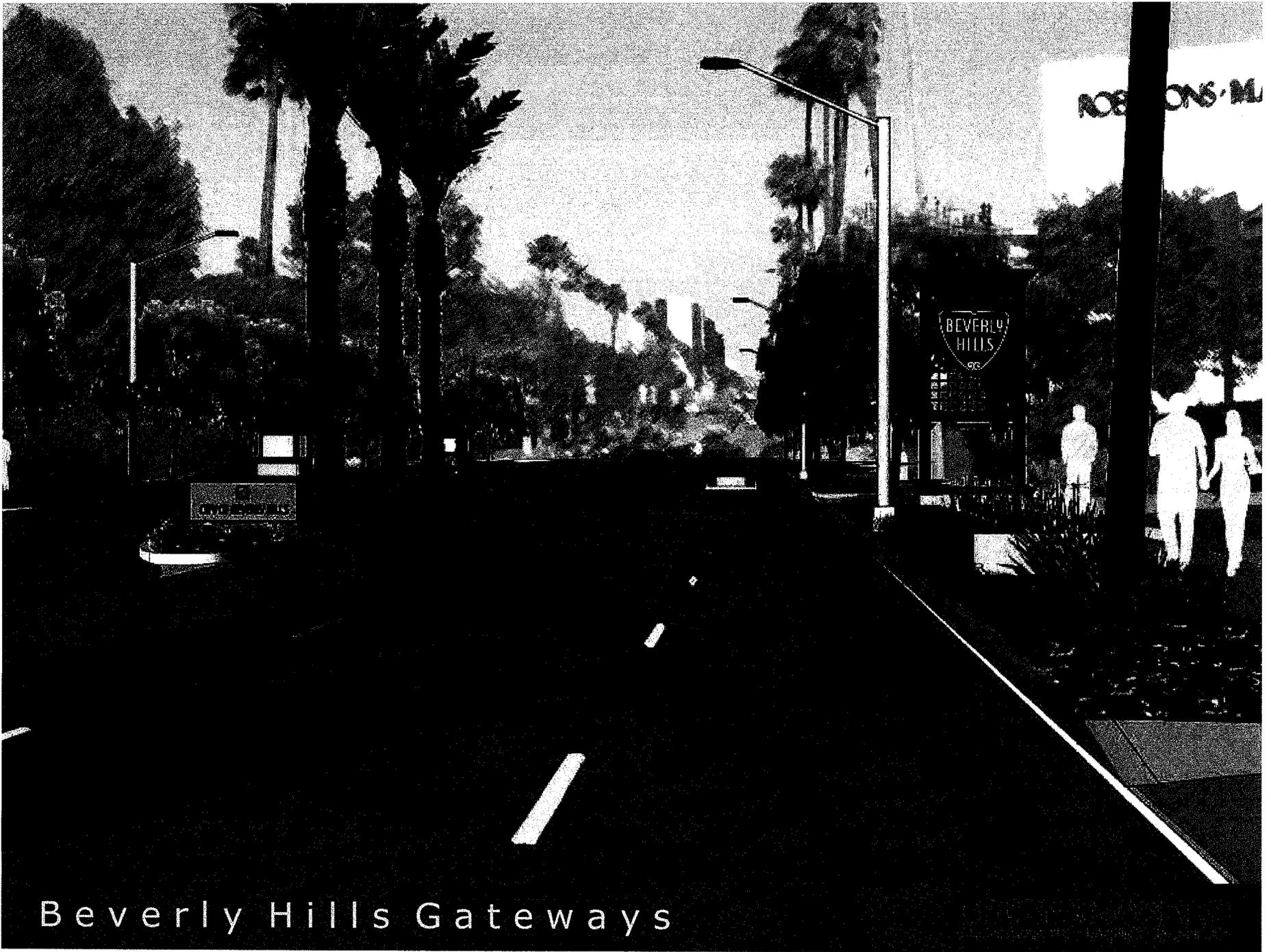
Beverly Hills Gateways

Median Elevation View- looking East

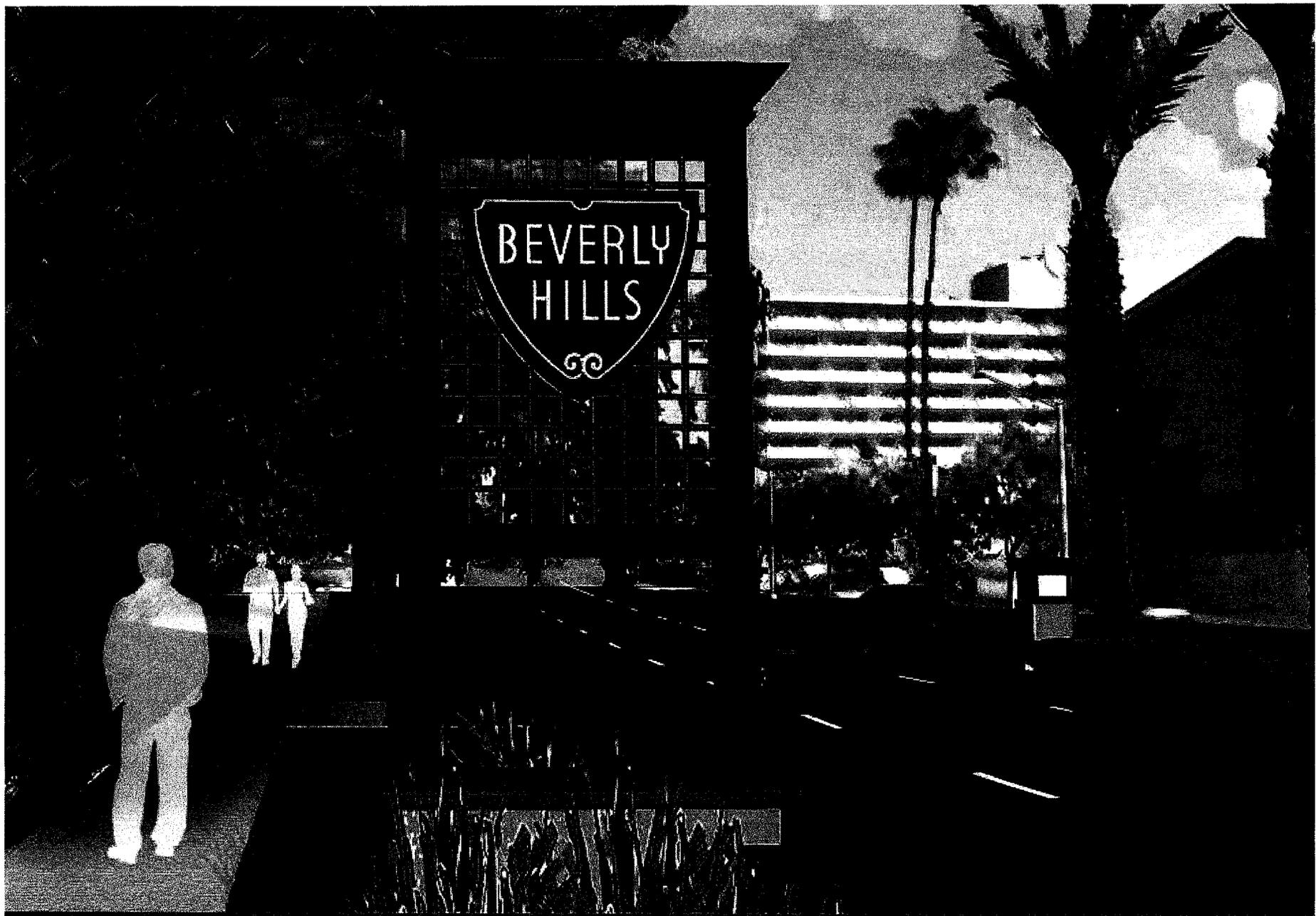


Gateway signage and Streetscape

Beverly Hills Gateways

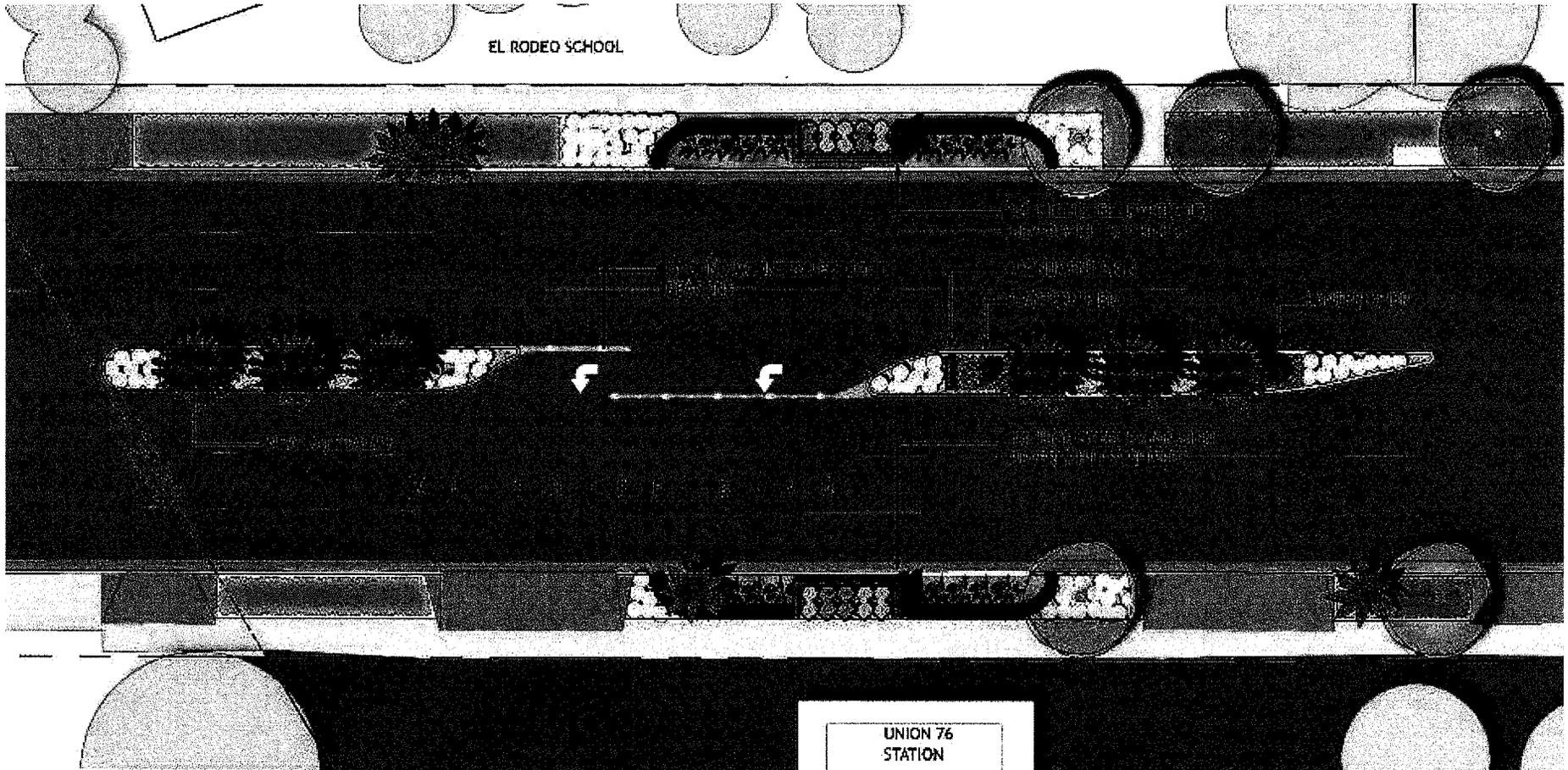


Beverly Hills Gateways



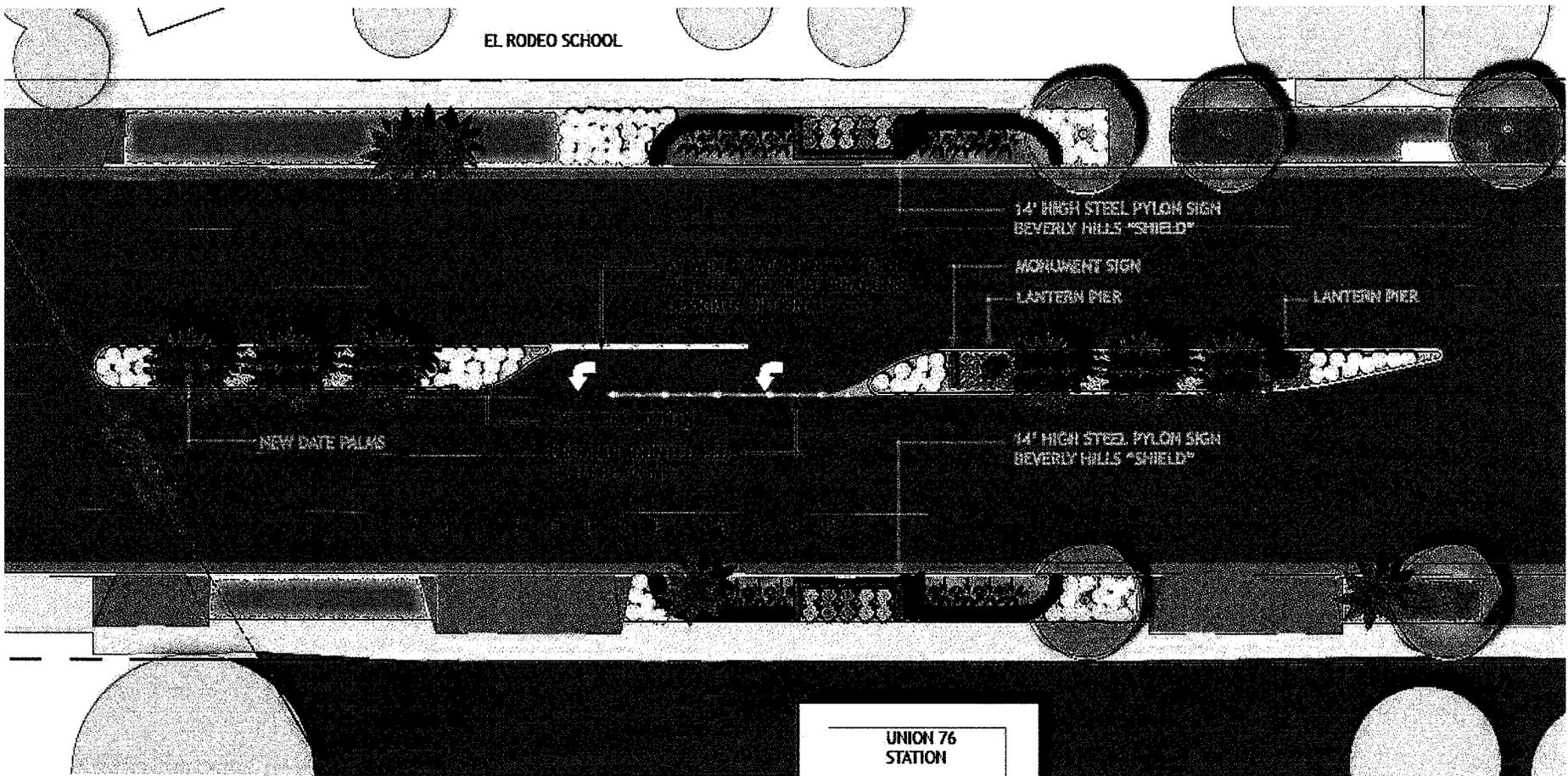
Beverly Hills Gateways

PREFERRED OPTION: Enhanced Median/turn lane into Station preserved



Beverly Hills Gateways

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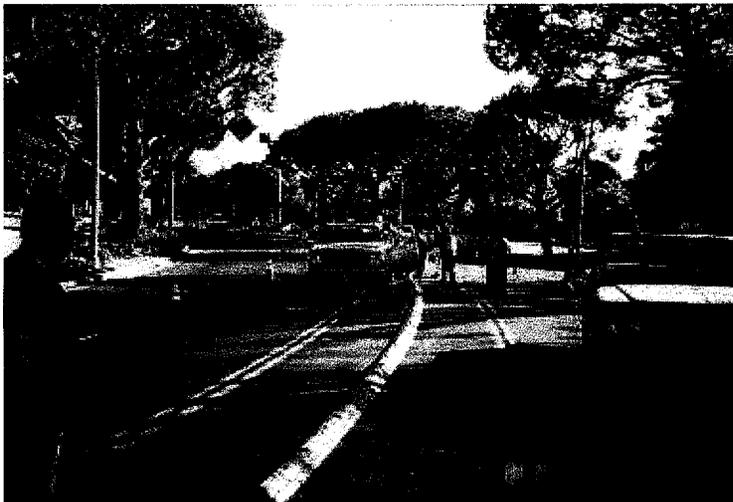
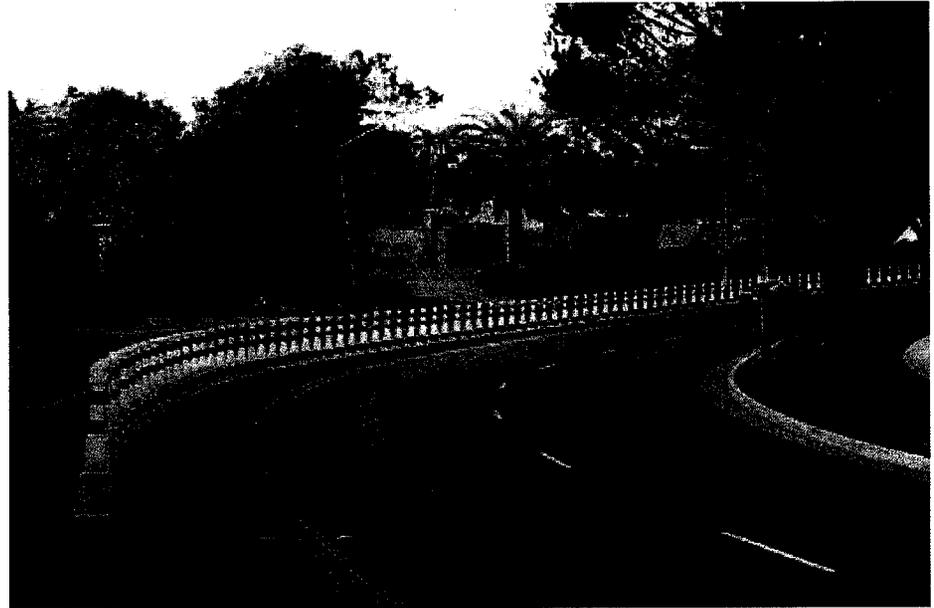


Beverly Hills Gateways

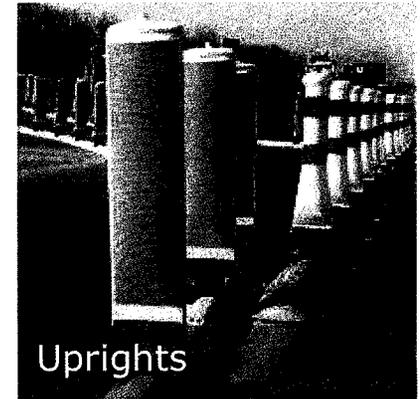
Qwick KURB



Installation on Sunset Blvd.



Qwick Kurb



Uprights

Beverly Hills Gateways