

# Rosemead Boulevard Safety Enhancements & Beautification

## Project Identity & Location

The Rosemead Boulevard Beautification and Safety Enhancements Project is a 2 mile, multi-use pedestrian and protected cycle track and landscaped thoroughfare that runs through the City of Temple City in Los Angeles County.

## Purpose of Project

The streetscape design reconfigured a former California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) highway into a livable, walkable, multi-modal Grand Boulevard with the use of planted medians, separated bike lanes, sidewalks, seating nodes, transit shelters, art locations, new trees, and landscaping.

## Role of Landscape Architect

The Landscape Architect served as Urban Designer and Landscape Architect for this project. As the Prime consultant, our firm managed the implementation of the vision to create a lush, safe and sustainable streetscape with the support of a team of civil engineers, traffic engineers, and wayfinding designers.

## Significance

Major roadways are one of the largest public open spaces that occur within a city. As development is maximized within city boundaries, opportunities for providing amenities and green spaces present a challenge due to limited space. The development of Rosemead Boulevard demonstrates how streetscapes can meet this need by improving the visual impact of streets while providing sustainable and healthful methods of transportation. This project shows how a highway designed with only cars in mind can be transformed under the expertise of Landscape Architects, to mix vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic with landscape to bring a humanizing element to the street.

## Special Factors

**Changing Street Design** - Incorporating a protected bicycle where the bicycle lane is next to the sidewalk and separated from vehicular traffic lanes by planted islands and parking, addressed community concerns for cycle safety, while meeting an increasing demand for alternative transportation. Adjacent cities are now planning to provide connections for cyclists into their communities.

**Integrated Sustainability** - Sustainability practices were incorporated where they benefit the project. Planters with slotted curbs allow storm water to infiltrate into the ground; roadway repaving uses recycled rubberized asphalt which reduces tire noise on the street; LED and high efficiency metal halide streetlights reduce the energy demands of the street, drought tolerant planting cuts down the water demands of the city; and a lush canopy of the over 400 trees will mature to help to reduce the heat island effect.

**Quality of Life** - The design made provisions for spaces for public art, which will continue to grow with the boulevard as the years go on. Seating nodes allow pedestrians a place to sit and congregate and enhance the usability of the street. These aspects, along with locations for bicycle parking, allow people to experience and enjoy the street instead of rushing from one place to another.

With the improvements along Rosemead Boulevard, this once desolate and barren street was transformed from a vehicular oriented state highway, to a multi-modal transit corridor and a place that encourages an active lifestyle. It demonstrates the benefits of how thoughtful streetscape design under the direction of Landscape Architects can revitalize some of the largest public spaces within a city.