

# Spotlight on: US 70 Bridges

## Work with Others to Program Design Treatments for the Bridges over US 70 that Project a Unique Identity and Sense of Place for Garner

US 70 was originally part of the Central Highway system that ran adjacent to downtown via Garner Road. Continued growth in the region and its demands for faster, more-direct vehicle connections between the mountains and the sea led to a bypass around downtown built in the 1950s. This is the present-day US 70 that extends through Garner. Today, large, suburban-scale businesses have become a dominating feature for long stretches of the highway as it runs through Garner — places that look like anywhere else in suburban USA.

The highway creates a physical, visual, and psychological divide in the community. Other communities in the United States are working with their local departments of transportation to stylize certain bridges and underpasses that accompany the highway. Most aesthetic improvements are programmed with other safety or capacity improvements identified for the bridges or underpasses.

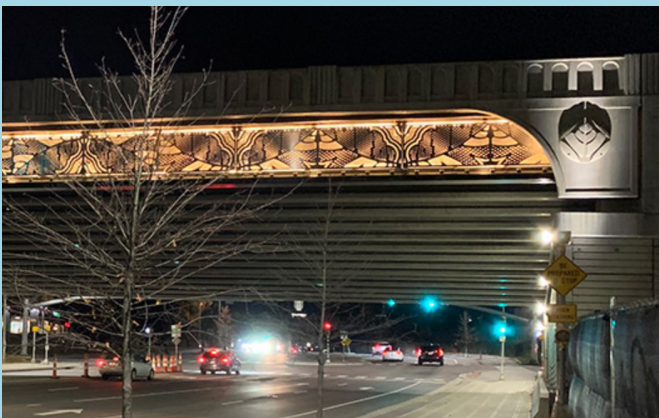
Recommended aesthetic improvements for bridges or underpasses on US 70 in Garner should consider unique colors, materials, shapes, lettering, art, or structures that say “I am in Garner” and welcome visitors traveling east or west between home, work, shopping, and entertainment destinations.



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town, and local artists beautify  
Asheville bridge, 2009  
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