The City of Des Moines and the Washington State DOT worked together to address safety and liability concerns on Pacific Highway. The design team involved community, utilities, business owners, neighboring cities, and other stakeholders early in the process. The project team collaborated with the local pedestrian safety committee to develop viable and affordable solutions to pedestrian safety problems. A Vision Statement developed by community members and stakeholders guided the project through design and construction.

Landscaping and gateway treatments gave the community the sense of identity which connected them to the waterfront area, as well as providing a comfortable welcome setting for visitors and patrons. New lanes and improved multi-modal facilities reduced congestion (contextsensitivesolutions.org).

The community wanted a unique design that provides an individual identity to the portion of the highway passing through Des Moines, so MAKERS developed a set of gateway signs, median sculptures, and related fixtures that reflect the town’s marine identity.