

City Gateways

City Gateways at Bailey Avenue, Taylor Street and Main Street have been defined in the Montpelier Master Plan for over 10 years. Envisioned as identifiable public junctures, the gateways should frame views of the Capitol and downtown. Integrated with the city's natural and historic character, gateways will welcome visitors to the commercial and cultural opportunities Montpelier has to offer. Pedestrian walkways, river overlooks, and parks characterize the Master Plan and the Montpelier Rivers Study. Street tree landscaping, improved signage that identifies the capital city and downtown, and improved boulevard lighting area are all integral to the gateway concept. Enhancement of the gateway areas should reinforce many of the other physical and programmatic aspects of the CDMP.



1. A Memorial Drive Boulevard:

The recent reconstruction of Memorial Drive improved the physical condition of the road, but did little in the way of creating a distinguished urban boulevard or parkway commensurate with a capital city. Additional street trees, improved sidewalks, linkages to the Winooski West Bikepath, sensitive street lighting, and a capital city signage program will all contribute to Montpelier's primary gateway entry.

2. City Gateway: Bailey Avenue

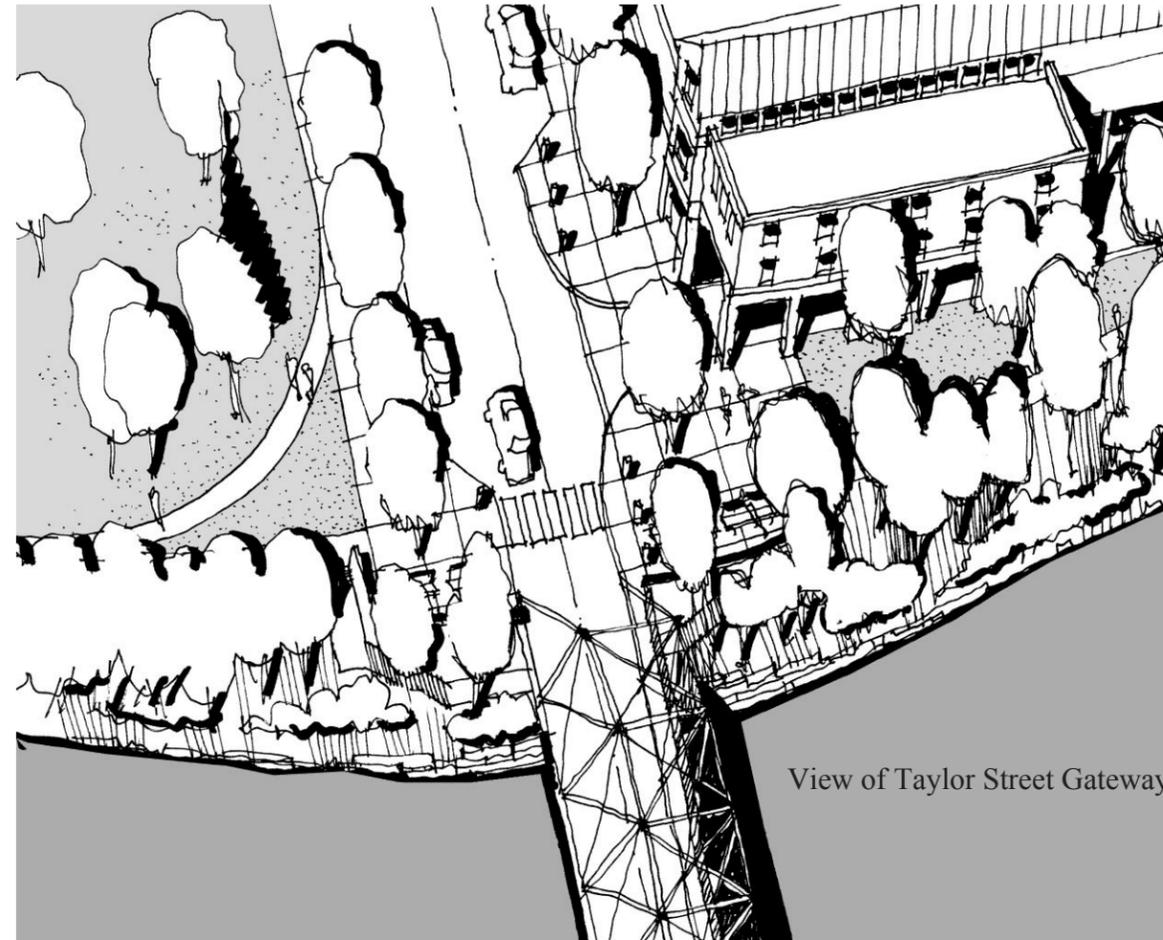
The new bridge on Bailey Avenue was designed to have an historic flavor that would enhance the entrance to the Capital District. Future improvements should include a streetscape design for Bailey Avenue and make the intersection of Bailey Avenue and Memorial Drive more attractive and pedestrian friendly.

3. City Gateway: Taylor Street

The steel truss bridge on Taylor Street is one of the "City of Bridges" most treasured historic and visual assets. Taylor Street is optimally located to serve as a contributing gateway to the city, particularly in combination with development of the visitor/transit center. The bridge will be improved structurally, and modified to accommodate pedestrians from the greenway and city sidewalk systems.

4. City Gateway: Main Street

The entrance to the downtown currently offers little in the way of visual or pedestrian enhancements. Although not officially included in the CDMP Main Street should be identified as an area in need of landscaping, street trees, and a riverfront park with an overlook. Similar to Bailey Avenue, the Main Street and Memorial Drive intersection should be made safer for pedestrians.



View of Taylor Street Gateway at the River



View of Bailey Street Gateway at Memorial Drive