



# A TREE'S PLACE IN THE ROW

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# A TREE'S PLACE IN THE ROW

- The Three F's
- Application Period for Iowa DOT District & Roadside
- What Can You do to Help?
- Cheaper for you isn't cheaper or free for the DOT
- What looks natural, probably isn't



# A TREE'S PLACE IN THE ROW

## THE 3 F'S



FUNCTION



FORM



FRINGE BENEFITS



# THE THREE F'S FOR ROADSIDE



## Function

- Living Snow Fence
- Backslope stabilization
- Reduced Mowing
- Herbicide Spray Reduction
- Softens the edge for neighbors

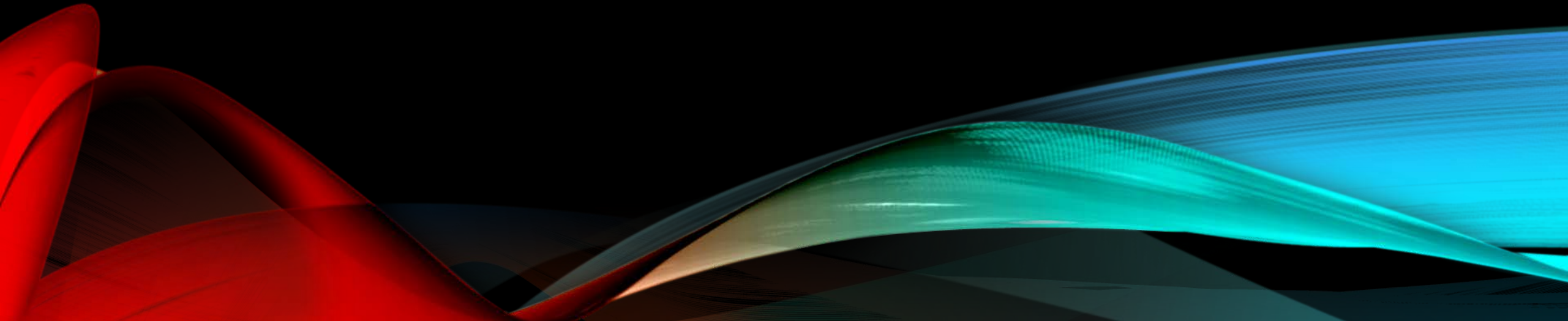
## Form

- Native Species
- Iowa Ecotype/Locally Grown
- Makes the ROW Interesting

## Fringe Benefits

- Pollinator Habitat
- Driver Fatigue Reduction
- Erosion Control
- Noise attenuation/screening

APPLICATION PERIOD FOR  
THE IOWA DOT DISTRICT  
&  
ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT



# WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR?



- Beautification Plantings: \$2,500,000 Annually
- DOT/DNR Tree fund Plantings: \$300,000 Annually
- Community Visioning Projects: \$10,000-\$200,000 Annually
- Planting Permits
- Mitigation (Permits required for Treble Damages/Torts)
- Asset/Legacy Trees
- No magic layer on the GIS Portal for now



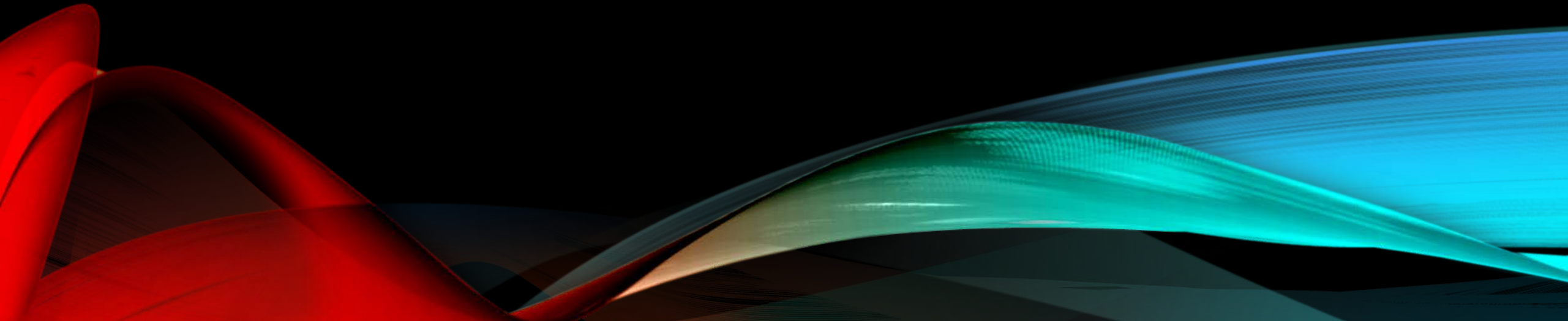
# WHERE AM I LOOKING?

- Roadside Development Projects (ERMS/Paper Archives)
- DOT/DNR Tree fund (Paper Archives)
- Community Visioning Projects: (ISU Extension, Cities, Counties, & Visual Identification)
- Planting Permits (Districts/Paper Archives)
- Mitigation (Districts/Permits required for Treble Damages/Torts)
- Asset/Legacy Trees (Visual Identification)
- Share Mitigation story (buried in the archives)



WHY?

THERE ARE A LOT OF  
REASONS FOR THE  
VEGETATION TO BE THERE





# WHY WE CARE?

## Function

- Reduction in snow removal
- Reduction in mowing
- Reduction in herbicide use
- District paid for Living Snow Fence
- State Taxpayer Investment
- Reduced staff for maintenance

## Form

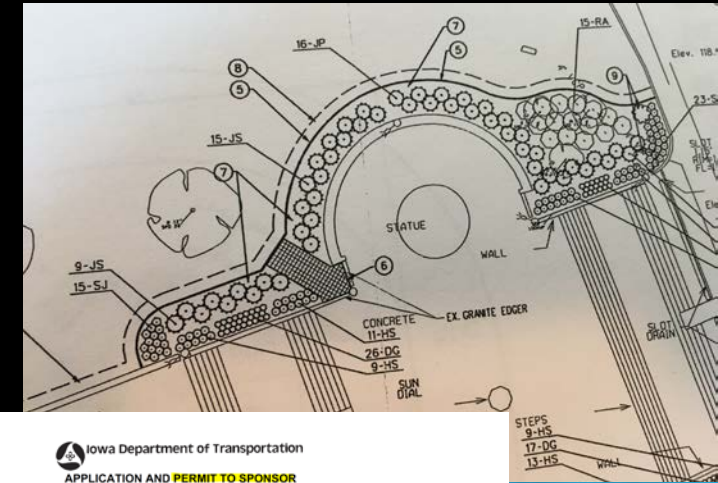
- Beautification Budget: \$2,500,000
- DOT/DNR Tree Fund: \$300,000
- Community Visioning
- Planting Permits
- Remediation
- Asset

## Fringe Benefits

- Lowest care needed
- Exemplifies Iowa's natural roadside beauty

# WHY IT TAKES TIME?

...I have 5 sources to scour



**IOWA DOT** Form 810028 (03-16)  
APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT TO PERFORM WORK WITHIN STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
Permit Number	Highway Number	County
DOT Project Number	Expiration/Completion Date	

APPLICANT (INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY) (ASSISTANCE FROM DEPARTMENT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

**Iowa Department of Transportation**  
APPLICATION AND PERMIT TO SPONSOR HIGHWAY PLANTING

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Highway Number \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT:  
Name of Applicant (Organization, Group or Individual) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (Street, P.O. Box, City, State, Zip Code) \_\_\_\_\_  
The proposed work is located in Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ Twp. \_\_\_\_\_ Rge. \_\_\_\_\_ on Highway \_\_\_\_\_, located \_\_\_\_\_ (miles) \_\_\_\_\_ (direction) from \_\_\_\_\_

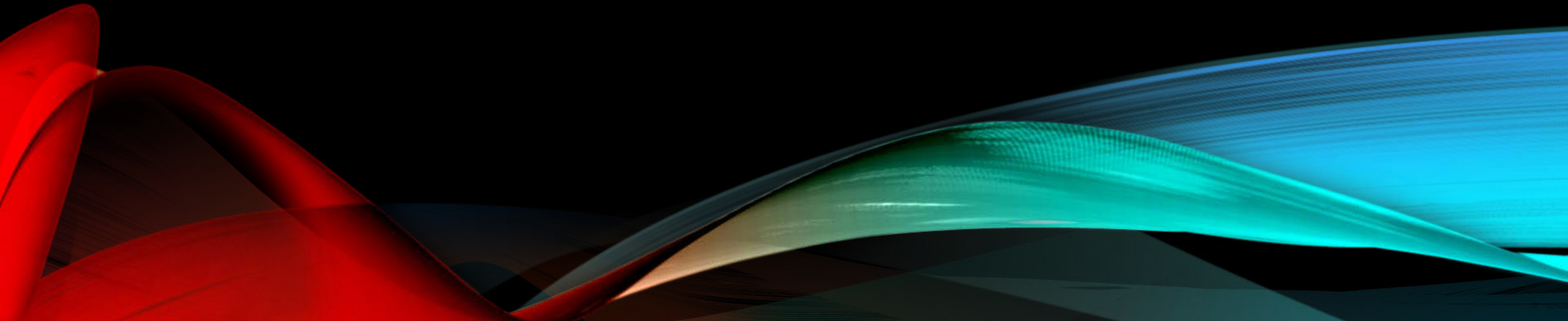
# UTILITY REQUESTS

- Time to Research
- Time to visit
- Time to evaluate purpose the vegetation serves
- Determine Funding Source

115.4(10) **Protection of landscaped or planted areas.** A landscaped or planted area that is disturbed shall be restored as nearly as practical to its original condition. Specific authorization must be obtained from the district representative prior to trimming trees or spraying within the right-of-way.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO  
HELP?





# WHAT YOU CAN DO?

- Follow the **Policy for Accommodating & Adjustment of Utilities on the Primary Road System**
- **Avoid Plantings**
- **Prepare your Application Early for the District**; don't submit it a month prior to your expected construction start
- Propose the **smallest footprint of removal** to achieve your objective
- Be patient
- **Expect cost with your proposed removals** to cover replanting/treble damages



## POLICY FOR ACCOMMODATING AND ADJUSTMENT OF UTILITIES ON THE PRIMARY ROAD SYSTEM

REVISED AND IMPLEMENTED December 2005

REVISED SECTION 115.1(306A) January 2012  
REVISED APPENDIX E1 THRU E12

IN ACCORD WITH

IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE 761

CHAPTER 115 (306A)

Available On-Line: <http://www.dot.state.ia.us/traffic/index.htm>

Revision (A)Feb

115.4(7) **No adverse effect on highway.** A utility facility shall not adversely **affect the safety,** design, construction, **operation, maintenance** or stability of the present use or future expansion of a primary highway.

115.4(10) **Protection of landscaped or planted areas.** A landscaped or planted area that is disturbed shall be restored as nearly as practical to its original condition. Specific authorization must be obtained from the district representative prior to trimming trees or spraying within the right-of-way.

# TREBLE DAMAGES

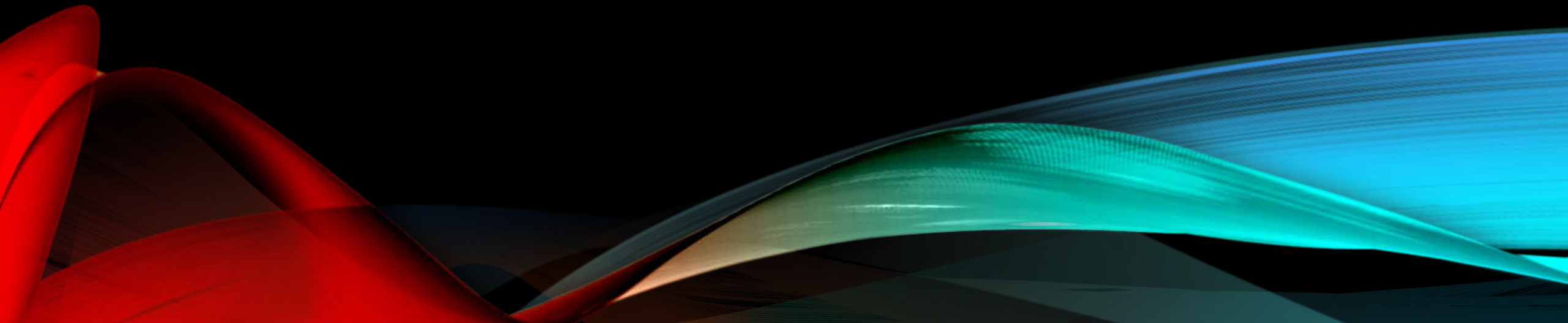
- Trees Removed = 3 Replacement Trees
  - Planted as per DOT specification
  - 2 full growing seasons to ensure reestablishment of the planting
- Taken without permission/no permit = Tort/Insurance

## **658.4 Treble damages for injury to trees.**

For willfully injuring any timber, tree, or shrub on the land of another, or in the street or highway in front of another's cultivated ground, yard, or city lot, or on the public grounds of any city, or any land held by the state for any purpose whatever, the perpetrator shall pay treble damages at the suit of any person entitled to protect or enjoy the property.

[C51, §2137; R60, §3719; C73, §3335; C97, §4306; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §12405; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §658.4]

FREE OR CHEAP EASEMENT  
≠  
FREE TO IOWA DOT



WHAT LOOKS NATURAL  
PROBABLY ISN'T  
(STORY TIME ABOUT THE DOT PLANTING STYLE)





WHAT LOOKS NATURAL TO YOU, WAS DESIGNED...

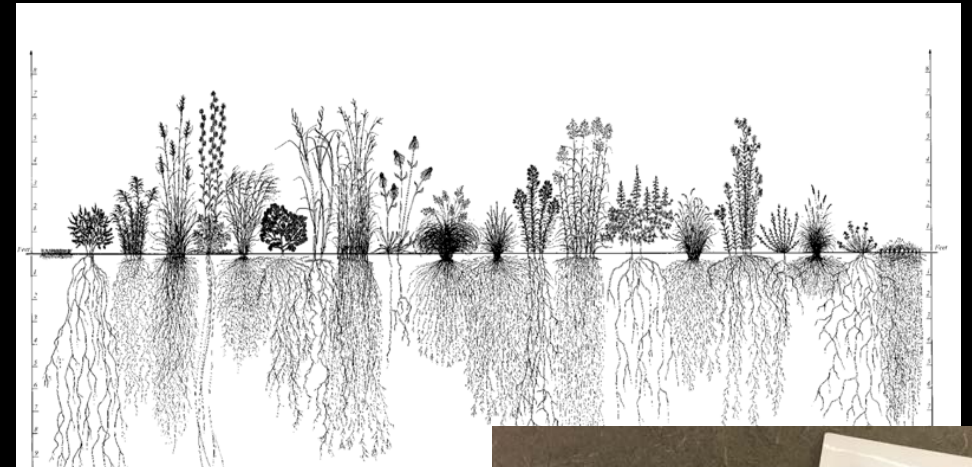
WE PROBABLY SPENT \$200,000-\$500,000 TO INSTALL THAT  
PLANTING ALONG A BYPASS

OR

WE PROBABLY SPENT \$250,000-\$350,000 TO PLANT THAT  
INTERCHANGE

# COST OF VEGETATION REMOVAL TO THE DOT?

- **Snow removal** (DOT Maintenance Budget)
  - Snow moves beyond the backslope
- **Snow sifting** (Accidents)
  - snow glazes the road surface
- **Sediment/Soil Structure Loss** (Fines and cost of restoration)
  - Slides
  - Sedimentation
- **Removal of Beautification** (DOT Roadside & 3-4 years of replacement planting)
  - Removal of enhancements/assets
  - **Non-renewable (Legacy Trees - can't be replaced in our lifetime)**



# VISUAL QUALITY

115.5(4) **Aboveground facilities.** The design of aboveground utility facilities shall be compatible with the visual quality of the specific highway section being traversed. See rule 115.6(306A).





# AFFECTING ROADSIDE ENHANCEMENTS



## 761--115.6(306A) **Scenic enhancement.**

115.6(1) **Introduction.** The type and size of a utility facility and the manner in which it is installed can materially alter the scenic quality, appearance and view of highway roadsides and adjacent areas. For these reasons, additional controls are applicable in areas that have been acquired or set aside for their scenic quality. Such areas may include, but are not limited to, **scenic strips, scenic overlooks, rest areas, recreation areas, public parks and historic sites, aesthetically enhanced corridors, and the right-of-way of primary highways** that pass through or are adjacent to these areas. These additional controls are addressed in this rule.

115.6(2) **Underground installations.** The department **may** permit a new underground installation if it does not require extensive removal or alteration of trees or other natural features visible to the highway user and if it does not impair the visual quality of the area being traversed.

115.6(3) **Aboveground installations.** The department **may** permit a new aboveground installation **only if the following three conditions are met:**

- a. Other locations for an aboveground installation are unusually difficult, are unreasonably costly, or are less desirable from the standpoint of visual quality.
- b. Underground installation is not technically feasible or is unreasonably costly.
- c. The location, design and materials to be used for the proposed aboveground installation will give adequate attention to the visual qualities of the area being traversed.



# IN SUMMARY

- YOUR REMOVAL WILL REQUIRE MITIGATION
- YOUR REMOVAL HAS COST
  - DOT (SAFETY/COST/TIME)
  - YOU (TREBLE DAMAGES/MITIGATION)

# THANK YOU!

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