Bus Stops
Bus stops should offer comfortable, protected rest spaces, while providing visibility to make transit access easy and attractive. But they can also contribute to creative placemaking, through landscaping, art, or interactive features. Given their regular spacing along a corridor, they can even help shape the identity of a place.

Design Considerations: seating for all abilities, shelter from wind and rain, grime-resistant material, unique.

Public Art/Murals
Public art is a means to make Solano’s character tangible. When community members develop and participate, murals can become photo backdrops, political commentaries, or ways to show local pride. Public art is flexible and can change over the years, or it can become permanent.

Design Considerations: eco-friendly paint, themed art/colors to create unified character, local artists.

Bike Racks
Solano has begun implementing colorful bike racks, and here are additional ideas to evolve these efforts. Bike racks can become multi-use. They can be a landmark, make a statement, add an old-time flair, or become a canvas for art competitions.

Design Considerations: convenient, near building entrances, visible, space to secure bike in two places, not blocking pedestrian walkways, bike parking stalls in-street.
Designing Solano’s Streetscape

Many elements combine to create vibrant, welcoming streetscapes, as seen below. How will these elements look and feel for Solano? What are the best solutions and most exciting ideas? Stick a dot sticker below your favorite ones here, or leave a comment with a post-it!

Site Furnishings
Creating a walkable street improves livability, safety, and local businesses; but walkability starts with offering places for people to stop and enjoy the destination. Street furniture offers spots to rest, eat, meet up, or even charge technology. These needs can be met in fun ways to create welcoming environments for both individuals and groups.

Design Considerations: variety of seating types, attractive and functional benches, integrated plants/shade, arrangements to facilitate use by groups.

Paving
Paving changes, adding texture and color, often demarcate special pedestrian areas, such as transitions from sidewalk to plaza or walking areas to seating area. Or on a curbless street design, paving can even demarcate sidewalk and vehicular zones, all while giving the sense that the entire space is “shared” and pedestrian-friendly.

Design Considerations: accessibility, drainage and permeable pavers, slip-resistance, movement over time, local materials, durability.

Street Trees and Plantings
Trees and plants of all shapes and sizes thrive in the Bay Area. Varied combinations provide a balance of light and shade while adding visual interest and natural drainage. With thoughtful species selection, such welcoming natural elements can also be implemented with tolerance for drought.

Design Considerations: local plants, xeriscaping, space trees 25-30 ft O.C., suspended pavement system for tree roots.

Solano Avenue Complete Streets Plan
Branding & Sense of Place

Solano already has several beloved, well-recognized nodes, in “Upper-Solano” and “Lower-Solano.” Does the future hold a “Central Solano,” or “Heart of Solano” too? Coordinated streetscaping (like signage, street furniture, or public art) tells visitors they have entered a special, distinct place. Use style consistency to prevent clutter.

Design Considerations: celebrate uniqueness, co-located with other streetscape elements (e.g. lighting).

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens clean stormwater as it filters through the soil and help to reduce the amount of pollution in water runoff. Bioretention also prevents street flooding during larger rain events, and contributes unique, attractive, functional zones for nature to flourish in an urban setting.

Design Considerations: detailed “French” drain grates, sunken growing area, bridges over channels, plant selection coordinated with other design of streetscape.

Lighting

Lighting is important for security and pedestrian safety. Multi-sided lighting especially helps to illuminate walkers from the side or bottom, rather than just spotlighting them from above. But lighting can also contribute more dynamically to the sense of a place, whether creating uplighting accents, highlighting art, or casting a twinkling “roof” over a space.

Design Considerations: side/bottom light sources, pedestrian-oriented, minimized light pollution/spill, color-balance lamps.