


I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition Essay

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April 29, 2013

When I saw the scholarship for the I-90 Wildlife Crossing I was ecstatic. I knew that it was a good one for me because I am creative, love animals, and from traveling a lot know the importance of the crossing. I created a great design while making some great cost saving designs with materials because we all know that the crossing has got to make budget. I know that the new highway is going to be 3 lanes each way but I did 2 to keep down the size of my model since I had to ship it. Hopefully you can realize that I was trying to do a professional model yet keeping it from being too "much" so that the general idea of the crossing could be taken from it.

I started off laying down my base for the model such as the road, road markings, and grass. I then began constructing the main focus... the crossing. In my design I used styrofoam to represent the concrete blocks that should be used to hold supports of the crossing. Steel as we know is very strong, and so I used a twisted (to add a design feature) gold wire for the base supports to represent the steel that should be used. The wire that I used in representation for steel is arched creating an arched crossing that makes a stronger bridge overall. This saves money on more support beams, etc. What is painted in gray, such as the posts and blocks, represents concrete. As you can see I tried to save a bit on concrete. My original plan was to have a concrete wall for the fence on the crossing, but decided upon two things. One, animals do not want to feel closed in, and two, concrete is very expensive and the screen fencing would allow the animals to not feel so closed in and be way more cost effective. There are a few things I feel that could be added to the crossing such as trees to help drown out traffic and to allow the animals to have more of a natural feel. I then thought though, animals have never feared traffic; I mean they try to cross highways all the time! So I felt the trees are an option if the bridge could be made to sustain them, and if they could be worked into the budget. Speaking of budget, if it allowed, I think that a nice eye candy touch to the project would be rock signs on each side of the highway stating what the crossing is exactly as shown on my model. I think that another nice touch to the project for the state



would be game cameras on each side of the project so that the use of the crossing could be shown.

As you can see, I put a lot of thought and time into this model. I did not just “throw it together”. I actually took into consideration the animals, budget, and what the best design would be eye candy wise. I sure hope that you can take the general crossing idea that I created and realize that I have got a wonderful design. I appreciate your time and thank you for this option of a scholarship. It is quite a different yet fun idea than the normal scholarship applications. I look forward to meeting with the staff working on this project to share my idea(s) in person.



