

SR-509 Cable Stay Bridge

Tacoma, Washington



The goal was to create a sleek, slender structure with graceful architectural appeal

The State of Washington was proposing a typical freeway over the Foss Waterway. Jim asked the Mayor of Tacoma to consider an alternative. The Mayor encouraged Jim to bring forward an alternative that would be worthy of the place at the arrival of the City. Jim mobilized a committee of community organizations to discuss and study alternatives for the bridge design. With research of cable-stay bridges and guidance by renowned engineer, Arvid Grant, Jim developed a sketch of a bridge in Tacoma. Armed with the concept and the support of a wide range of community organizations, Jim and community members made presentations to the City Council, Congressman Norm Dicks, and the State of Washington. The ideas gained momentum quickly and the design was accepted by the State and now frames the arrival to the City of Tacoma.