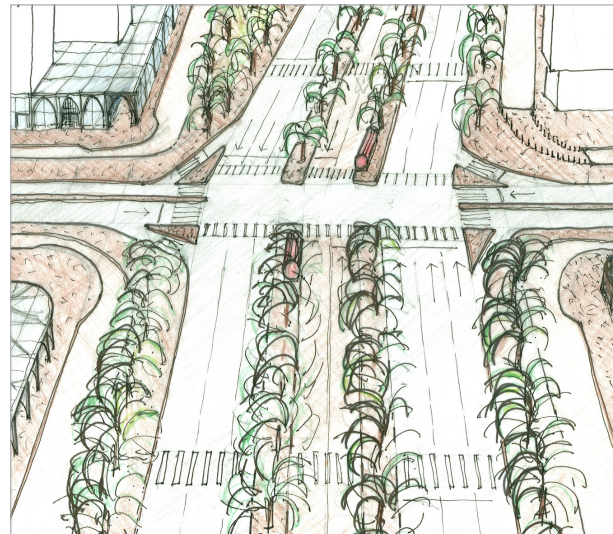


Salam Street Charrette



A host of new developments proposed for Abu Dhabi's Central Business District (CBD) and surrounding islands will generate a large amount of new trips in and around downtown. Since the city provides only minimal pedestrian and transit infrastructure, most of these trips will be via private automobile. This new traffic will be focused on Salam Street, an eight-lane roadway that is already congested. To create more capacity, the city entertained a proposal to construct an open-trench tunnel. Recognizing that this would impair the livability of downtown, Abu Dhabi's Executive Affairs Authority brought in a team of consultants, led by Nelson\Nygaard, to consider alternatives and formulate short and long-term solutions for congestion on Salam Street.

During the four-day charrette, Nelson\Nygaard worked with the EAA, city officials, and other consultants to create a design that maximized efficient traffic movement while creating an atmosphere inviting to pedestrians. Abu Dhabi enjoys a dense, mixed-use environment and many pedestrians were observed shopping, strolling, and playing outside, but the city's long blocks and wide roads create hazardous crossings. Plus, the hot and humid climate of Abu Dhabi makes walking on the city's unshaded streets something many people avoid during the heat of the day.

The team decided that a bypass tunnel (with no exits into the CBD) will provide the most capac-

ity while maintaining Salam's local functions. Because construction will require completely ripping up Salam Street, the city has a wonderful opportunity to re-create the street with shade, room for transit, and infill development. To complement the new roadway we created conceptual designs for Abu Dhabi's superblocks, placing parking underground and creating new civic uses and public space. Finally, we developed a new pedestrian and local traffic circulation system employing midblock crosswalks, U-turns, and internal roads.

Project Duration: 2007

Total Budget: \$133,000

Nelson\Nygaard Budget: \$75,000

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