

Access and Visibility

July 12, 2004 – Terwilliger Lodge, Dulle Park

- If you're connecting Fifth and Race across to Fountain Square, you've got all that congestion there. At the southwest corner there is no easy access into the Square. I don't feel crossing Fifth from the southwest corner will be safe.
- What about the road change in front of the Westin? It will make it sharper; it will be a bigger turn and will slow traffic up. The turn will be harder and it will be more unsafe.
- If you didn't lower the Fountain Square curb and add a lane to Fifth Street, then that's where you could park your carriages.
- We have to find a home for the carriages.
- He brought up those carriages. Why not notch the curb to allow for the horse carriages. You want to move the horses away from that entrance and put them near the trees.
- There's nothing to protect people if a car jumps the curb—there's no wall, just a curb.

July 13, 2004 – Aronoff Center for the Arts

- A month or so ago I saw a plan to move part of Fifth Street south and take up part of the Westin. Has that been dropped?
- Since everyone is concerned about terrorist activities now, has anyone thought about putting barriers around the square so someone cannot just drive up onto the Square?

July 14, 2004 – Cintas Center, Xavier University

- As far as moving Fifth Street, make it straight and connect it directly with Government Square.
- Have you addressed opening up the Square to Sixth Street through the claustrophobic tunnel?
- Also concerned about moving Fifth Street. We will have a sharper curve. I would like to see some sort of barrier on Fifth Street and I think it wouldn't be a problem with the other side.
- Re Government Square: that is going to be completely rebuilt, so it will look different in the future. Money has already been allocated for that. Also, the streetcar lines downtown has been approved by OKI, so we need to take that into consideration in this plan.
- Need to take the streetcar line loop into consideration here.

July 19, 2004 – Hyatt Regency Cincinnati

- Can we move the buses? Move larger buses to the Second Street transportation center that is already there, and use trolleys or smaller buses to move people from the Second Street transportation center and up into town.
- To me, the major problem is the tunnel to Sixth Street there—it is dark and dingy. Maybe a Burlington Arcade effect. Something with glass and steel that's high and light with little lights at night. Something that invites people up in that manner.
- Rather than renovate the Square, possibly just flatten it. It is pretty hard to get on the square itself—I agree with that.

- Concern about pedestrian access. If we are going to use it, we need to be able to get to it by foot. One of the dangerous things right now is the sidewalk that comes from the US Bank Center, over Fifth Street—seems like a problem.
- How about the possibility of a diagonal passageway from Fountain Square to Sixth and Walnut? You spent a bundle developing the Backstage area, but it is not connected to Fountain Square. Some of the retail there is closed and it would help to connect Bella, Contemporary Arts Center, and the Aronoff.
- One of the major values of the Fountain square parking is Aronoff events. Right now cannot get there from here. AS an aside--None of these ideas being presented here tonight have to be either/or. They can be both/and.

August 11, 2004 – St. Williams Church, Cincinnati

- Safety is an issue. I work downtown. Especially in the winter months when it gets dark earlier I wouldn't want to be down there on the Square.
- The walls around Fifth Street serve as a barrier. If you move the walls, traffic is very heavy and it's a safety issue for crossing the street and for cars whipping around the bend there.
- Is Fifth Street being narrowed to fewer lanes? Are we eliminating the bus stop at Vine and Fifth?
- There's really no easy way for pedestrian to get to the square because there's heavy traffic on three sides of it. I wonder how this could be changed.
- If someone is speeding through on Fifth Street and loses control, they are heading for the Fountain. Another reason for a wall or bulwarks.
- I am still concerned about Fifth Street and people clipping around the corner. Now you have to zip right past it. We have to work on traffic flow on Fifth Street so that people can enjoy it, and they cannot enjoy it at 45 miles an hour.