

Access & Linkage: Connected / Linked / Visual / Parking

May 4, 2004

Liked Skywalk when it was functionally operating. Good for his business deliveries. In 50s & 60s there were signs noting number of pedestrian injuries and skywalk was solution. 129 days in Cincinnati there will be rain—1/3 of the time. Crowds will come out when the weather is good. Downtown workers are mainly attorneys (60-70% of bar association members are downtown—east of Vine Street—and go west to restaurants and post office). Reconnect skywalk to convention center—that kept the souvenir shops in business. Study existing traffic patterns. People should have access from parking to their destinations in bad weather. Mega mall feel but with unique small businesses. Integrated system for moving people around; Munich is best example. “I used the skywalks whenever I went downtown. Whenever someone talks about tearing it down, I feel the same way [as former speaker].”

Skywalk might reduce how much people patronize businesses at street level.

Save skywalks but make them look better or integrate them better.

Can you include Westin lobby as part of the renovation? Connect it more.

The Westin lobby is a public space and we should use it that way. It's dead now. A waste of beautiful space. Lower elevation and let the Square and Westin flow together. Have food there. Close 5th Street between Vine and Walnut. Get rid of the revolving doors and open the space up. Leicester Square in London isn't all that attractive but has great pedestrian traffic with lots of people.

May 5, 2004 –

Entrance to square from 6th street is like a tunnel & not well lit; can't even see the fountain.

Have something as the terminus.

People are confused because they can't see their destination.

Skywalks aren't necessary here like Minneapolis.

We're not that cold or get that much snow.

Only like the open air one on 5th; the one over Vine should definitely go.

Fountain is off-centered; doesn't look right.

Best view of fountain is driving in on 5th Street, not for people on the Square.

How will stage in a new location relate to the fountain; would it be permanent?

May 6, 2004 –

Connect at least 2 main streets, like 5th to 6th, otherwise it's not a big enough space.

Locals know how to use skywalk effectively, and it's a quick way to disperse crowds after big event. The current system might be ugly, so do it better.

Better connections to Walnut, 6th & Aronoff.

Have better visual connection.

Open up atrium or channel catty-corner to 6th and Walnut; be able to see it from Maisonette.

Have trolleys that link to riverfront parking.

May 10, 2004 -

Europe has public transportation options we don't have, but give people a chance to use a shuttle or trolley to connect to other features in the area on both sides of the river.

Make skywalks subterranean.

What about underground subway system; we need to complete it so people have a way to get downtown. Parking is critical. We'd go downtown more often if parking were affordable, safe, and accessible.

Garage is very confusing, not easy to use.

Less parking but more public transportation.

What's happening with Broadway Commons? Could we connect to that?

Make it pedestrian-friendly, which makes it more welcoming.

If you could walk from Fountain Square to the Riverfront on a cobble-stoned street, I'd be there.

What happened to gas-powered trolleys? Bring them back.

Bring in private transportation companies; it doesn't have to be public.

OKI recommended light rail and streetcars circulating from downtown to northern Kentucky and up to U.C. The walkway on the north side should remain intact; some merchants depend on it. The bridge across 5th Street is not as functional as designed. It's too much concrete, and stage is mammoth.

The Purple People bridge should link to Fountain Square; part of its vision.

May 11, 2004

Trolley system on a loop would bring more people down quickly on their lunch hour.

Link library to Fountain Square. Bring children here to study.

Tie neighborhoods to the square, like "Mt. Healthy Week on the Square" to attract people from outlying areas. Now it's like a neutron bomb went off at night. I think that I am the only person from Anderson who comes here at night.

I like convention and visitors bureau in new location on the square. Keep the art going, like the pigs.

Can we link Westin Atrium to the square? Barnes & Noble? More public seating.