

Library Lane Design Concept - Overview

January 11, 2008

Library Lane is a proposed new roadway between Fifth Avenue and Division Street located between William Street and Liberty Street where an existing surface parking lot currently exists. The road is to be placed above an underground parking garage. This document outlines some preliminary ideas on how Library Lane may be developed to work with a number of scenarios.

Design Goals

Based on input from the DDA Board Members and others, we heard that Library Lane should be:

1. A “Complete Street” that is safe and comfortable for motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.
2. An attractive street appropriate for District Library’s intent to have the front door of the renovated library face onto Library Lane.
3. Have a character that respects the Division Street Historic District.
4. A flexible space where part of the roadway may be closed and used for a festival.
5. A roadway that will work with a number of scenarios that may be placed on top of the remainder of the underground parking garage including surface parking, a mixed-use development or some combination thereof.

Key Design Elements

The preliminary design concept for Library Lane includes:

1. A fountain placed between the District Library’s proposed new front entrance and the central stair and elevator access to underground parking deck. The road curves around this element, slowing traffic and accommodating the informal mid-block crossings that are bound to take place.
2. The street is divided into two distinct segments. The west end a European style mini-plaza, the east end is a more traditional street with on-street parking.
3. The plaza area has informal movable seating and tables.
4. The street may be closed off at the mid-point with the plaza area being used for special events while still maintaining access to the underground parking garage.
5. Pavers are used to slow traffic and contrasting colors and textures are used to define different areas.
6. The vents and stairs for the underground parking garage become sculptural elements.



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Surface Parking

- The parking lot is accessed off of both Fifth Avenue and Library Lane.
- The plaza pavers extend across the parking lot to make a strong connection to the elevators and slow vehicles.



Fountain Plaza

- The plaza area can be closed to traffic to create a festival area without restricting access to underground parking.
- A sculptural fountain would provide four seasons of interest.
- The center of roundabout allows for day lighting opportunities into underground parking.

Library Lane Design Concept



Plaza Features with Mixed-Use Development

- Elevator and stair access to the underground parking would open out into the plaza space.
- Stores and cafés would face into the plaza in a scenario with a mixed-use building.
- Movable seating, boulders, play areas and informal planting are used to create a dynamic plaza.



Library Drop-off

- The drop-off in front of library is designed to accommodate multiple buses.
- Short term and handicap parallel parking is located east of drop-off area.

Library Lane Design Concept



conceptual rendering

Fifth Avenue Entrance

- The columns framing the entrance double as vents for the parking deck.
- A crosswalk links Library Lane to the Blake Transit Center.



conceptual rendering

Division Street Entrance

- A covered stairway connects to east side of underground parking.
- The use of stone bases and brick in the stairwells and planters reflect the character of the historical district.
- Street trees are placed in above ground planters.