



memorandum

date October 6, 2005
to David Molgaard, City Manager
from Mitch Glass
project name Charleston Riverfront Master Plan
Charleston, West Virginia
project no. 54263.00
subject Verbal Comments from 9/29/05 Public Meeting #2
Phase 2: Master Plan Design Alternatives

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On September 29, Sasaki and Gannett Fleming conducted a Powerpoint presentation to approximately 150 people at the Charleston Civic Center. After an introduction by Mayor Danny Jones, the consultants presented the Master Plan Design Alternatives for Kanawha Boulevard and the riverfront improvements, including Magic Island and Haddad Riverfront Park.

The following questions and comments were received after the presentation:

Q: No money to do this project, with money now going to Louisiana after the hurricane.

A: *This is a long term project, with a 25 year horizon. The bank stabilization and CSO projects will happen. The plans for the riverfront can be phased in beginning with selective improvements such as the Haddad theater canopy and street bump outs along the Boulevard.*

Q: Can we do a one-month trial of Option B on the Boulevard by closing lanes?

A: *Yes, this is a good idea and traffic counts on the Boulevard and on nearby streets should also be done at that time.*

Q: It looks like the seating capacity at Haddad Riverfront Park has been reduced, so it will be unable to accommodate big events. Eliminating the parking at the Union Building is problematic, as you will not be able to accommodate the office parking need.

A: *The concrete seating is proposed to be removed and replaced with lawn terrace seating so there would be little change in seating capacity. Also there will be "gallery seating" or viewing from the new upper level Union Building terrace.*

Be even bolder in the downtown area. Maintain or even increase the speed limit of the Boulevard - 50 mph.

Has the design team thought about flood levels and high water events?

Don't lose any traffic lanes.

Could we tear the Union Building down?

Worked on the Boulevard for 15 years. Stretches of it are dangerous. It is scary to walk along the Boulevard, cars drive too close to the pedestrian path. My daughter fell into the street one time and I had to pick her up to get her out of the way of oncoming traffic. The riverfront should be a place for people, not cars. Our lives are too segmented. We should be integrated more with our environment.

Q: Integrate arts programs and culture. Plan seems bland.

A: *Yes, need to see if the State can assist with funding some of the interpretive/cultural elements.*

Integrate river into city life. Support Option B. No big deal to spend 2 extra minutes getting from east to west.

Canopy over Haddad amphitheater should shade people with the sun orientation. Check it.

CSO pump stations and overlooks combined - is this a good or bad idea?