Public Square Collaboration with the Group Plan Commission and City of Cleveland

Presented to: Committee of the Whole

December 6, 2022
BACKGROUND

• June, 2016: new Public Square opened

• Superior closure maintained

• March, 2017: Superior opened with barriers + temporary measures

• 2017-2022: group coordination around permanent alternative

• March, 2022: City Council funding approval for rehabilitation + RTA Board Meeting appearance

• August-November, 2022: City, RTA, and partners coordination on design concept
2022 SUPERIOR CROSSING WORKING GROUP

- City of Cleveland
- Greater Cleveland RTA
- Group Plan Commission
- LAND studio

2022 SUPERIOR CROSSING DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- Address Homeland Services concerns in routine/every-day operations
- Plan for easy and secure closure of Superior for special events
- Repair existing damage to roadway surface where pavers are currently in place
- Provide safe pedestrian crossings, including mid-block on Superior
- Account for bicycle circulation around Public Square
- Accommodate RTA service needs
LINEAR ALIGNMENT OF BOLLARDS

SUPERIOR CROSSING: ORIGINAL PROPOSAL
TEMPORARY ELEMENTS MADE PERMANENT
SUMMER-FALL

GROUP DESIGN PROCESS

- Held 15+ team meetings and small-group coordinating conversations
- Conducted multiple site visits to Public Square
- Drafted and reviewed 8 potential design alternatives
• SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO ORIGINAL CONCEPT IN LANE ALLOCATION + CURB LINES

• IMPROVED CENTRAL CROSSING
  • Bollard alignment with curb extensions increases pedestrian space
  • Raised/tabletop midblock crosswalk improves pedestrian crossing comfort and aids bus traffic through the Square

• SHARROWS ARE RESTORED ALONG SUPERIOR (2016 design element)
EXISTING CONDITIONS
SCAPE
BARRIER REMOVAL + CURB REPLACEMENT
SIGNAL REMOVAL + REPLACEMENT
CROSSWALK REMOVAL + REPLACEMENT
STRIPING
BOLLARD INSTALLATION
SUPERIOR SPECIAL EVENT CLOSURE
BUDGET + FUNDING UPDATE
NEXT STEPS

RTA BOARD REVIEW OF MOU + FUNDING
- Finalize MOU between City, RTA + Group Plan
- 12/6 Committee meeting
- 12/20 Board Meeting

CITY DESIGN REVIEW/PLANNING COMMISSION CONCEPTUAL REVIEW
- Jan 5 Downtown/Flat Design Review Advisory Committee Meeting
- Jan 6 City Planning Commission Meeting

IN PARALLEL
- City will convene protected bikeway connectivity workshops
- Group Plan will enter into contract for design and construction
Benefits to GCRTA

• Reconstructing Superior Avenue will decrease wear and tear on buses.
• Improving signal timing on Superior Avenue will enhance safety and expedite traversal of Public Square by buses.
• Developing an improved closure system to control traffic on Superior Avenue will reduce time and disruption to transit service when closing and reopening Public Square for major civic events.
• Enhancing safe, convenient pedestrian travel along and across Superior Avenue.
Impact to transit operations

The partners will minimize impact to transit operations by:

- Completing all work impacting transit operations on Superior Avenue within a single period of no more than 60 days.
- Completing all work impacting transit operations on the perimeter roads within a separate period of no more than 30 days.
GCRTA funding contributions

• The proposed contribution from GCRTA is not to exceed $500,000.

• Upon certification by Group Plan Commission that 95% of funds necessary for the Superior Avenue work items have been raised, GCRTA will advance 60% ($300,000) for the purpose of ordering long lead-time materials.

• Upon commencement of physical construction on the Superior Avenue work items, GCRTA will advance the remaining 40% ($200,000).
Recommendation

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Memorandum of Understanding to the Board of Trustees for approval.