



**For Immediate Release**

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**What:** Life on Liberty Pedestrian Improvements Begin

**Who:** A project of Envision Downtown, a public/private partnership between the Mayor's Office and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP)

**Where:** 900 Block of Liberty Avenue, Downtown Pittsburgh

**Project Description:** This is a streetscape enhancement project designed to create shorter pedestrian crossings and provide more space for businesses and pedestrian activities, Liberty Avenue accommodates over 2,000 pedestrians and 6,000 transit passengers during peak hours and less than 1,200 cars per hour during peak times. The project will better align Liberty Avenue with its primary users: pedestrians (visitors, residents, shoppers, employees, etc.) and transit riders. The project aims to improve pedestrian safety and the pedestrian experience, as well as increase access for individuals with limited mobility, while improving bus efficiency through the testing of bus priority lanes.

The project is funded by private dollars, primarily through the support of the R.K. Mellon Foundation. Paint for the project has been donated by PPG Paint, an ongoing demonstration of PPG's support for Envision Downtown projects, including the Strawberry Way street mural project. Additional in-kind support has been provided by the City Departments of Public Works and Mobility & Infrastructure.

This project is an expansion of Envision Downtown's work with Gehl Studio and the recently completed Public Realm Action Plan.

**Project Improvements:**

- Pilot improvements are targeted in the 900 block of Liberty where the street expands to five lanes
- Elements to be installed this month:
  - Painted curb extensions will reduce pedestrian crossing distance across Liberty and improve connection between the CBD and the Cultural District
  - A dedicated full time parking lane on the north side of Liberty Avenue will eliminate peak-hour parking restrictions
  - A temporary bus platform will create an expanded and dedicated space for waiting bus passengers.
  - a peak-hour bus lane established on the south side of Liberty between 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and William Penn Place. Lane restrictions will be bus only from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; plus ACCESS vehicles and all traffic making a right turn onto William Penn Place
  - Ongoing project elements will be rolled out this fall and next spring: improved pedestrian lighting, painted sidewalk extensions, landscape elements, and improvements in Garrison Way

**Specific Project Timeline:**

- Curb extension, bus lane and parking lane: 9/18-9/19
- Temporary bus platform: 9/21-9/22
- Pedestrian lighting pilot: fall 2017
- Painted sidewalk extensions & enhancement to Garrison Way: spring 2018
- Pilot will operate for approximately 18 months during which Envision Downtown will monitor success and engage frequently with businesses, rides and drivers for evaluation. After the pilot period, Envision Downtown and the PDP will work with the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure to determine if any project elements should be made permanent, expanded or retired.

**More Information:** To provide questions or feedback, please visit <http://www.envisiondowntown.com/feedback/>

### **About Envision Downtown**

*Envision Downtown is a public/private partnership between the Mayor's Office and the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership formed to accelerate Downtown's economic growth and competitiveness. Envision's mission is to advance mobility and livability in Pittsburgh's central neighborhoods, by making it safer, more attractive and convenient for everyone to get to, through and around Downtown. The initiative leverages a team of committed civic leaders and a robust data development program to implement a series of short-term, accelerated infrastructure projects with the goal of informing longer-term transformation changes to the City's mobility networks.*

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