



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PEDESTRIAN ENHANCEMENTS COMING TO THE 900 BLOCK OF LIBERTY AVENUE

**IMPROVEMENTS TO INCLUDE SIDEWALK EXTENTION, PEDESTRIAN LIGHTING,
PUBLIC ART, AND PLANTINGS**

**CHANGES WILL ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT AND
IMPROVE SAFETY ALONG THE CORRIDOR**

Downtown Pittsburgh – Installation of the new Life on Liberty Streetscape project is getting underway this week. This is the next phase in a series of pilots designed to improve the pedestrian, transit, and business experience on Liberty Avenue. This project creates a temporary, one year expansion of the sidewalk on the north side of Liberty Avenue's 900 block and is driven by the desire to make Liberty Avenue work better for the people who use it the most, pedestrians. This is an initiative of Envision Downtown, a partnership between the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership and the City of Pittsburgh.

The design incorporates large, decorative concrete blocks to define a pedestrian zone and create a series of large scale planting areas in current no parking areas. Integrated into this zone will be flowering plantings, a sequence of custom pedestrian levels lights, and a graphic art piece on the street surface. The first phase of the installation will create new pedestrian zones and introduce large planters. The next phases incorporate the light features and street mural. The full project is anticipated to be complete by early-September.

"We are looking forward to the continued improvement of the 900 Block of Liberty Avenue. We believe these enhancements will make for a much safer and more enjoyable experience for everyone who uses Liberty Avenue and will support the small businesses and cultural assets that are located along this corridor," said Jeremy Waldrup, President and CEO of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP).

The public engagement process for this project began over a year ago, when a week long "Liberty Labs" pop-up invited stakeholders to share their ideas of enhancements that would grow businesses, improve pedestrian safety, and enhance the transit experience along the corridor. After analyzing the surveys collected from the Liberty Labs process, the PDP developed conceptual plans in concert with the local urban design firm Studio for Spatial Practice and introduced them to the community in fall 2017. Specific feedback included the need for more space in the public right of way for pedestrians, additional lighting to improve the overall environment, and improved amenities for transit riders. There have been four public community meetings in the first four months of 2018, which provided continued follow-up to help the designers finalize the proposal and ultimately gain approval from the City of Pittsburgh Art + Design Commission in July 2018 with the support of the City's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure.

"Bricolage is proud to have been a part of a process with the PDP that worked to fuse the various needs of stakeholders along the 900 block of Liberty Avenue with efforts to make public spaces Downtown better suit pedestrians," says Jackie Baker Managing Director, Bricolage Production Company. "We hope the project will help fully realize the potential of Liberty Avenue as an engaging public space and increase the likelihood that people will choose to spend their time in and around the theaters on this block such as Pittsburgh Playwrights, Arcade Comedy, the August Wilson Center, and of course, Bricolage."

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The project will not remove any current parking spaces and will be installed in no parking zones. These improvements are intended to improve the functionality of this section of Liberty Avenue by reducing congestion on the sidewalk during rush hours, decreasing the distance pedestrians need to cross at three crosswalks, and making the section of Downtown more attractive and welcoming to pedestrians.

These streetscape improvements also compliment the work that has already occurred on this block of Liberty Avenue, including the addition of a red, painted bus-only lane, the relocation of a busy bus stop to an adjacent block, a rubber bumpout that provides dedicated space for those waiting for transit at a congested intersection, the greenhouse Spark parklet that was recently installed in front of Bae Bae's Kitchen, as well as *Garrison Canal*, the lighted public art installation on Garrison Place, just off of Liberty Avenue.

Many partners have been instrumental in this work, including the Studio for Spatial Practice who developed the overall street enhancement plan, Eisler Landscapes who is leading the installation of the project, and Standard and Custom who will be locally producing the lights arms and metal-cut out graphics. The project has been funded with generous support from the R.K. Mellon Foundation. No public money has been used for this project.

About the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership (PDP) is a dynamic, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders, property owners, civic organizations, foundations and residents who provide energy, vision and advocacy for Downtown Pittsburgh. Working collaboratively with its partners, the PDP strives to create a positive Downtown experience for residents, workers and visitors alike. The PDP's strategic initiatives include clean and safe services, transportation, and economic development and advocacy. For more information, visit www.DowntownPittsburgh.com, follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/downtownpitt> and "like" us on Facebook.

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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