

# Crazylegs Triangle Re:Design Workshop

## Discussion Notes

6:00-7:30PM, August 8, 2017

Total Participants: 15 plus city staff

City of Madison staff and project team in attendance: Christy Bachmann (Engineering), Rebecca Cnare (Planning), Tim Sobota (Metro), Karin Wolf (Madison Arts Program), Ken Saiki and Julia Schilling (Ken Saiki Design), Zia Brucaya (Urban Assets)

The purpose of this workshop was to collect public input on design opportunities for the future Crazylegs Plaza, planned for construction as part of the Monroe Street reconstruction in 2018. Attendees were introduced to design opportunities within the scope of the project; conducted a site visit to discuss opportunities and constraints of the location; and provided feedback on precedent imagery for specific categories of potential site enhancements and design themes.

### General comments during presentations:

- This project should include Regent Street, or we lose a major opportunity.
- This is a place where three neighborhoods come together, it is an opportunity to have it be used more than seven days a year during football Saturdays.
- Except for football weekends, it's not really a destination. Should be a nice place for people to go through, a place for insects, a place for stormwater, and a place for the game day pop-ups.
- It is already a destination for people who meet up on bikes and walk dogs. Even more people will be going there in the future from the new development and HotelRED.
- Important to look at current uses, but also think about future uses and potential. There is a lot that will change around the intersection and this is a big opportunity.
- Neighbors won't spend time here – they will go to Vilas Park or Wingra Park.
- Worried about too many bicycle paths cutting through the space. Do not want the two bicycle paths to take up the entire plaza – keep some open / green space.
- Is there an opportunity for a small concession run by someone else (look at Wingra Park model), that could offer ice cream, snacks, beverages, etc. to activate the space and make it more of a destination? Put this on the City-owned lot by the bike path. City could lease out.

### Comments during site visit to Crazylegs Triangle:

- There is a spot at the top of the point where there is a view of the Capitol Dome
- The point at Regent feels very exposed – not a place to hang out, but could be a great place to install a “marker” or gateway feature to signify that you are entering/leaving a special area.
- Emphasize the good things that already happen here. Since the point is less hospitable to sitting and relaxing, perhaps this could be an area focused on bikes and transit (e.g., bike station, water

fountain, air pump, sign kiosk area with a map of the larger bike system, etc.). Emphasize the multi-modal nature of this part of the triangle. Make this area a meet-up space for bikers.

- There is a lot of existing activity at the intersection – build on the vibe that exists.
- Vending adds to game-day atmosphere – keep here.
- Add visual interest “clutter” in triangle to help slow traffic down.
- Take advantage of the slight elevation change at the point between Regent and Monroe streets.
- Shaded seating is important. Don’t need fancy seating.
- Worried about too many vending boxes.
- Trees are great.
- There is enough space for small performances. Can’t be so loud that they would bother neighbors. Possible to recess or buffer the performance space somehow?
- Like that there currently aren’t sidewalks on all side of the triangle – offers more contiguous green space.
- Add prairie plantings to City-owned corner at Breese and the bike path?
- Add decorative seating or chess boards?
- Remove parking on Breese Terrace to narrow and create more green space?
- Create a quiet space closer to Breese Terrace. Possible to have both energizing and peaceful spaces in the triangle.
- A water feature would create white noise and be calming.
- The Monroe Commons corner is calming and a nice place to sit – possible to mimic?
- Create opportunity for birds/wildlife – Millennial Park has tight shrub plantings that are like little fortresses that only wildlife can get into.
- The triangle is just a traffic island – add a few benches and fix the bike path.
- Bike path is important, but doesn’t work.
- Don’t re-create the existing separation of the space – don’t route the bike path and Oakland connection through the middle. Bring the path closer to Monroe?
- Need a better crossing at Oakland for bikes. Lots of people use this connection to the SW path.
- Possible to put flashers at one of the intersection close to the triangle?
- Need a feature at Oakland that invites pedestrians to cross.
- Widen the sidewalk along Monroe to encourage pedestrian activity; at the very least, between Oakland and Regent.
- Minimize bike/ped conflicts. Add attractive barriers along bike path?
- Consider widening the path to add pedestrian space, like along John Nolen; lots of people use the path for walking, which conflicts with bikes.
- The bike path is the most important part of the entire triangle. Make the bike path a feature.

- Need bike parking on site.
- The bike path needs to be underground or overhead.
- Nobody will come in the winter, except for bicycles – and the path needs to be plowed.
- Highlight the theme of many different parts of the city converging. Maybe different colors or signage along the edges?

## Comments during precedent imagery presentation:

### Green Infrastructure

- Include warm-toned lighting.
- Like the natural feel of #3, but is that possible in this busy space?
- Like #5 – could it be a bus shelter? Need to be sure the roof can handle snow.
- Shade of trees is preferable to solar collectors – place collectors on the south side.
- Solar like #1 could work over the bike path.
- Need a better stormwater infiltration element. This was a disappointment with the Monroe Street design.
  - Only do this if there is actually stormwater flowing through the triangle. Don't create a feature where there is no need for one.
- Most of the space should be flexible, but could see some minor areas that are permanently structured. The size of #3 wouldn't fit site, but the concept of a shelter is good to consider.
  - Considering four seasons, you want sun in winter and shade in summer. If it's raining, people won't be there anyway.
- Structure like #1 in winter would be too small to provide a lot of shade as the sun moves, and in the winter there may be issues with snow falling off.
- Make sure that features that can't be climbed by drunk people.

### Mosaic Art

- Love #5. Subtle, feels natural, and is still artistic. Like the water theme.
- Concerned about taking over green space with hardscape.
- Could become part of bike path to make the path a visual focal point.
- Mosaics on ground could be a problem. Need to consider winter plowing and salt when placing.
- Mosaics are good, but not on bike path – could be used to emphasize bike path.
- Possible to create graphic patterns on pathways like at Copacabana Beach?
- A wall in this space would be intrusive, unless it is low enough.
- Leave surface of bike path open, but border with a mosaic?
- Art needs to be on a scale of the level at which it's viewed.

## Seating

- Install permanent seating vs. seats that can be stolen.
- A shorter version of the serpentine seat wall in #7 could do double duty as a seating area and also interactive play space for children. Could also incorporate mosaic.
- During crowded times like football Saturdays, benches may be more of a barrier than seating that is integrated into the landscape such as large rocks, stairs, low walls, etc.

## Design Themes

- Majority of the group preferred the traditional urban park images.
  - Need to introduce more green to counteract all of the paving around the triangle.
  - Need to introduce coolness and nature.
  - Plant more than just grass – use other plantings like flowers for insects to enjoy, rain garden plantings, etc.

## Worksheet comments:

### ***How would you most like Crazylegs Plaza to feel and function in the future?***

- This area needs to be utilized as part of the ped/bike corridor enhancement space vs. a public gathering spot or performance space or even more vendors.
- I want to make this space a place I want to come to for: lunch, dinner, to see and be seen. I want it to feel urban and classic. I want it to be designed so that it welcomes/says goodbye gracefully and properly.
- Make bike passage safe and sensible.
- Small urban oasis complimenting the bike paths and surrounding businesses

### ***What top three enhancements would you most like to see made at Crazylegs Plaza?***

- Utilize this area as part of a grade-separated ped/bike underpass or overpass system through this busy and complication street intersection.
- Water feature; feature with water; something with water that could be a feature – “meet me at the....”
- Focused on bikes and bike amenities; improve safety of intersection (crossing to HotelRED), including better signage for safety; permanent seating
- Raised colored bike and pedestrian paths; large clear stop/go lights for pedestrians and bicycles
- Bike repair station with drinking fountain; small seating area for carry-out from surrounding businesses; maybe retain some of the brickwork and existing slabs – there are elements worth saving, especially if budget is limited.

***What design themes would you most like to see expressed in the future design of Crazylegs Plaza (may influence landscaping, public art, signage, etc.)? (E.g., athletics, history, sustainability, etc.)***

- Green space more than hardscape
- Traditional design; quality/durable materials; tree bosque and lighting; gateway
- Shade and seating for pedestrians
- Traditional urban park with tree canopy and space for seating and/or vendors.

### Comments received by email:

1. The pedestrian crossing at Oakland is tricky – a raised crosswalk would help.
2. The triangle would be a nice spot to add:
  - a. Bike racks
  - b. Bubblers
  - c. Bike repair station
  - d. Benches
  - e. Communal art project
  - f. Spot for food carts
3. Make sure ALL parking options are expanded in this area. As development expands in the area, parking will be needed both on- and off-site. For the new plaza to be user friendly, people coming for programmed functions need to be able to find parking.
  - a. Add on street parking in the area of Monroe Street where Crazylegs Lane is abandoned.
  - b. Look for ways to expand parking on Breese Terrace.
  - c. Take the excess City parcel on the west side of Breese and add parking.
  - d. Expand on-street parking on the south side of Monroe Street (there is an expanded stretch of Monroe Street on the south side that is not currently marked for parking).