

## Tom DeChant's Thoughts on State Street Mall options

### Portals:

- *Park Street*: Seems there is good agreement that the Park St./Bascom Hill 'portal' solution in the Oval concept is preferred. My preference too.
- *Langdon Street*: Seems the bus waiting issue and at least a preliminary circulation concept for Alumni Park need to be known before the right crossing design and location can be developed for Langdon Street.
- *State Street*: Other than bike racks, neither of the two alternatives really addresses how the State St. portal to block 700 would be enhanced. (Can we make Walgreen's un-brick their storefront??) Is 'table' a possibility here too?
- Both concepts include ample bike parking at the portals – this is good, but design solution and location will be critical. Folks prefer covered & secure bike parking.

### Circulation:

- Both options attempt to separate bike from pedestrian on 700-800 using seating, planters, carts, etc. This is good. Separation might have to be reinforced by signage, at least initially, 'cause bikes zoom along the building fronts now.
- Not sure what creative paving or other solutions will slow bikes down in the 26'-wide highway the fire department has now provided them. A key concern.
- Prefer the State St. 'jog' of Great Lawn concept to straight-away of Oval. Might impact bike speed (a very little). Also provides a deeper space for carts on 800.
- Prefer the overall circulation pattern of the Great Lawn alternative – especially how it funnels East Campus Mall traffic more directly, and provides the 'knuckle' that puts a *there* there in the center of this space.
- The central gathering space/stage in Great Lawn is a very desirable feature located in a great spot. Something like it should appear in the final concept.

### Carts:

- We should think of the carts *generically*, not just as food vendors. Multiple types of fairs and markets could be supported along 700-800 (and should be!).
- Changing queuing pattern is great – and it works in both alternatives.
- Must respect access to store / institutional doors (Memorial Library, Alumni Club, churches, etc.) Maybe 'more is less' - *fewer* cart pads will create more access and interaction with existing street uses. Do we *have* to maximize cart pads?
- I prefer carts clustered – more of a market and shopping center affect, but heard the vendors on the difficulties of backing in/out. Do *all* carts have to have two-sided access? Could *some* cart pads be designed for back-to-back cart location?
- If vendors balk at 800 block location, could a two-tiered cart fee be established?

### Event Space:

- Great Lawn would seem to handle large events better. Oval would accommodate multiple smaller and informal activities better. Hmmm.
- Attachment to the fountain is going to be an issue. Can it be moved to work within a Great Lawn solution (moved west toward Hist. Soc. just off main walk to Memorial Union)?
- Great Lawn uses Memorial Library as its primary backdrop; but Historical Society is by far the better-looking building. Is there a solution that can focus Great Lawn activity more in that direction and still keep gist of Great Lawn circulation pattern?
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### My take-aways:

- There are clearly good ideas from each concept on which there is rough consensus - these should be brought forward into a final synthesis concept.
- Not sure how we can finalize State Street plans without a final Library Mall design commitment from the University. Is that likely within the timeframe of our project?

