

GATEWAY IDENTIFICATION FORM

(Additional Pages May Be Attached If Needed)

Sector: RC
(Please list as two digit abbreviation, e.g. RC = Regional Center)

Proposal Number: Monument Circle
(Please use the naming convention –Sector identifier plus an ascending numeral.)

Location Of The Proposed Gateway Project:

Intersection of Meridian and Market Streets in Downtown.



Significance/Rationale For The Gateway (Why Is This A Good Location? What Is Important About This Location?)

Monument Circle is the heart of the City of Indianapolis. The stately Soldiers and Sailors Monument is widely recognized as the icon for Indianapolis. Its great historical significance, beauty and location make it a unique and beloved community gathering place.

Critical Issues (Adverse Or Positive Impacts To Infrastructure, Commercial Businesses, Neighbors, Future Development, Etc.)

Background

Monument Circle and Market Street improvements, including bricked streets & sidewalks, street trees, electrical conduit, irrigation, pedestrian lighting, banner poles, benches, etc. were completed in 1978 and 1980, enhancing this premier public space. The City of Indianapolis, State of Indiana, and the private sector shared in the funding of this project.

Current Situation

After 26 years, these amenities are declining, despite significant "spot" repairs from both the public and private sectors to help maintain the project's integrity. Some of the challenges include:

- Deteriorating mastic under the brick sidewalks/streets
- Missing/broken/uneven bricks
- Non-functioning sidewalk heating system under bricks
- Declining/dead street trees
- Non-functioning irrigation system for trees
- Aging electrical conduit for street tree lighting program
- Need for above-ground electric meters

City DPW's structural engineering report concluded that the base under the brick street is sound and that a rehab project will not be considered at this time. City DPR has requested IDI to solicit proposals in 2005 to beautify the outer ring of the Circle, which is owned by the City. The cost of

a new project will be quite costly and need to be shared by the City, State, and private businesses, as it was done originally. This is the front door of many prestigious businesses.

Concept Or Theme Of The Proposed Gateway Project (Optional):

Type Or Scale Of The Proposed Gateway Project (Optional):

Could be simply new landscaping around the outer circle or it could involve the inside as well and be a new project with all new amenities including:

- Replace irrigation system
- Replace street trees
- Replace electrical conduit for street tree lighting
- Replace light poles
- Replace timers/meters in underground electrical vaults to more accessible sites
- Consider replacing the sidewalk heating system

Current Site Ownership (Does Site Need To Be Acquired?):

Inside bollards owned by Indiana War Memorials; outside owned by City.

Audience (To Whom Will The Gateway Appeal?):

Community

Please List Interested Groups/Agencies (Public And Private) And Describe Neighborhood Support/Buy-In:

No support or buy in for improvements have been solicited. Interested groups include:

Public:

Indiana War Memorials Commission, including State DPW

City of Indianapolis, DPW and DPR

IDNR, Community & Urban Forestry Division

Private:

IPL; commitment through their "Trees for Tomorrow" program

Anthem

Emmis

Bank One

National Tree Trust; PEP grants (Partnership Enhancement Program)

American Forests

National Trust for Historic Preservation

Historic Landmarks of Indiana

Please Describe The Gateway's Relationship To Other Community Plans And Initiatives:

Monument Circle is part of the proposed Cultural Trail and the Wholesale Cultural District.

Please Outline An Implementation Strategy And Describe The Next Steps (What Needs To Occur In Order To Implement The Project?):

Evaluate, plan and budget necessary capital improvements.

Likely Funding Sources And Other Items Not Covered Elsewhere: