



City of Rochester  
Aqueduct Reimagined Project  
Public Workshop #3  
Broad Street Bridge  
Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1 PM – 5 PM

## ATTACHMENTS

- Sign-in sheets
- PDF of boards

## SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP

### Open House

Public Workshop #3 consisted of an open house style design workshop with 30 informational and interactive boards for attendees to circulate through at their own pace. Attendees had the opportunity to leave feedback at every station. City representatives and other project team members were present to answer questions.

The open house was part of a larger scale event aimed at drawing attention to the project, Roc the Riverway weekend and the New York State Canals Conference Community Day. The open house was held on the Broad Street Bridge, which was closed to vehicular traffic between South Avenue and Exchange Street to allow for a diversity of programming to showcase how the space could potentially be utilized for public enjoyment in the future. Activities included roller skating, live music, a DJ and dancing, a live graffiti artist, tactical urbanism displays and pumpkin decorating for kids.

Feedback received on the boards on October 2<sup>nd</sup> can be found starting on page 2 of this meeting summary. A synopsis of board content is provided in parentheses for reference. A copy of the boards and a brief video overview about the design studies can be found online at:

<https://www.roctheaqueduct.com/public-events>.



## SUMMARY OF BOARDS AND FEEDBACK RECEIVED

### **Board #1: Title Board**

### **Board #2: Project Team (Overview of the project team and advisory committee members)**

### **Board #3: Project Scope (Overview of project scope and layers of Broad Street Bridge)**

### **Board #4: Project Timeline and Engagement (Project timeline and a summary of community engagement and key takeaways)**

### **Board #5: Committees (List of CAC and TAC members and objectives)**

- Where's the NYS Canals Society?

### **Board #6: Project Principles (Overview of the principles guiding the design of the project)**

### **Board #7: Project Objectives (Overview of the ROC the Riverway vision plan and Aqueduct Reimagined goals and design assumptions)**

- "A celebration of the Erie Canal"?

### **Board #8: Equity Guidelines (Overview of factors being explored to advance equity)**

- Clear river debris more often. It's a detraction.
  - o Yes! It's hard to see tires + orange barricades there for months 😞
- Availability of locally grown food [in response to MWBE and Local Contracting Procurement]

#### *How else can the Aqueduct advance equity?*

- Water in the Aqueduct!
  - o Water in the R.R. area
- More water activities
- Multilingual
- Commerce
- Remember diverse languages to increase access
  - o Including ASL
- Consider the types of disabilities – including sensory access issues beyond ADA
- Easily accessible multi-group gathering spot
- Inc. the history of the Aqueduct, the subway, 490 + Broad St – ALL of the history esp. re: redlining
- Access to water + facilities
- Ice skating!
- Highlight the immigrant groups that built the canal



- Yes!
- Tell the story of the canal and its connection to building the city
  - Protect the artists, preserve the living "Artqueduct"
- Encourage subway art!
- Walk into the library! Also check on their resources
- Multicultural education opportunities in the space. Let's sing, make music and art, and dance together!
- Restore the Aqueduct!
- Winter recreation park area in subway for people who can't afford gym membership (running, skateboarding, basketball...)
- Available space for graffiti / street art
  - Subway as art space
  - This
  - New space can have annual erasure, so there's always room for new art
- Safe space for homeless <3 (+1)
- Bike parking – well lit, safe, secure. Not this: [insert drawing of bike rack] (+1)
- Suggestion: Oonee Pod
- The project can't be everything for everyone.
- Celebrate the history!!
- Various modes of communication – words, visual...

### **Board #9: Evaluating Criteria (The criteria being used to evaluate the design proposals)**

### **Board #10: What We Heard (Summary of key takeaways from the last Public Workshop)**

- Yes to preserving upper arches AND access to old subway as thru walkway. Great when raining.
- Why isn't rewatering mentioned anywhere!!!!
- Protect the artists preserve living art space (+1)

#### *Creative Arts*

- Skateboarding + open space = creativity
- Expand skate park event / use space for roller skating, gathering
- Maintain canvas for public art

#### *Takeaways*

- *Yes!* [in response to *Keep the iconic upper arches*]

#### *Keep the graffiti / Make room for new art*

- Yes – please keep the graffiti art + new art 😊
- Yes (+3)
- Keep graffiti + new art! (+5)
- Requires thought. What was FUA think? They have a yearly painting party; can they do one here?



### **Board #11: Embracing Opportunities (Overview of the Aqueduct split into three spatial zones, and six precedents that have been studied)**

- San Antonio, TX
- Providence, RI; Bricktown, OR; Indianapolis, IN
- Bryant Park → Meh
- Toronto waterfront also an inspiration AND Ottawa Canals (+2)
- Atlanta Beltline
- Highline – Yes. Strive for beauty in landscaping + design.
  - o Highline is the peak of gentrification
- We're Rochester, not NYC, Chicago, etc. who have millions of tourists

### **Board #12: Design Constraints (Overview of the historic / cultural, utility / structural, and service / maintenance requirements)**

#### Log / Debris Removal

- Only annually? The riverbed is horrible. You'll improve Broad Street but not increase debris removal?

#### Emergency Access

- Are you restricting access to Blue Cross Arena + the library by doing this? Are you bottle necking traffic flow to critical places? What traffic assessment has been done?

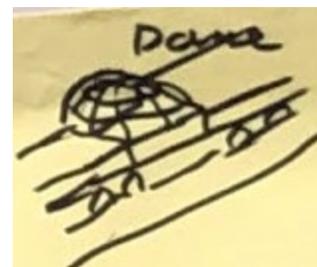
### **Board #13: Concept Studies Overview (Overview of the five concept studies)**

#### Concept A

- Don't take out the Aqueducts!

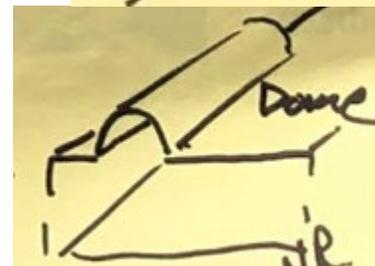
#### Concept C

- Ex. Add a water feature on the location of the historic canal
- The more I think about it, C seems like the best option.
- Preserves more covered space without creating weird double plaza
- Dome [see images]
  - o This would be cool



#### Concept D

- Ethan likes D
- Cool
- D or E for sure!
- D with walkable upper deck! Please keep the arches!
- Love this. Best of all wishes!





#### Concept E

- Cool! (+1)
- Yes!! But upper deck should be walkable
- Wonderful!
- Yes!! Preserve arches

#### General comments

- I like the walkable upper deck on E & D. I like all the arches preserved on E! I hope more greenery is added to E like on D.
- Preserve D, E arches + graffiti. Love this for marketplace + art shows
- C-D not different enough from current!
- E + D are the best!
- C + D block too much sun, don't want to walk through tunnels...

### **Board #14 & 15: Concept A – Aqueduct Uncovered (High-level renderings of Concept A and space to provide feedback)**

- Big empty windswept spaces - 😞
- Way more landscaping + trees needed! Shade is critical these days.

#### What excites you most about this concept?

- Nothing x3
- Everything! I love to see the growing downtown. Hopefully this will change suburban view of downtown.
- Safer – no places for people to hide
- The openness
- Nothing, it erases history and culture
- Nothing – ridiculous to close off the street! Ask people who drive for a living!
  - o Exactly why this is a great idea!
- Needs a warm and dry gathering site + tasting center, etc.
- Revitalization! (+2)
- No cars!
- Safer – at least I would feel safer walking across it
- A place to gather & relax downtown!
- Nothing. Zero preservation of Roc's culture + history!
- Revitalization without destroying and completely replacing
- This is the worst one! (+2)
- I like this the best. Subway is dirty. Graffiti isn't cool! Clean + open!

#### What are missed opportunities here?

- More green spaces <3
- Ties to historic subway
- No sense of space; losing arches / original design
  - o Yes

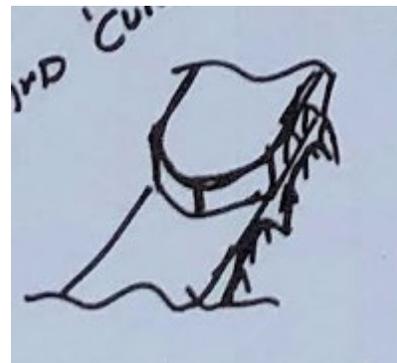


- Use during bad weather (+3)
- More greenery! Space for more art and graffiti culture
- A completely uncovered space is only useable a few weeks a year. This is Rochester!
- More trees! Street is hot in the summer (+2)
- Removes all the historic features that make the space specific to Rochester
- Please don't remove the top arches!
- No winter protection
- Subway is nationally recognized graffiti space. We have the reputation already for Wall\Therapy <3
- More trees – shade is pedestrian infrastructure
- Not connected, no protection from weather
- Open ramp space will be difficult to manage in winter, ice, etc.
- Booooo! Not preserving Roc's history
- Store fronts for actual "small" businesses
  - o Yes!
- Farmers Market?
- Spaces for families not just professionals
- Raised walkway provides access to abled folks but not mobility disabled
- Less incline: more straight levels access better for wheelchair users
- Destroys history & art. Keep the arches!
- Redirect section of boiler pipes to create heated spaces for homeless
- FLX tasting center + music & art + culture
- It's boring to look at, just a plain, large empty concrete bridge, ugly & boring
- Winter: closes off opportunities to utilize subway for recreation
- No weather protection in winter!

**Board #16 & 17: Concept B – Aqueduct Overlook (High-level renderings of Concept B and space to provide feedback)**

*What excites you most about this concept?*

- Nothing x2
- Add "re-watering" to exposed section "celebration of the legacy of the Erie Canal"
- Reduce over-hang and "curve it" [see image]
- Multi-level
- Builds on multiple studies 😊
- Like continuity w/ Rundel Terrace
- Open space + some preservation
- Nothing. Getting rid of the arches? Horrible.
- Potential for re-watering original aqueduct (i.e. "Celebration of Erie Canal's legacy")
- Partial covering, protection from weather – at least more than A
- Re-water
- People friendly! Remove / limit vehicle access is a great win for people





- Keep the roadway! It's the only good way to cross the river and was built to get cars off of Main Street, why did we extend Broad Street to Union and now decide to block it off. Change the intersection at Stone Street. Change the One-Way Streets but then we have the traffic unfriendly circle. Good planning Rochester! – Inner Loop Lover

*What are missed opportunities here?*

- Need to retain the tracks, possibly build a replica subway car w/ exhibits inside
- Horrible plan for people w/ disabilities. Boo!
- Need to maintain historical elements
- Water features (summer); Fountains?
- Put a staircase to connect 2<sup>nd</sup> / 1<sup>st</sup> layer
- Historic attributes (i.e. Aqueduct itself must be highlighted)
- Feels empty
- Losing original architecture
- Bikeable?
- Top deck seems too small for good functionality
- Meh. B looks like a half-finished idea + still destroys the most of the history
- Still ugly & boring, looks half complete like you started something and never finished
- Would prefer gradual slope rather than stairs – if you want full accessibility + bikeability.
- Toilets
- Maximize roof coverage?
- For the love of Pete don't rewater – pointless downtown mosquito pit (+1)
- Floods?
  - o That's what the Mt. Morris dam is for
- Once wheelchair user is on raised walkway – they are stuck at that level; limited access
- Switchback ramp as only path to cross the river is a barrier for some folks – limits trip
- Removing a bunch of Rochester's history & little space to avoid rain / snow
- Not enough preservation of arches and graffiti

**Board #18 & 19: Concept C – Aqueduct River Plaza (High-level renderings of Concept C and space to provide feedback)**

*What excites you most about this concept?*

- Nothing
- Covered spaces mean it can be visited / enjoyed on rainy days
- Covered spaces look great!
- Coverage
- Architectural design
- Mix of coverage + open areas
- Like the open spaces + more natural light
- This is the least worst idea if we have to do it
- Unique design + enclosure for bad weather
- Buttons deck looks worst out of all designs
- What truly makes this different from what you have today?



- A curved walkway isn't a whole lot different than current s/w configuration...
- Not a lot [to be honest]. Do it for the win if we must do anything.
- Partial covering, protection from weather, can still hold events if it's raining, looks more interesting than A or B, keeping some of the history
- Good combination of large canopy without weird double walkway / plaza design
- This is the best combination of historic preservation and open views up + down river

What are missed opportunities here?

- Upper level access is cut out; requiring use of switchback ramp to cross the river
- No way to pass through on the upper deck
- More green space + dog pickup areas w/ bags (+2)
- Bike access
  - o Ditto
- Allow access from upper level to lower via stairs etc. to help flow across bridge
- Poor access for people w/ mobility issues
- Why is it disconnected?
- Destroys upper deck thruway. Why lose the space?
- Unclear if space nearest river is for public access; lacks access
- Still a lot of space w/ no plans to use it. Maybe fill it w/ plants?
- Connect upper levels!
  - o Yes!
  - o Definitely
- Unlike D, it's non-contiguous on both levels
- Is there a way to have both stairs and ramp from South Ave?
- Still looks half complete, the upper levels jutting out and not connecting look like you didn't finish it
- Don't want to block off too much nice sun
- What benefit does two levels of pedestrian walkways give us? I don't see the point to the upper level
- Greenhouse! Remove the upper roadway & make it a glass ceiling. Year-round comfort + green plants + arch & art preservation
  - o Yes!! Like this.
- If you can keep cool in summer without AC
- This looks like a half-finished idea. Destroys upper deck thru-way, which loses value of the top

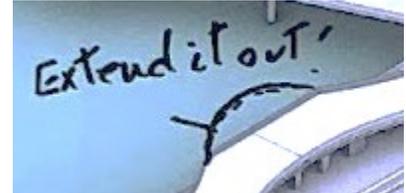


## Board #20 & 21: Concept D – Aqueduct River Rooms (High-level renderings of Concept D and space to provide feedback)

- Extend it out! [see image]

What excites you most about this concept?

- My fav. Preserves arches but has covered area (library extension)
- Most accessible for largest group of residents + opportunity for recreation
- Best idea yet!
  - o Yes!!
- Think having some of the arches + graffiti maintained is a good idea, especially for inclement weather. Erie Canal Aqueduct + River should be star of show through
- Best!
- Good connectivity
- Human scale spaces
- Love this concept!
- Makes great space!
- Multi-level connectivity; Coverings for weather + winter; Preserves many arches – This is the best option!
- Best one!
- Good mix of shade + sunny areas
- Preserves art
- Unique design to bring people from all around to appreciate Rochester's industrial history
- Great mix of preservation / coverage + open space
- Preserves arches; Brings in trees; Upper deck walkability
- I like this multi-dimensioned experience of this concept. My personal fave!
- Weather protection for pedestrians to walk more comfortably.
- Keeps current Art
- Great compromise among objectives. Very cool upper and lower levels
- Very attractive compromise. Keeps use of both decks + preserves history. Good all-weather design
- My favorite, cool design, can chill on each level, can either walk in the rain or out across the space, keeps the history, still has good views, more trees
- Accessibility
- Most creative + exciting – curves, river-like!
- Absolutely worst design of all of them!! This is nothing more than what's out there now!
  - o Besides no cars...
- Preservation of graffiti + curved lines
- Covered protection from weather
- Almost doubles useable space
- Cool design
- Probably the best of the designs because it maintains bike friendly & accessible river crossing, but should minimize size of upper deck as much as possible





- Stairs + access ramps visible
- My favorite! Architecturally interesting, good flow, covered & open space (+2)
- Bike access on upper level + walking access below

*What are missed opportunities here?*

- Love this one!
- Space for private parties
- Good plan, maybe the best but save as much graffiti art as possible
- Show me the WATER!!
- More green + trees (+3)
  - o + Bushes! Could be an edible landscape with berries + nuts
- Go BIG!
- Loss of graffiti / public art
- Bike lane? Will you have to walk bike?
- Does it have good year around connectivity + access for cyclists and pedestrians?
  - o Yes!
- More greenery!
- Provide space for future art, perhaps with published "reset" (erased) days?
- Whatever design you keep please put some indigenous history in there to pay respect to the real history here
- More green space. Climbing for kids.
- Loses 1/3 of the arches
- Appreciate upper level but, west side "ramp" should be better integrated
- This one will be the most exclusionary
  - o Disagree
- Can we use original arches as the center arches in Concept 3 & 4?
- More public art that can be used by kids
- No clear access to riverside viewing; ramp will be problematic in winter
- Any way to have glass windows embedded in the upper walkway? More sunlight!

### **Board #22 & 23: Concept E – Aqueduct Arch Walls (High-level renderings of Concept E and space to provide feedback)**

*What excites you most about this concept?*

- Preserves the art and the arches (history)
- Reminds me of Inderhavnsbroen in Copenhagen – have dedicated bike path on narrow part of deck
- It doesn't destroy art
- Weather! Covered
- Preserves art the most?
- Provides the most walkable square footage
- Multiple season space!! Great for Rochester (+1)
- And preserves the history and art culture of Roc
- This or C aren't completely awful



- Preservation of arches and usability during winter & rain
- The more covered space, the more year-round use!
- Fun space for events
- Best presentation of the external view. No wasted space
- All season access, verticality and multi-purpose
- Preserving all the arches
- Most preserved graffiti (+1)
- Best weather protection
- Great mix of coverage / open
- Keeping the historical nature of the arches is very important. I think preserving the graffiti culture is incredibly important for the people of Rochester! Having the walkable upper deck is an amazing addition so the lower part can be used in the winter.
- Love this!! Maintain arches
- High level connectivity
- Keeps the art + the beautiful arches. Uses fewer scarce resources. Can be used 12 mo./yr. Easier to remove debris from River. Better view of River + other bridge.
- Helps with weather for the lower deck
- Accessibility
- Keeps the most history intact
- There's a very obvious place for a straight bike path across top – probably best solution here
- Keep history and art, create weather proof space, makes it more inviting while maintaining accessibility, keep the art
- Slide between levels!
- Multi-level options – more space for events
- Aqueduct festival (see image)
- High level connectivity
- Love the arches + the covered spaces. This version allows the most poor weather use.
- That the art and arches will be kept. That the upper deck is walkable and accessible! That the lower deck can be used in the winter. Also the possibility for the greenery added.

*What are missed opportunities here?*

- #2: Upper level has no interesting features!
- Sun
- Natural lighting on first level (+2)
- Green space, trees, etc. (+2)
  - o Fountains, bushes
  - o On top more greenery, less concrete
- Can food trucks access?
- Greenhouse dome for gathering, food, etc.
- Water on aqueduct (+1)
- More landscape on the top level – like the Highline
- See comments on D – Access
- Too similar to current street / bridge
- More Sun (+1)
- Transparent surfaces

- Sunlight / sunshine extends visibility – this is too shady for cooler days. Maybe plan for some heating elements below?
- Using tunnels for talking
- More greenery + trees
- Would not feel safe walking across this one
- More seating!
- Walkable space on top – could also be urban green space [see image]
  - o Yes! +2
  - o Love this!
  - o Great idea!
- Open air areas are good and bad – in some ways they give a more open feeling, in others, they should give some security if its snowy
- Keeping subway tunnel
- Seems like more space than we can use. Might be too empty
  - o Filling it with water would fix this
- A gathering place for a diverse community!
- Resurface cement, be artistic, bas-relief murals
- Connection to the water – perhaps steps down to the river
- It's important to give the lower level a feeling of safety so that people feel safe enough to use it while still providing weather protection for year-round use (+1)
- Possible ways to temporarily enclose the lower level with "curtains" and then be at the space during colder months if an event is held (like craft fair, "canal festival", etc.) [see image]
- I would remove more of the top surface



## **Board #24: Evaluation Matrix Summary (Application of Evaluation Criteria to all five Concept Studies)**

### *Preservation*

- This!
- Very very very important

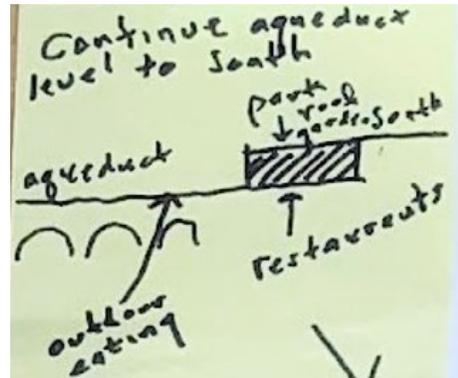
### *Visibility*

- For who? From here?
- Why is this important?

### *What other major evaluation criteria are we missing?*

- Green space! (+2)
- Concept D & E b/c of operations + access + connectivity (+1)
- D + E more accessible for more people
- Preservation of arches + graffiti space
  - o Yes!

- How safe do people feel?
  - o Lighting would help with this
- Shady areas with benches + trees or planters
- How clean can we keep it? Roc feels very dirty (lots of trash). I just moved here in July from Boston.
- Variety of use
  - o Yes
- D looks best. Mix of everything (+ 2)
- Make sure each area of space is interesting / used. Don't just make one giant double decker place
- Commerce to make economically viable
- Protection from the weather in winter
- Access to subway tunnel for safe walking in winter
- D & E are favorites. (+1)
- D is delightful!



**Board #25: Promenades Overview (Overview of four promenade connections to connect the Riverway Trail)**

**Board #26: South West Promenade Connection (Renderings of promenade connection by Blue Cross Arena)**

*What excites you most about this promenade connection?*

- Large public space!
- Close to water!
- Really cool!
- That pedestrians and cyclists are being prioritized (+3)
- A lot of seating interestingly incorporated in design. Variety of seating in some shade
- I've always thought the Aqueduct would make an epic event space!
- Pedestrian + bike friendly (+1)
- This is pretty okay

*What are missed opportunities here?*

- Public art?
- Perfect skate spot
- Cool lighting!
- Amphitheater? Like on Little Island NYC
- Water in aqueduct
- Green space (like Highline NYC) (+2)
- Native plantings!
- Need dimension not just flat
- River access
- Green spaces
- Lack of flowers, plants, trees + bushes! (+1)



- Public restrooms / drinking water (+1)

### **Board #27: North West Promenade Connection (Renderings of promenade connection by Aqueduct Building)**

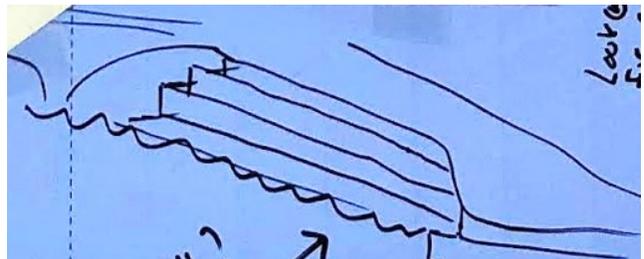
- What restaurants? It'd be really cool if the city can get restaurant space. It needs to be interesting to make it work.

*What excites you most about this promenade connection?*

- Keep safe biking in mind!
- Biking through city to Lake! Or High Falls, even (+2)
- Awesome to see the river & be closer to the water
- Better for biking!
- Possible connection to the skate park?
- Makes needed connection for River trail going through the city on bike + other mobility like skates, skateboards, safely!
- Biking / pedestrians 😊
- This is also pretty okay
- Need – off street connector to High Falls!

*What are missed opportunities?*

- Green space! More trees, flowers, etc. (+2)
- Shade
- Stairs / steps to water [see image]
  - o A beach? Yes!
- Space for vendors?
- Marijuana Dispensary
  - o No
- Look @ Amsterdam, NY pedestrian bridge for green space ideas
- Trees like highline & native plant gardens



### **Board #28: North East Promenade Connection (Renderings of promenade connection by Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center)**

- How to make creative use of "new" space under the Rundel North Terrace – Erie Canal / Aqueduct Museum?
- Should be able to bike. Connect to east river bike path / skate park

*What excites you most about this promenade connection?*

- Would be a fantastic amenity for visitors of the convention center to see – Roc is cool, knows how to use public space!
- Connect an enclosure / walkway to our library AND Dinosaur BBQ!
- No Cars!



- Yeah. Basically any space where you can walk freely is welcome in the city
- Make it easy to not litter. Provide lots of trash cans.
- When will the city clean up all the downed trees in the river @ the falls? And maintain it?
- Walkability and places for gatherings like this. Its more beautiful than we know 😊
- Pedestrian / bike friendly (+2)

*What are missed opportunities here?*

- Flood aqueduct
- Cool lighting!
- Is there opportunity for small businesses on Aqueduct St.?
- Coffee stops (+1)
- Pullup and outdoor work equipment
- Green space!!
  - o Yes!! Absolutely needed!! Mini parks
- There are NEVER enough bike racks and / or repair stations – or in wrong spots (+1)
- Public restrooms
- Steps / stairs to water
- Interactive space

### **Board #29: South East Promenade Connection (Renderings of promenade connection by Rundel Memorial Library)**

- Trails need to be open 24/7. People need to get around at all hours. Why is it safe for someone to contend with speeding or drunk drivers at night?
- Make entire space accessible. Add lots of skylights (+1)

*What excites you most about this promenade connection?*

- Love all the promenade connections!
- Cool!
- The tunnel view (+3)
- Unique access to the mill race and connectivity on both sides of the river
- Love the visibility into the river and the history under the library
- Under the library should be dedicated to the history of the subway given the station + infrastructure visible. Plus, library as educational gateway.

*What are missing opportunities here?*

- Seems to dead-end into the truck tunnel – needs connection to Court St.
- Put water in the Aqueduct!
- Ensure good lighting please!
- Water in the Aqueduct?
- How safe? Covered + closed off
- Alternative idea – see Roger Brown’s rendering from 2007 Downtown Charette
- In Denmark you can swipe into the library after hours with health card – what about something like that here?



- Security at night. It's spooky walking from Geva, etc. home to Fitzhugh. Thank you for all of your efforts!

### **Board #30: Aqueduct District Streets (Overview of streetscape improvements to Aqueduct District Streets)**

- Less parking more parks
- Wish: maximize green grass areas
- Flowers flowers flowers
- Don't put trash receptacles adjacent to benches!
- Pavers are possibly the prettiest when done right!
  - o But hard to bike on
- Be sure the materials are ADA compliant for all modes – walking, biking w/ assistive DMA (+2)
- Concrete & asphalt are horrible & always need more maintenance. What about permeable surfaces? (+2)
- Consider permeable pavement (+1)
- Wish: permeable pavement (+1)
- Parking lots =/= Pedestrian friendly