

## West Kilbourn Avenue Streetscape Improvements



Photosimulation illustrating West Kilbourn streetscape improvements



### **Goal**

*To improve streetscape elements along West Kilbourn Avenue in order to strengthen the linkage between Downtown's two prominent civic structures, the County Court House and City Hall*

### **Objective**

- Frame the view of the County Court House Complex.
- Spatially define the streetscape with buildings, lights, banners and trees of a scale appropriate for the symbolic procession.

### **Benefits**

- Enhance pedestrian connections between civic complexes.
- Encourages definition of Civic Precinct.
- Enhances the overall Downtown image.

### **Responsible Parties**

- City of Milwaukee
  - Department of Public Works
- Abutting Property Owners
- Wisconsin Center District Board

### **Rationale**

Kilbourn Avenue performs an important civic function linking City Hall to the County Court House complex. The elevated County Court House creates a dramatic visual termination for Kilbourn Avenue. Significant streetscape enhancements would transform Kilbourn into a street that proclaimed this important civic function.

### **Recommendations**

This critical symbolic connection between City Hall and the County Court House Complex requires appropriate physical streetscape. The Plan recommends that the pedestrian experience along this street be commensurate with the surrounding civic functions. The pedestrian crosswalks must be clearly defined with high quality materials that bespeak the importance of the street.

Pedestrian linkages between Kilbourn Avenue and the cross streets should clearly announce the proximity of this important street.

The Plan recommends the following to create the transformation:

1. Construct a low stone edged planted median. The low wall has a reinforced concrete curved edge faced with granite. The plantings in the median must be colorful, seasonal and low enhancing, not obscuring, the view of these important civic structures.
2. Plant edge street trees of large caliper (4 to 6 inches) sixteen to twenty feet high in a regularly spaced pattern. Trees that grow high and broad should be selected. Tree grates of appropriate scale are required.
3. Install both civic-scaled lights with lower pedestrian-level lighting.
4. Install large colorful banners on the poles.
5. Install other street furniture like benches, trash receptacles, bollards, etc.
6. Re-name the street to Kilbourn Boulevard.
7. Revise zoning to intensify the building wall on West Kilbourn to between 6 and 9 stories.
8. Design a monumental staircase to MacArthur Square.
9. Discuss with the county the possibility of designing and placing a monumental sculpture on top of the main facade.



Existing condition, Winter 1998

