

UDPRP Review Summary

Urban Design Peer Review Panel

DATE: 8.25.23

TIME: 8:30am

PROJECT: The Loop Plaza Overlook

LOCATION: City Hall 5ES

Overview

Below is a summary of the Urban Design Peer Review Panel's design recommendations for the Loop Plaza Overlook project as derived from the August 25 Peer Review session.

Design Recommendations Summary

- [1] The Panel recommends incorporating wayfinding signage into the project to help minimize user confusion and facilitate access to and from the Katy Trail.
- [2] The Panel recommends additional design thought be given to turning radii of the area where the ramp meets the sidewalk at Houston Street to maximize bicyclist and pedestrian safety.
- [3] The Panel advises additional thought be given to how the overlook area of the Katy Trail can be modified to prioritize pedestrian's safety from bicyclists by carving-out a separate zone, raising a portion of the trail, differentiation of materials, adding seating opportunities, and shading devices.
- [4] The Panel advises consideration of the addition of a small stair to the overlook design to provide an alternate and more direct way to access the Katy Trail from Houston Street.
- [5] The Panel recommends lighting design be prioritized to ensure a safe nighttime environment.
- [6] The Panel advises the ramp retaining wall be raised to eliminate the need for full railing panels.
- [7] If possible, the Panel advises the street intersection in front of the overlook respond through color, material, and texture to design elements used on the overlook.