At Dig, we explore the potential that every project holds to make a positive impact on its users and the environment. We believe that thoughtful design is essential to the health and well-being of the community. The places that we create should encourage inclusivity, diversity, activity and a sense of belonging to promote positive social interaction and environmental stewardship.

Our concept for the transit-oriented design of the proposed light rail station near 48th Street and Washington Street focuses on access and inclusion. This will be not achieved by designing a better ramp or handrail, but rather by creating a plaza-like station that makes accessibility about feeling free, confident, and one with the community. This design prioritizes accessibility until it becomes invisible and indistinguishable from urban placemaking. The ‘table-top’ approach calms traffic and opens up the entire stop to pedestrian circulation for all individuals. Furthermore, shifting the approach in this way highlights the components of the stop and creates an art opportunity that is about the pedestrian and not the car. Panels can be integrated throughout the structures to the point they are engulfed in a ‘super graphic’ that speaks to the ethos of this station.
People Flow: ‘Accessible’ to ‘All Access’

- Tabled Crossing with bollards and signal arms at each end to create a Transit ‘Plaza’ feeling.
- Change pavement materials to reinforce pedestrian crossing and slow down traffic
- Removed dedicated ‘ramps’ as tabled plaza creates free flow access to platform with no ramps.
- Ramps would be utilized to cross tracks from one platform to another.

**BEFORE:**

**AFTER:**

**VERTICAL ART COMPONENT:** By modifying the pedestrian approach to the platform from the two endpoints of the platform to a pedestrian approach from directly across the platform, visibility of a ‘vertical canvas’ is improved.
Water Flow: Out of the Gutter, into the Landscape

- Tabled Crossing allows for the runoff to cross a flush curb, funneling into planting areas that can act as bioswales.
- Captured rainfall gives an extra burst of water for the trees in these areas, this accelerates growth and thus provides more shade more quickly.

LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT (LID) TOOLS FOR STORMWATER: The plaza design approach not only addresses access and urban placemaking, but also provides a stormwater collection strategy for the entire space.

Tempe - College Avenue  Image via Google Streetview

LID Techniques in transit station applications  Image via Mesa LID Toolkit Project

LID Tools for Urban Spaces: Porous Paving, Curb Cuts, and Bioswales  Image via Mesa LID Toolkit Project
Shade: Interactive Canopies + Invigorated Trees

- Shade canopies that are built off of the existing transit design module.
- Integrated solar fabric to help offset energy consumption and provide power for items such as charging stations and interactive lighting elements that can alert riders when the train is approaching or brighten to light walkways after the train has left.
- Trees receive added runoff rainwater, so growth is accelerated and shade canopies are established quicker.
- Ramps would only be utilized to cross tracks from one platform to another.

BEFORE:

AFTER:

CityCharge Solar Power Phone Charging Station
Image via Bryant Park Blog

Phoenix Civic Space Shade Structures

Solar Fabric Canopies
Image via inhabitat

Solar Powered Vending Machines, Image via cartsblanche.com