

## Green Streetscape Design at Heart of Downtown Indy

*CMT leads sustainability effort as Indianapolis prepares for continued events*

Turning portions of urban roadways over to pedestrians increases a city's livability while decreasing pollution and congestion. That's the green approach that the City of Indianapolis is taking with one of its most active downtown corridors. The first recipient of the use of this improved space will be Super Bowl XLVI, which Indianapolis will host in 2012. By the time fans from around the world descend upon the city, one of the primary streets in its visitor's district

Georgia Street connects Conseco Fieldhouse and the Indiana Convention Center, making it a popular route for visiting and local pedestrians. The existing six-lane urban street is being redesigned to include a single traffic lane in each direction, with a pedestrian-friendly median, to increase green space and provide safer walkways. During events such as the Super Bowl, the Big 10 Football Championship, and NCAA Final Fours, the improved facility can accommodate performance stages, pavilions, and vendors. When completed, Georgia Street will become an *extension* of Conseco Fieldhouse and the Indiana Convention Center, rather than merely a *connection*.



*A rendering of the redesigned Georgia Street connecting the Convention Center to Conseco Fieldhouse.*



Indianapolis is using the occasion of the Super Bowl, and the very first Big Ten Football Championship game to showcase its commitment to environmentally-friendly infrastructure improvements. Sustainability is a major focus of the project that includes natural stormwater management, rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, and curbless street design. The benefits of these features include less impervious pavement, less runoff to streams, and reduced treatment costs. Irrigation is also being provided through stormwater collected in cisterns within the project limits.

The Big Ten Football Championship and the Super Bowl place unmovable deadlines upon this landmark project. Based on the firm's reputation for fast-track design, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT) was selected to lead the consulting team. The designer team of CMT and RATIO Architects will deliver the concepts and designs, while collaborating with stakeholders in and around the project area, the Indiana Department of Transportation, and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works, the project owner.