

**【Okayama Station Square (Korakuen guchi gate) will drastically change!】**

Hello, I'm Masao Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

The distance between Okayama Station and the nearest streetcar stop across the boulevard is about 180 meters and people have to cross streets and go through staircases between the two. Therefore, we are aiming for an early realization of the streetcar's link to the Okayama Station Square to make it convenient for the citizens and visitors.

This streetcar's link to the station square and the shift of the taxi stand and general car rotary will have an impact on the place of relaxation around the fountain and Momotaro statue and the flow line of pedestrians. Therefore, we are planning to consider the overall design of the Okayama Station Square. There are 3 focal points as follows.

1. Identity of Okayama

When you step off the train, it is not attractive if you see cookie-cutter scenery at every station. I would like to offer memorable space full of "Okayama-ness" when people come to Okayama.

2. Functionality

Owners of the local shopping arcade are worried that there will be less people coming to the shopping arcade due to the streetcar's link to the station square. We will make sure to keep a flow of people there as we carefully listen to their voices.

### 3. Making Okayama City more attractive

We will increase greenery and create spaces for recreation and relaxation for the citizens.

As for the design of the Okayama Station Square, we will decide a designer in November and a rough design by the end of next March. During that process, I would like to have frank opinions from many citizens along with the experts as I hold meetings with them.

#### \* Tentative schedule

##### <Streetcar's link to the Okayama Station Square>

2018 – Decide urban planning

2019 to 2020 – Permits and approvals of Tramway Act, implementation of detailed design

2021 to 2022 – Construction

2023 – Start usage

##### <Improvement of the Okayama Station Square>

2018 – Decide the design proposal

2019 to 2020 – Detailed designs

2020 to 2022 – Construction

2023 – Start usage

\* Possibly front-load the above schedule.