

New York Avenue Streetscape and Trail Project Public Meeting #3 Summary

REI Co-Op, 201 M Street NE
Washington, DC
June 29, 2017



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is working to create a streetscape and trail to serve the community and users of New York Avenue, NE, from Florida Avenue to Bladensburg Road. Four (4) public meetings are planned during this project to help identify and develop implementable design improvements that include sidewalks, streetlights, plantings, trees, benches, public art and other public space improvements.

This report is a summary of community feedback, key themes and comments collected from Public Meeting #3. The purpose of this event was to share the final draft streetscape and trail design concepts based on feedback from comments from Public Meeting #2 held April 25, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Express (1917 Bladensburg Road), and Public Engagement event #1 held May 20.

1.1 Public Meeting #3

Public Meeting #3 was held on Thursday, June 29, 2017 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the REI Co-Op, located near the western-end of the corridor project limits. It is anticipated that the Public Meeting #4 will be held at Gallaudet University.

At 6:30 pm, DDOT Project Managers provided a brief presentation about the project concept. The presentation was followed by the final draft corridor design concepts being shared in an open house format.

1.1.1 Meeting Format

The format of Public Meeting #3 was an open-house. Corridor exhibits of the concept streetscape and trail design highlighted both the project limits and three (3) segments to gain insight on community preferences for particular areas. DDOT and consultant team members engaged with attendees at meeting board stations.

1.2 Meeting Boards

Display boards were developed for Public Meeting #3 to share with attendees the final draft concepts developed by the team. The boards were based on existing conditions along the corridor and community feedback captured from Public Meeting #2 and Public Engagement Event #1. The following is a list of the boards presented:



- **Welcome:** Provided the title of the project with a map highlighting the project corridor and description of each project station. A project schedule was also included.
- **Connecting to New York Avenue Bicycle Route – Western Segment: Connect to NoMa-Gallaudet Metro Station:** Graphic description of proposed on-street bicycle route including potential future bicycle facilities, proposed cycle track, and shared lanes.
- **Connecting to New York Avenue Bicycle Route – Eastern Segment: Connect to National Arboretum:** Graphic description of proposed on-street bicycle route including bicycle facilities and trail connections, sidewalks and proposed shared lanes.
- **Green Infrastructure:** Graphic options and implementation for the utilization of green infrastructure BMPs including bioretention planters, bioswales, and permeable pavement.
- **New York Avenue Segment 1 – Florida Avenue NE to 9th Street Bridge:** Graphic description of New York Avenue NE draft corridor concept including proposed sidewalks, bicycle facilities and trail connections, stair and ramp connections to the Metropolitan Branch Trail, streetscape improvements (lighting, grass and tree plantings), and potential future bicycle facilities.
- **New York Avenue Segment 2 – 9th Street Bridge to Hecht Warehouse Area:** Graphic description of New York Avenue NE draft corridor concept including ramp and stair connection to 9th Street, proposed sidewalks, bicycle facilities and trail connections, streetscape improvements (lighting, grass and tree plantings), and potential future bicycle facilities.
- **New York Avenue Segment 3 – Hecht Warehouse Area to Bladensburg Road NE:** Graphic description of New York Avenue NE draft corridor concept including detail of New York Avenue and 16th Street intersection detail, proposed West Virginia Avenue NE raised cycle track and 16th Street shared use path, streetscape improvements at Montana Avenue Circle, 17th Street cycle track, and New York Avenue and Bladensburg Road intersection detail. This board also showed an alternate bicycle route concept for West Virginia Avenue NE buffered lanes.
- **Stay Connected:** Provided the various methods that the community can stay connected to project status and updates and provide feedback.

2.0 OUTREACH EFFORTS

Extensive outreach for New York Avenue Streetscape and Trail Public Meeting #3 was performed by the project team; those efforts are outlined below.

2.1 Electronic Communication and Social Media

A public meeting notice was developed and distributed via DDOT's Office of Communication, as well as, posted to DDOT social media (Twitter and Facebook) accounts. The team contacted community leaders, civic and neighborhood organizations and enlisted their assistance for distribution via their individual listservs and websites.

2.2 Postcard Distribution

A public meeting announcement postcard was developed and distributed by the grass roots team and handed out at the NoMa-Gallaudet University Metro Station, Union Market, Hecht Warehouse District at Ivy City, and Gallaudet University. Public Notices were posted at gathering sites along the corridor that include:

- Brentwood Recreation Center
- Gallaudet University
- Hecht Warehouse at Ivy City
 - Planet Fitness
 - Mom's Organic
 - CrossFit Hierarchy
 - Petco
 - Bicyclespace
- Union Market
- Quality Inn & Suites
- Days Inn Gateway
- Holiday Inn Express & Suites
- Marriott Courtyard
- Hayes Senior Wellness Center
- Model Cities Wellness Center
- Two Rivers Public Charter School
- The Children's Guild DC Public Charter School
- District of Columbia Animal Care and Control
- Teresa's Garden Center
- MPD 5D

2.3 Neighbors and Civic Organizations

Neighborhood and civic organizations, and blogs were also contacted and sent information about the public workshop. These organizations included:

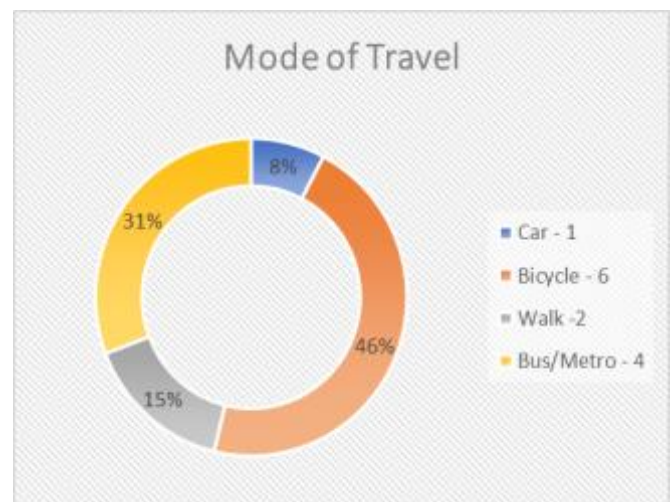
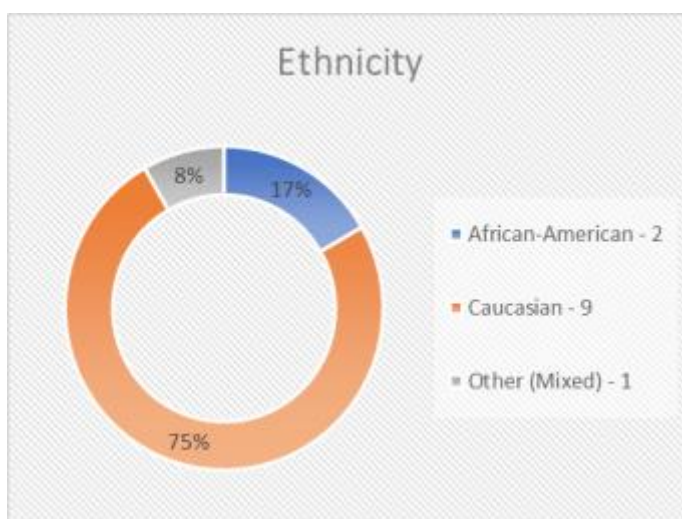
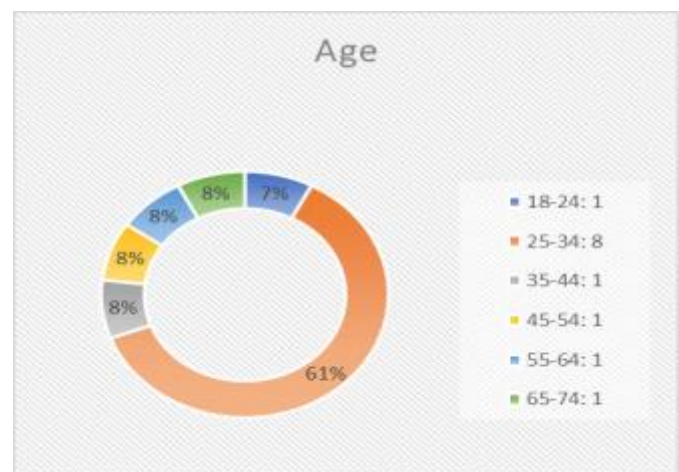
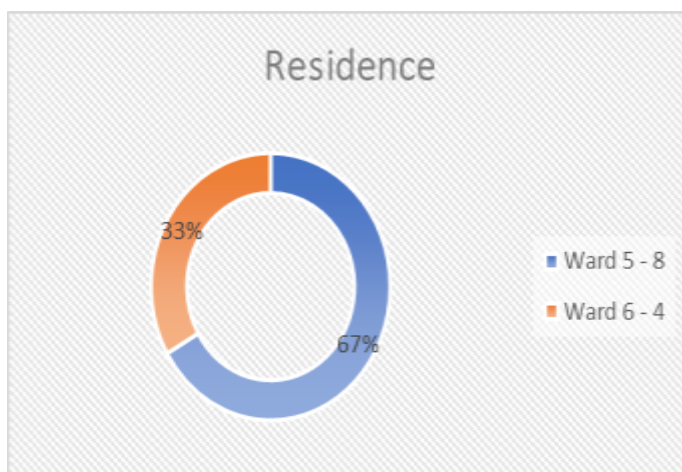
- ANCs 5C, 5D, and 5E
- Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC)
- Gateway to the City (Fort Lincoln)
- Greater Greater Washington
- HechtWarehouse
- Ivy City Civic Association
- NewKidOnEckingtonBlock
- NOMA Bid
- Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC)
- TheDCBikerBlogger
- TheFrozenTropics
- TheWashCycle
- Trinidad Neighborhood Association
- Urbanturf
- Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA)

3.0 ATTENDANCE

Public Meeting #3 Attendees

Twenty-nine (29) attendees representing the community, including representatives from neighborhood ANCs attended Public Meeting #3. Additionally, five (5) DDOT staff members and nine (9) consultant team members were also in attendance.

Thirteen (13) attendees completed Title VI forms at Public Meeting #3. A summary of the demographic makeup of meeting attendees is below.



4.0 FEEDBACK AVENUES

Meeting attendees provided comment and feedback about the project design via DDOT Title VI forms, general comment forms and meeting tablets. Additionally, residents, stakeholders and interested parties were also provided an opportunity to give feedback via the project website: www.newyorkavenueproject.com.

4.1 Key Themes

The key themes that emerged from the comments received:

- Safety for pedestrians and bicyclists (protected) along the corridor;
- Trail connections to existing bike/pedestrian trails;
- Neighborhood connections between the south and north sides of the corridor;
- Intersection crossings within the Corridor need improvement; and
- Streetscape elements need more variety

4.2 Written Comments

The Project Team received fifty-one (51) comments from the June 29th Public Meeting #3.

Comment Type	# of Comments
Public Meeting #3	
Title VI Form	6
Comment Form	20
Comment Tablet	25
TOTAL	51

The sections below summarize the input received from Public Meeting #3.

4.2.1 Public Meeting #3

The following comments listed below, highlight some of the discussion topics from the meeting:

- Safety
 - Safety for all users is the #1 priority!
 - Ensure that north side of NY Ave has sufficient lighting and visibility to mitigate safety concerns at night (particularly since its limited access).
- Pedestrian

- Need safe crossing on 9th street to ramp.
- Need crossing (on NY Ave) to get to MOM's east of Fenwick St.
- Streetscape
 - Concern about left turn from NY Ave to 4th Street – cars back-up.
 - Consider 'bump out' on 4th Street intersection @ NY Ave to force slower turns by vehicles and safer crossing for peds/cyclists.
 - Bump-out extension turn lane by men's shelter for police parking.
 - Create park amenities to include exercise areas, areas for play, areas of education; intra-District (agency) agreement with DPR to maintain.
 - Recycling/landfill containers should be implemented along walkway/bike paths to improve upkeep.
 - "You are here" signs to provide directions/routes.
 - A Business Improvement District to help cover maintenance costs and programming.
- Trail
 - How is the ramp used from MBT to NY Ave going west?
 - Concern about crossing at ramp/stairs or potential wrong-way riding?
 - Consider re-designing 4th Street intersection to ensure safer crossing and less chaotic vehicle traffic (no obvious turn lane and aggressive driving).
 - Move stairs to North side of NYA at MBT.
 - Can there be concrete barriers for the protected bike lane on the bridge?
 - Consider switching sidewalk and bike trail along the corridor to ease queuing peds and bikes at intersections.
 - Love full bike path on North side of NYA (avoids all intersections).
 - Reconsider existing treatment on the most western section of Segment 1 (Florida Ave and NY Ave, northside). Without physical separation, vehicles will come onto bike lane to take right on Eckington Place. Consider merging bike lane into mixed share path to take right on Florida Ave then on Eckington Place.
 - Coordinate w/Florida Ave project and Dave Thomas (Wendy's) circle redesign, to ensure safe and efficient transition/connection from NY southbound to either Florida Ave SE bound (on cycle track) or NY Ave/1st street south bound.
 - Provide cycle track on all of 4th Street – NO SHARROWS!
 - Indicate where protected track ends/changes sides, etc.

4.3 Additional Comments

Additional comments were collected from the general comment and Title VI forms. Those comments echo many of the remarks noted throughout this section, and are listed below.

- General
 - Love the improvements since the last meeting.
- Trail
 - On-street routing connections need work. Cycle tracks, not sharrows, are needed on:
 - 4th Street
 - 9th, 6th, and Brentwood Parkway
 - West Virginia Avenue
 - Bladensburg Road
 - Need to provide safe crossing spaces at intersections near major attractions – Union Market, Hecht Town Area and future New City area.
 - Segment 1: Please consider not having a bike lane on New York Avenue if not physically separated by hard infrastructure.
 - Glad to see separate bike space over the bridge, but still unclear whether it would feel safe.
 - *“I like the esplanade idea”.*
 - Like the transition promenade on North side of New York Avenue.
 - Give greater consideration for emergency vehicles access to railroad facilities between 9th and 16th Streets.
 - Consider parallel tunnel to existing PRR tunnel – it is a doable venture.
 - Be mindful of VRE’s plans for placing an elevated turntable for locomotives at Montana Avenue.
 - Please think about phasing, start with bike routes from Bladensburg Road.
- Streetscape
 - How do you propose to maintain the proposed greenery along the corridor?
 - It would be great to have public art in the circle (Montana Ave.).

5.0 APPENDIX

- Sign-In Sheets
- Meeting Tablet Comments
- Title VI Form Comments
- Comment Forms