
New York Avenue Streetscape and Trail Project

Public Meeting #4 Summary

Gallaudet University, I. King Jordan Student Activity Center
800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, DC
September 19, 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 were 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 the last of the planned public meetings, Public Meeting #4. The purpose of this event was to share the final draft streetscape and trail design concept developed based on feedback from comments from Public Meeting #3 held June 29, 2017 at the REI Co-Op (200 M Street NE, and Public Engagement Event #2 held August 19, 2017 at Union Market (800 Florida Avenue NE).

1.1 Public Meeting #4

Public Meeting #4 was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Gallaudet University's I. King Jordan Student Academic Center (SAC) located near the western-end of the corridor project limits.

DDOT Project Managers, Katherine Youngbluth and Michael Alvino, provided a brief presentation to inform meeting participants on themes captured from Public Meeting #3 and Community Engagement events. This presentation highlighted:

- the selected concept that met the goals of the project and was most preferred per community feedback;
- corridor improvements and details that included sidewalks, landscape, stormwater management BMPs; and
- transit service considerations.

The final draft corridor design concept was shared in an open house format. The full presentation is attached and available at www.newyorkavenueproject/resources/.

1.1.1 Meeting Format

The format of Public Meeting #4 was an open-house, with a brief presentation at 7pm. Corridor exhibits of the draft final concept streetscape and trail design highlighted the design throughout the project limits to collect final thoughts on the design. DDOT and consultant team members engaged with attendees at meeting board stations.

Interpretation Services

Due to the project area being in close proximity of the Gallaudet University community, interpretation services for the hearing impaired were requested and provided for previous

public meetings over the course of the project. Although interpretation services were requested for this meeting (Public Meeting #4), the request for the services was not finalized and no interpreters were provided for the meeting. At the meeting and with the help of the Gallaudet University point of contact, the project team was able to identify and request the interpretation services of a community member, in attendance at the meeting, to provide this service. This was done with the approval of those hearing-impaired in attendance.

Additionally, the project team offered to schedule a separate meeting with a focus on the hearing-impaired community to provide an opportunity for additional comment and review of the project process and final draft concept developed.

1.2 Public Engagement Event #2

A public engagement event was held Saturday, August 19, 2017 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Union Market located near the western-end of the corridor project boundary, New York Avenue and Florida Avenue, NE.

Public Engagement event #2 focused on the draft concepts developed and shared during Public Meeting #3, held June 29th. The team set up meeting boards on-site at Union Market to engage and discuss with residents and stakeholders the draft streetscape and trail concepts developed for the New York Avenue corridor. Thirty-four (34) members of neighboring and adjacent communities stopped at the project’s blue tents to discuss the draft concepts developed with the project team. Ten (10) Title VI forms were collected from community member at this event. Comments received on these forms during the event can be found in Section 4.3, “Additional Comments”.

1.3 Meeting Boards

Display boards were developed for Public Meeting #4 to share with attendees of the final draft concept developed by the team. The boards were based on community feedback captured from Public Meeting #3 and Public Engagement event #2. The following is a list of the boards presented:

- **Welcome:** Provided the title of the project with a map highlighting the project corridor and project schedule (timeline).
- **Connecting to New York Avenue Bicycle Route – Western Area: 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.
- **New York Avenue NE Area 1 – Florida Avenue NE to 9th Street NE 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 Area 2 – 9th Street NE Bridge to Hecht Warehouse Area:** Graphic description of New York Avenue NE draft corridor concept including ramp and stair connections 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 Area 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 including potential interim bicycle facilities, 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.
- **Connecting to New York Avenue Bicycle Route – Eastern Area: Connect to National Arboretum:** Graphic description of proposed on-street bicycle route including bicycle facilities and trail connections, sidewalks and proposed shared lanes.
- **New York Avenue Phasing Plan:** Graphic breakdown of improvements for implementation by plan focus – streetscape and bicycle – including concept considerations for extension and future multi-modal connections along the corridor.
- **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 #4 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 Direct Mailing and Public Notices

For the last planned public meeting, the focus was to ensure those neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor were informed. A postcard was developed and mailed to District residents living in the 20002 and 20018 zip code areas. Additionally, postcards were also distributed via the grass roots team and handed out at Community Engagement Event #2 at Union Market as well as 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 Neighborhood 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

3.1 Public Meeting #4 Attendees

Twenty-four (24) attendees representing the community, including representatives from neighborhood ANCs, attended Public Meeting #4. Additionally, three (3) DDOT staff members and seven (7) consultant team members were also in attendance.

Fourteen (14) attendees completed Title VI forms during Public Meeting #4. 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 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

Comments that were captured during the meeting mainly include thoughts around the following areas:

- Trail connections to existing bike/pedestrian trails
- Intersection crossings within the Corridor need improvement, particularly at Montana Avenue circle
- Streetscape elements

4.2 Written Comments

The Project Team received a total of twenty-one (21) comments from the August 19th Community Engagement #2 and the September 19th Public Meeting.

Comment Type	# of Comments
Public Meeting #4	
Title VI Form	5
Title VI Form – Community Engagement #2 (Aug 19)	6
Comment Tablet	9
TOTAL	21

4.2.1 Public Meeting #4

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

- Streetscape
 - I appreciate the thought and study that has gone into the project, especially on the north side of NY Ave where the parameters are very tight. My concern with this particular aspect is that it contains some very long stretches, that may not be daunting to through-cyclists but might inhibit use by young families and older adults. I would like to see features on the north side that break up these stretches, provide resting/roosting spots (individual stools that wouldn't encourage nappers), and water for thirsty cyclists, dogs and others.

- I am all for making the train area/tracks as visually accessible as possible. Kids are endlessly interested in trains, which would make the target area more appealing for families.
- Trail/Connections
 - Swapping locations of cycle track and sidewalk makes a lot of sense. Makes crossing and queuing easier. Trees & landscaping will help ensure the pedestrian experience is not worse for it.
 - Cycle track on 4th should remain a priority with developers. Thanks for pushing this.
 - At crossings of NY Ave, especially at 4th and 16th, the ramps should be extra wide to accommodate both pedestrians and bikes as they cross. The concrete median also needs a wide cut to allow queuing in the median.
 - The Montana Ave circle still needs additional work to make the bike/pedestrian crossings safe.

4.3 Additional Comments

4.3.1 Public Meeting #4 Title VI forms

Additional comments were collected from the Title VI forms both at Public Meeting #4 and Public Engagement #2. Those comments are noted below.

- General
 - Excited to see bike facility coming to New York Avenue.
 - This is fantastic. Badly needed in this area. I will not bike down New York Avenue today. This will make things much better.
 - Definitely needed! Looks like a great proposal!
 - Thanks for all your hard work!
 - I appreciated that the meeting was held at Gallaudet University. It was an acknowledgement of the University's presence in the study area, and the impact and benefit it (the project) will have for campus residents and visitors.
 - Provide interpreter; Provide interpreter on flyer.
 - The interpreters did not arrive.
 - This plan is heavily covered by Gallaudet University and conference center right by New York Ave. I am disappointed at how this came out. Appreciated with the information that was shared with Kate. Please have interpreters ready.
 - I would like to urge DDOT to include the Section 106 "area of potential effects" at the very first meeting of any new project so the public can be consulted as to properties potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic

Places. When the design is this far along it is late and risk of slow down or public outcry over missed opportunities to avoid or minimize adverse effects is more problematic.

- I would urge DDOT project managers to more proactively contact affected owners to allow them to get familiar with how they might be affected, and to get them on board. Example, it surprises me that the entrance to the animal shelter has not been discussed with the managers of the shelter. Even though I understand you within DDOT's right of way, it is entirely a missed opportunity to not ask them in for a meeting at their premises and get a sense for how to best cooperate. Their entrance is going to become even less generous, yet it is heavily used by the public and should really be relocated. All that said, I'm a big fan of this project, and everything that DDOT can do to enhance walkability and bikeability. So, THANKS!

- Streetscape

- Glad to see diversity in tree species is proposed.
- Any street art? This can be identified as part of future design phases.
- More bike share stations.
- Provide pump stations along the way in the event someone has a flat.

- Trail

- Would be nice if there was a better connection from MBT to start of dedicated lane. Looks like sidewalk space might be a bit constrained in this area.
- Wondering if lane of parking could be removed to extend dedicated trail all the way to Arboretum entrance.
- If you have to prioritize...opt for North side connection over South side connection to New York Ave from MBT (there is already somewhat of a connection on South Side).
- 4th Street NE needs a protected cycletrack between Morse and New York if tunnel isn't built under New York Avenue.

5.0 APPENDIX

- Sign-In Form
- Meeting Tablet Comments
- Title VI Form Comments
- September 19, 2017 Public Meeting #4 Presentation