



Welcome! Thank you for joining us.

We will be getting started shortly...

# Van Ness Commercial Corridor

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

JUNE 30, 2021



# WEBEX LOGISTICS

# Welcome to our Virtual Public Meeting!

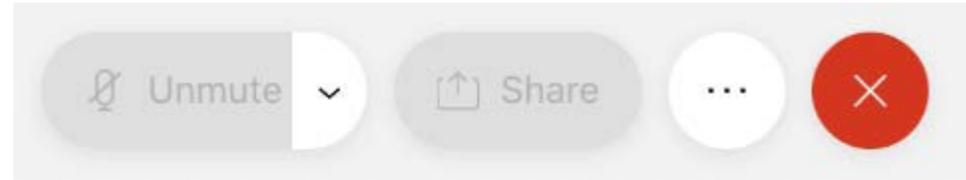
- We're all learning how to conduct virtual public meetings in this format, so please be patient with us.
- To begin, we will review some basic controls to help you participate on this platform.

**Please Note:** This is an open meeting and as required by DC Code 2-578, this meeting is being recorded, and the recording will be made available to the public.

- The video file (with both audio and video) will be shared on the project team's website at <https://ddot.dc.gov/page/van-ness-commercial-corridor-project> within 14 business days after the final meeting has ended.
- If you do not wish to have your voice recorded, please do not ask to speak. You may enter any questions or comments in the Q&A, which we will review in the next few slides.

If you need technical support during this meeting, please call **202-705-7859**.

# Using Webex – Audio & Video



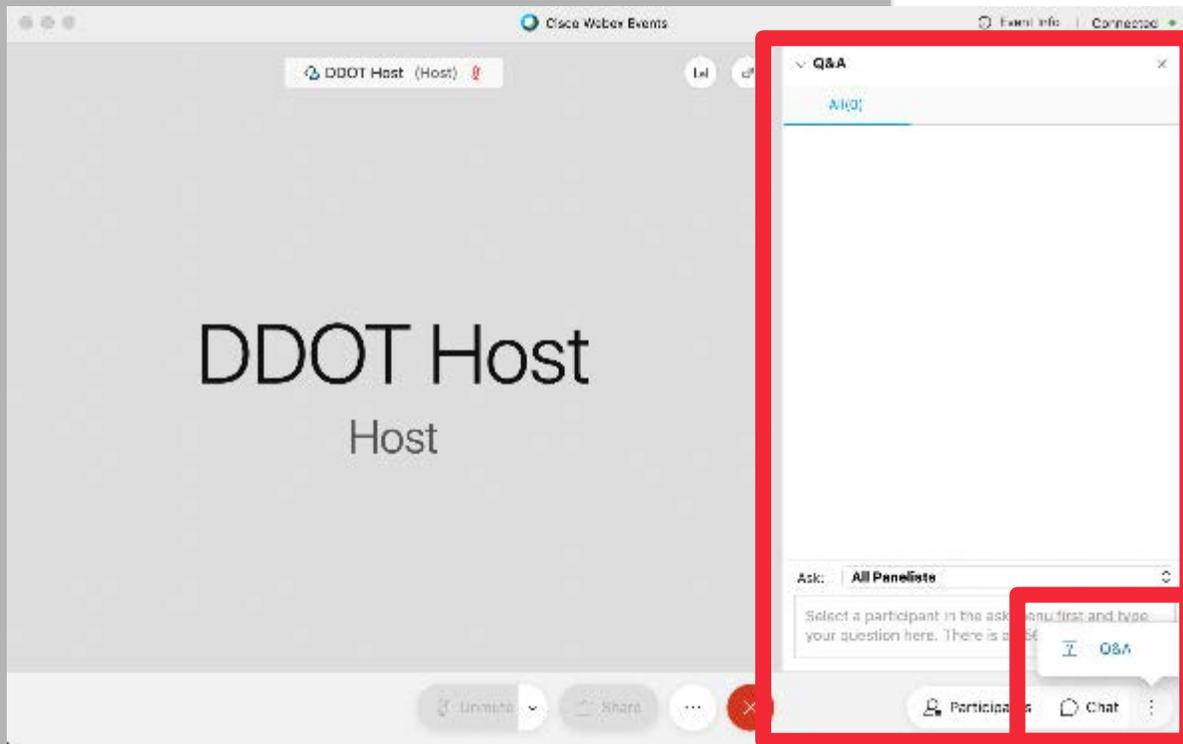
## Audio/Muting

- Everyone is on mute. You cannot unmute yourself. We can unmute you during the Q&A and Comment period. This helps ensure the meeting runs smoothly and there are no auditory disruptions during the presentation.
- To request to speak, you will need to use the **Raise Hand** feature, which we will cover shortly.

## Video

- Your video camera is off by default and you will not be able to share video. To reduce the bandwidth of the meeting, only the Project Team will be sharing video to improve the overall meeting quality for all participants.

# Using Webex – Q&A



If you have a question during the presentation, send it via the Q&A feature.

**Note:** If Q&A is enabled, the Q&A panel will be open by default when you join the Event.

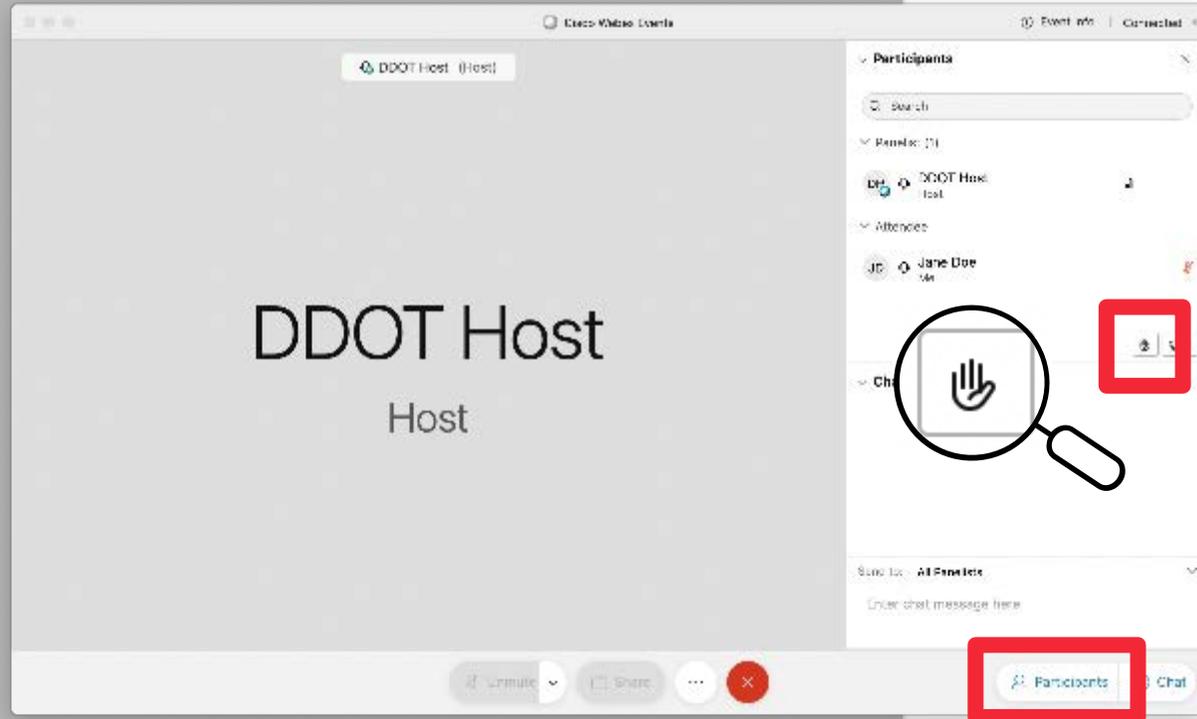
## To Send a Question:

- Click the “**three dot icon**” in the bottom right side of the Webex window and select **Q&A**.
- A new panel or window will appear. In the “**Ask**” field, select **All Panelists**.
- Click the text box to type your question and press the Enter key to send it.

If you joined via Browser or Mobile App, click the Question Mark icon to access the Q&A to ask a question.

If you dialed in by phone, **dial \*3** to use the Raise Hand function. This indicates to the Project Team that you would like to speak and ask a question.

# Using Webex – Raise Hand



If you have a question or comment that you would like to speak up about, please **raise your hand**. This indicates to the Project Team that you would like to speak.

To virtually raise your hand:

- Click “**Participants**” on the bottom right of the Webex window.
- A new panel or window will appear. Near the bottom of the panel/window, there will be a small hand icon. **Click the hand icon** to Raise your Hand.

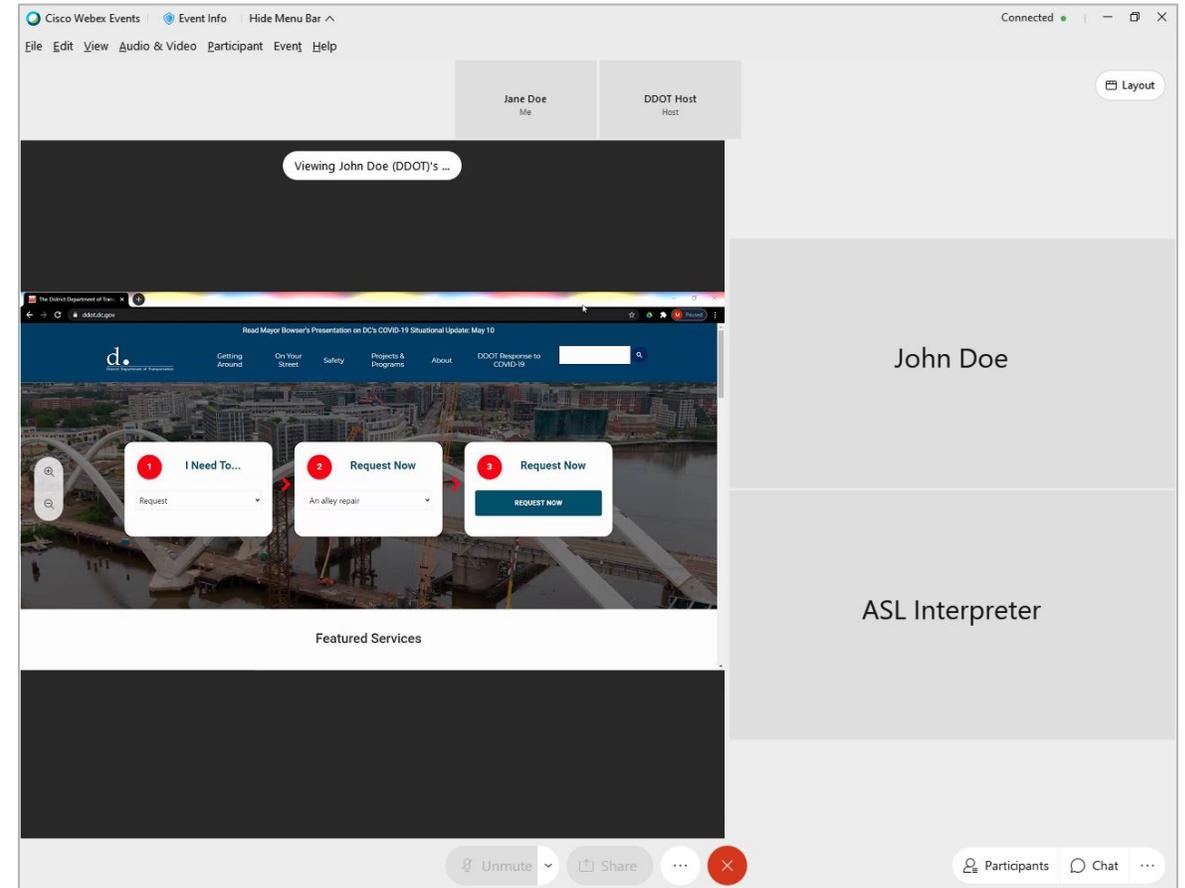
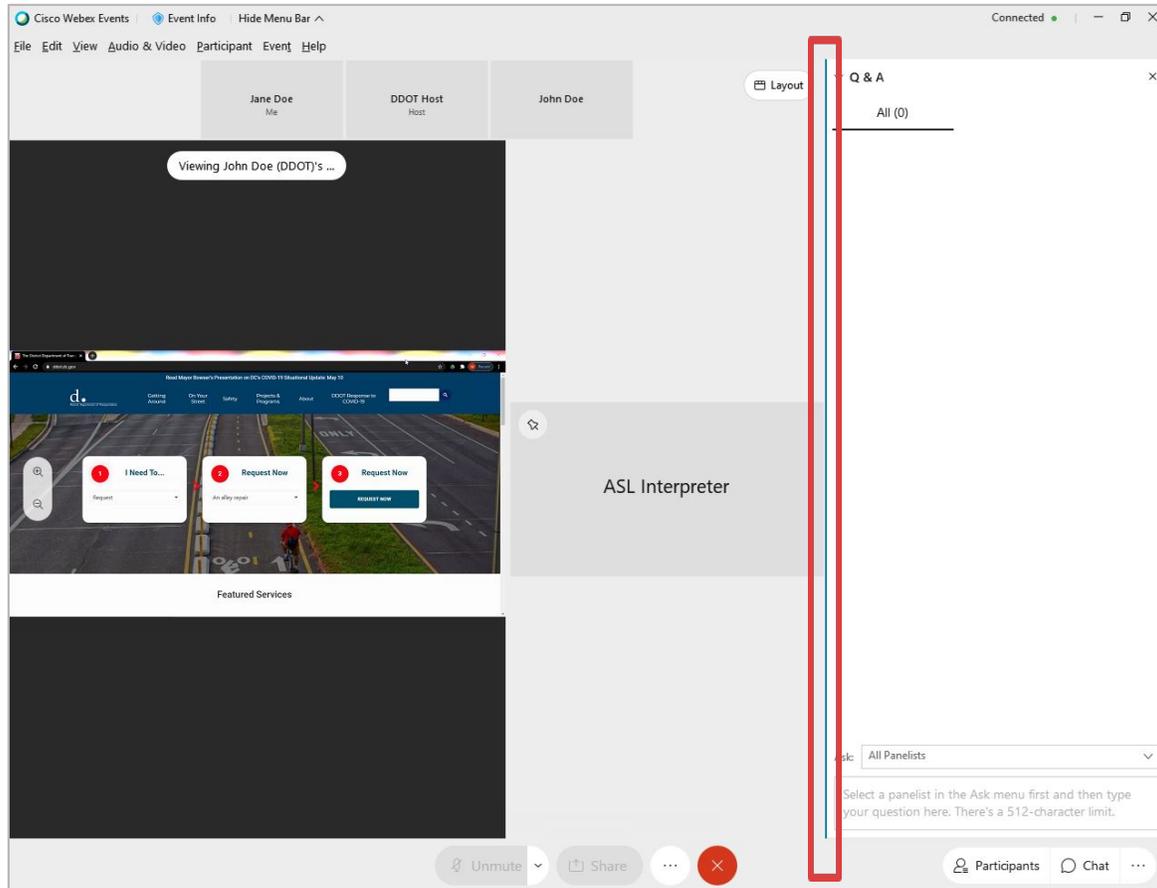


If you joined via browser or mobile app, click the 3 dot (...) icon and select Raise Hand.

If you dialed in by phone, **dial \*3** to use the Raise Hand function.

# Using Webex – ASL Interpretation

- Use the slider bar to adjust the size of the Stage window
- Close any open Panels (Participants, Chat, Q&A) to maximize space





# INTRODUCTION

### DDOT Project Management Team

- **Ted Van Houten:** DDOT Project Manager
- **Jamee Ernst:** DDOT Transportation Planner
- **Ed Stolof:** DDOT Office of Planning and Sustainability
- **Yvonne Thelwell:** DDOT Infrastructure Project Management Division
- **Dawit Kebebe:** DDOT Infrastructure Project Management Division

### Consultant Team

- **Ray Moravec:** Wallace Montgomery
- **Jam Kendrick and Peyton Manning:** Tina Boyd and Associates
- **Adrienne McCray :** Lee and Associates





- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Project Overview**
- 3. Goals and Objectives**
- 4. Previous Studies / Related Projects**
- 5. Project Schedule**
- 6. Van Ness Commercial Corridor Overview**
- 7. Elements Under Consideration**
- 8. Public Input**
- 9. Questions and Answers**
- 10. Thank You! Title VI Questionnaire**



# PROJECT OVERVIEW

# Project Study Area

## Project Study Area

- Connecticut Avenue NW between Van Ness Street and Albemarle Street;
- Windom Place NW on both sides of Connecticut Avenue; and
- Van Ness Street NW between Connecticut Avenue and Reno Road.

*The project is in Ward 3, and within the boundaries of Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3F*



# Polling Question #1



## Where do you live?

- DC – Ward 3
- DC – Outside Ward 3
- DC – I don't know which Ward I live in
- Maryland
- Virginia
- Other



## Where do you work?

- Restaurant or Retail Industry
- Local Business Owner
- District Agency
- UDC / Nearby Educational Campus
- State Department/ Embassy
- Other Entity Within Project Limits
- Retired / Student / Unemployed
- Outside the Project Area

## What is your primary interest in the project area?

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities
- Access to Public Transportation
- Business Development & Revitalization
- Green Spaces / Trees
- Community Friendly Public Spaces
- Other Interests (feel free to add in chat box)





# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



## PROJECT GOALS

- Develop a concept plan that promotes multimodal transportation safety and creates community friendly spaces along the project area
- Present a concept plan that embraces the positive qualities of the commercial corridor and incorporates community and stakeholder involvement
- Set a path forward for future phases of the project, which will cover final design and construction

# Project Objective



## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Van Ness Commercial Corridor Project will propose improvements to the streetscape in the Van Ness commercial district to promote multimodal transportation safety and create community friendly public spaces along the project area.



# PREVIOUS STUDIES/RELATED PROJECTS

## Shades of Green

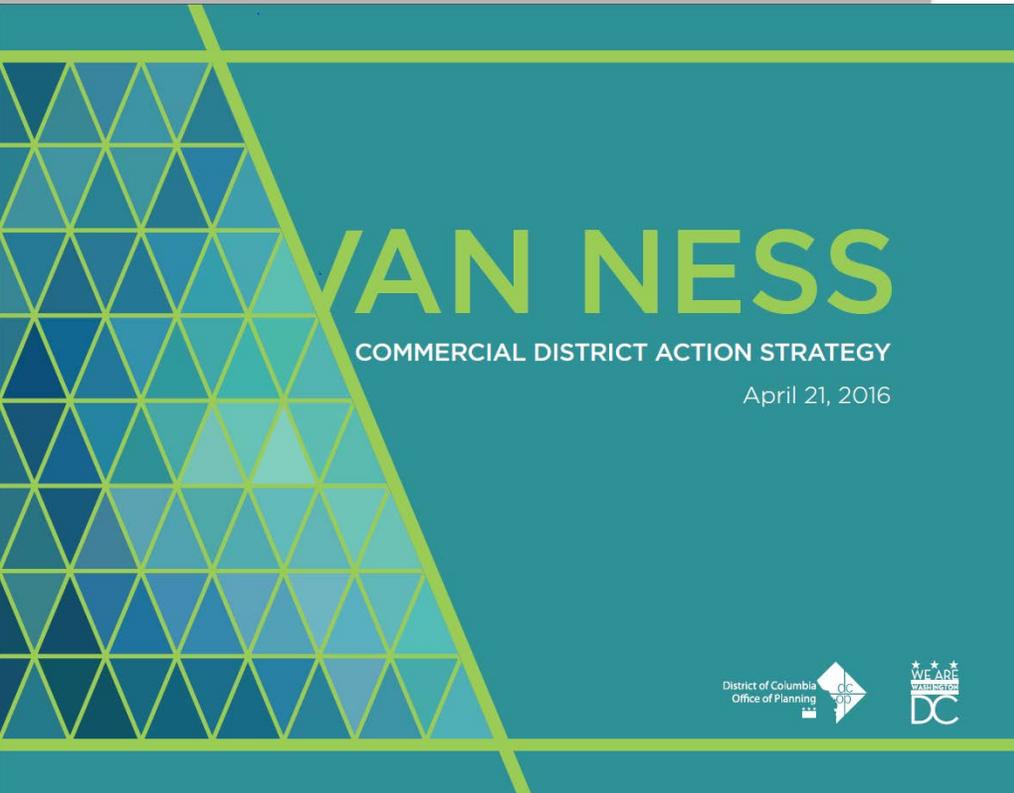
### Green Infrastructure & Pavement Removal Strategy for Van Ness (January 2016)

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Identify opportunities to remove existing impervious paving
- Identify appropriate hardscape and landscape plant materials
- Develop a plan and designs for incorporating green infrastructure where feasible
- Ensure new LID facilities do not negatively impact existing underground utilities, including those supporting Metro



### Van Ness Commercial District Action Study (April 2016)



#### **PUBLIC SPACE VISION**

The Van Ness Commercial District will be defined by attractive, activated and landscaped streets with spaces for retail, interaction and gathering for residents, students and workers.



#### **RETAIL VISION**

The Van Ness Commercial District will be reinvented with a new identity and brand through management, repositioned retail spaces, and catalytic events.



#### **SUSTAINABILITY VISION**

The Van Ness Commercial District will feature environmentally sensitive design and build an identity around the corridor's sustainable features.



#### **COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES VISION**

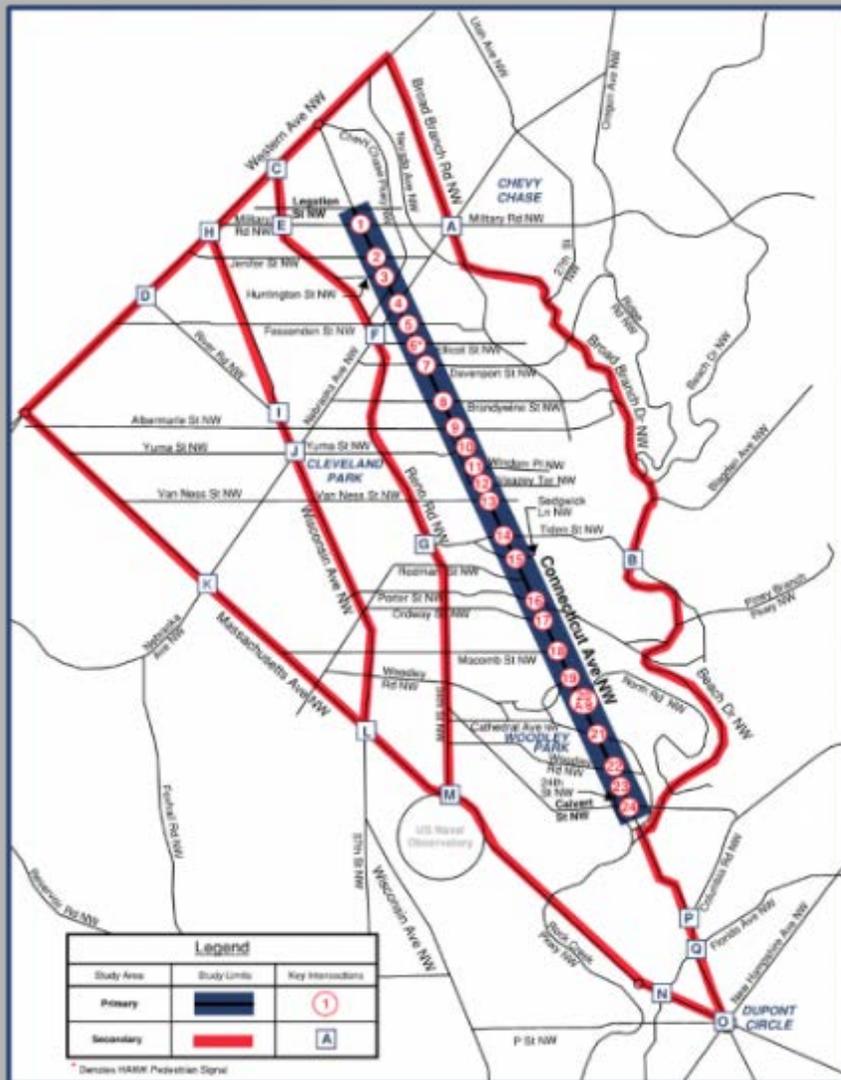
The Van Ness Commercial District will provide an environment conducive to new development that complements a vibrant Commercial District.

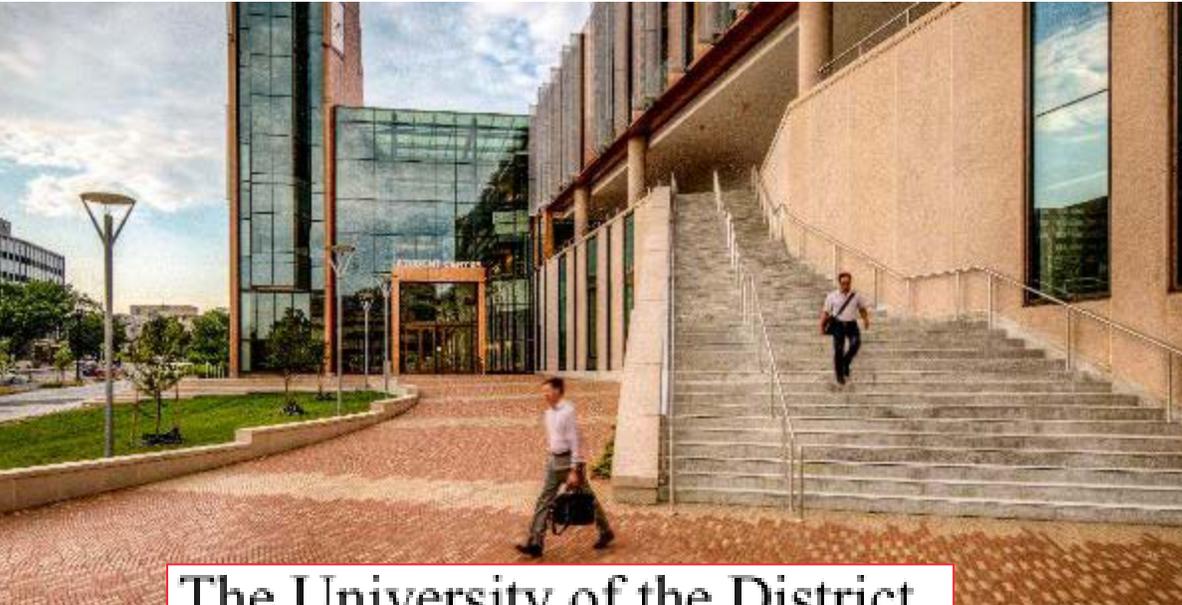
# Related Projects

## Connecticut Avenue NW Reversible Lane Study

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Reduce crashes and conflict points and enhance safety for all modes and roadway users
- Consider additional mobility options along the corridor, such protected bicycle lanes
- Assess the feasibility of removing Reversible Lane Operation
- Determine the feasibility of reducing capacity along Connecticut Avenue and that effect on adjacent roadways





### The University of the District of Columbia

### Van Ness Campus Plan 2021-2030

Application to the  
District of Columbia Zoning Commission for  
Review and Approval of a New Campus Plan

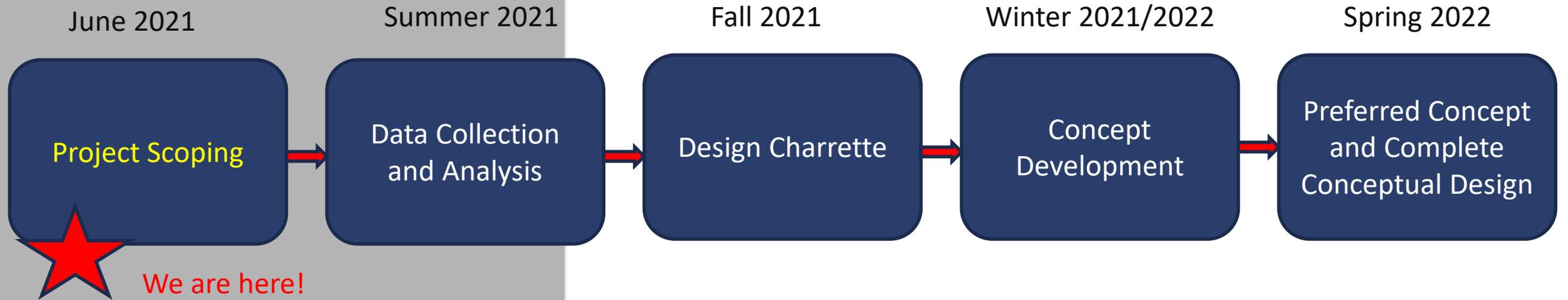
## UDC Campus Plan

### PLAN OBJECTIVES

- Modernize and upgrade existing academic buildings and facilities
- Promote the University's distinct identity and wayfinding for public use of campus
- Increase green landscaping and sustainable features
- Implement urban design improvements at Van Ness Street NW, Veazey Terrace NW, and Windom Place NW
- Modestly increase population in students, faculty, and staff



# PROJECT SCHEDULE

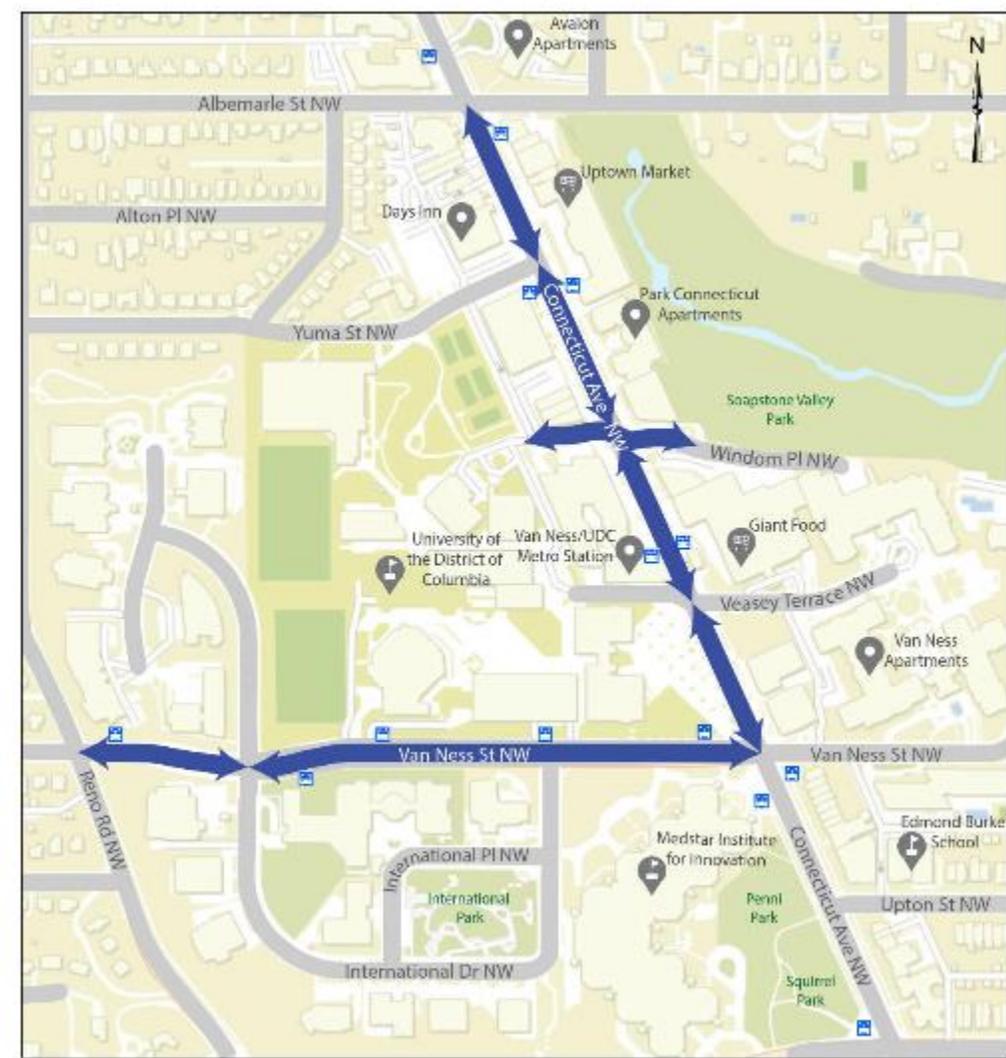




# VAN NESS COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR

### SEGMENTS UNDER EVALUATION

- Connecticut Avenue
  - Albemarle Street to Yuma Street
  - Yuma Street to Windom Place
  - Windom Place to Veazey Terrace
  - Veazey Terrace to Van Ness Street
- Windom Place
  - On each side of Connecticut Avenue
- Van Ness Street
  - Connecticut Avenue to International Drive
  - International Drive to Reno Road





## Connecticut Avenue - Albemarle Street to Yuma Street

- Retail and Restaurants
  - Bread Furst Bakery
  - Italian Pizza Kitchen
  - Tesoro
  - Thai Pad
  - Uptown Market
- Drive-Thru
  - Burger King
  - Flagship Car Wash
- Services and Lodging
  - Barber / Nail Salon
  - Dry Cleaners
  - Franklin Montessori School
  - Days Inn
- Park Van Ness and The Hastings



## Connecticut Avenue - Albemarle Street to Yuma Street

### Strengths:

- Outdoor café space available and being used.
- Wide sidewalks & Public ROW
- Capitol Bike share stations available.

### Considerations for Improvements:

- Existing Treepits heavily compacted (NE corner)
- No clear delineation between the sidewalk zone and building amenity zone.
- Alleys and driveway crossings are not clearly showing pedestrian crossing.
- Sidewalk cross slopes exceed 2%
- Planting in Treepits is inconsistent
- Range of sidewalk materials
- Street Trees openings are undersized.

# Existing Conditions

## Connecticut Avenue - Albemarle Street to Yuma Street





### Connecticut Avenue - Yuma Street to Windom Place

- Retail and Restaurants
  - Sfoglina Van Ness
  - Acacia
  - Potbelly
- Services
  - DC Public Library
  - UDC Clarke School of Law
  - Gold's Gym
  - Wells Fargo Bank
  - WAMU – American University
- Park van Ness and Park Connecticut



### Connecticut Avenue - Yuma Street to Windom Place

#### Strengths:

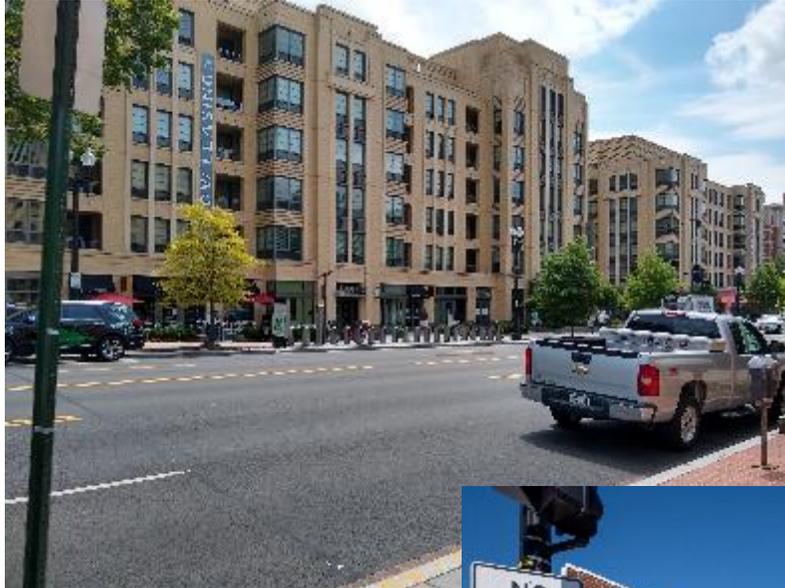
- Sidewalk vehicle crossings are reinforced at Park Van Ness
- Some outdoor café space being utilized.

#### Considerations for Improvements:

- Building setbacks are wide and completely paved with brick
- Driveway curb cut creates a narrow sidewalk and indirect pedestrian crossing.
- Driveway crossing material gives no priority to pedestrians.
- Grade change from sidewalk to building finish floor requires steps and ramps in public space for building access.

# Existing Conditions

## Connecticut Avenue - Yuma Street to Windom Place



# Existing Conditions



## Connecticut Avenue - Windom Place to Veazey Terrace

- Grocery / Pharmacy
  - Giant Food
  - CVS Pharmacy
- Retail and Restaurants
  - Calvert Woodley
  - Starbucks
- Services
  - Ernesto's Hair Styling
  - Eva Realty LLC
- WMATA Metrorail Station and Metrobus Stops
- Capital Bikeshare



### Connecticut Avenue - Windom Place to Veasey Terrace

#### Strengths:

- Amenity planting zones are being maintained.
- Intersection has open space potential
- Multimodal transportation hub

#### Considerations for Improvements:

- Buffer plantings should be taller to provide better screening.
- Wide sidewalks not being activated
- Food trucks parking on the west side of the street.
- Metro entrance creates a narrow sidewalk zone.
- Grade change at the SE corner

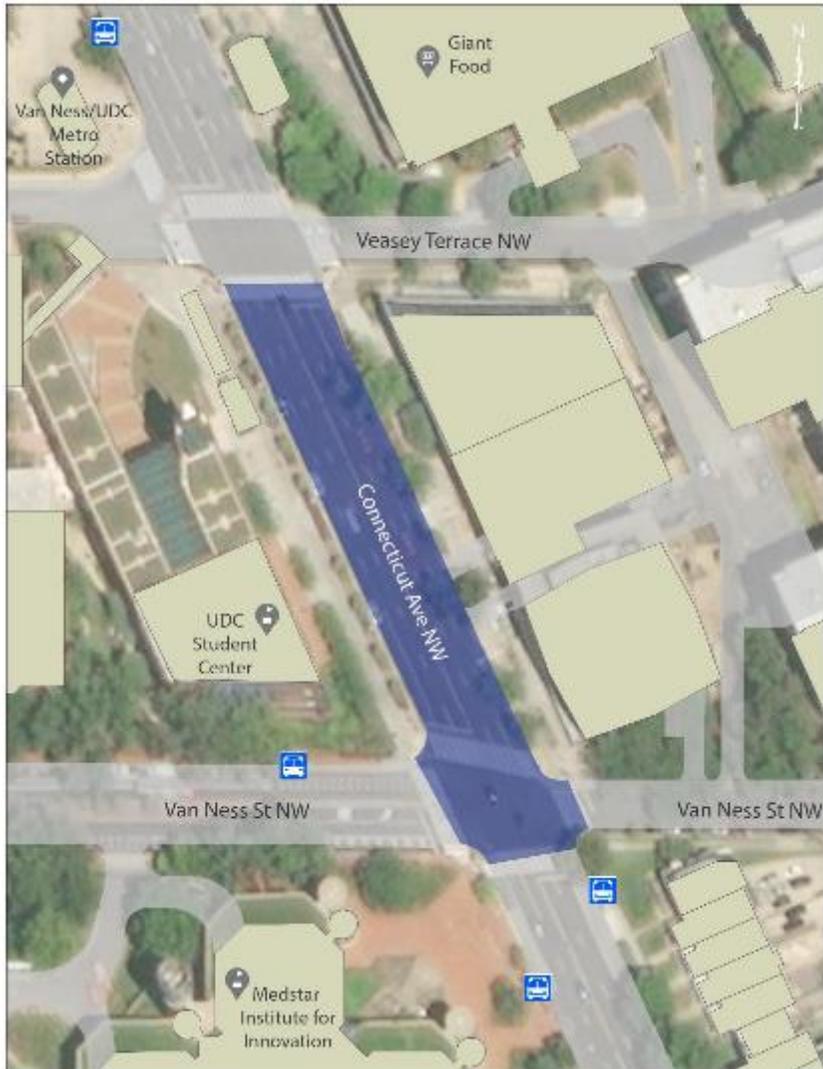
# Existing Conditions



## Connecticut Avenue - Windom Place to Veasey Terrace

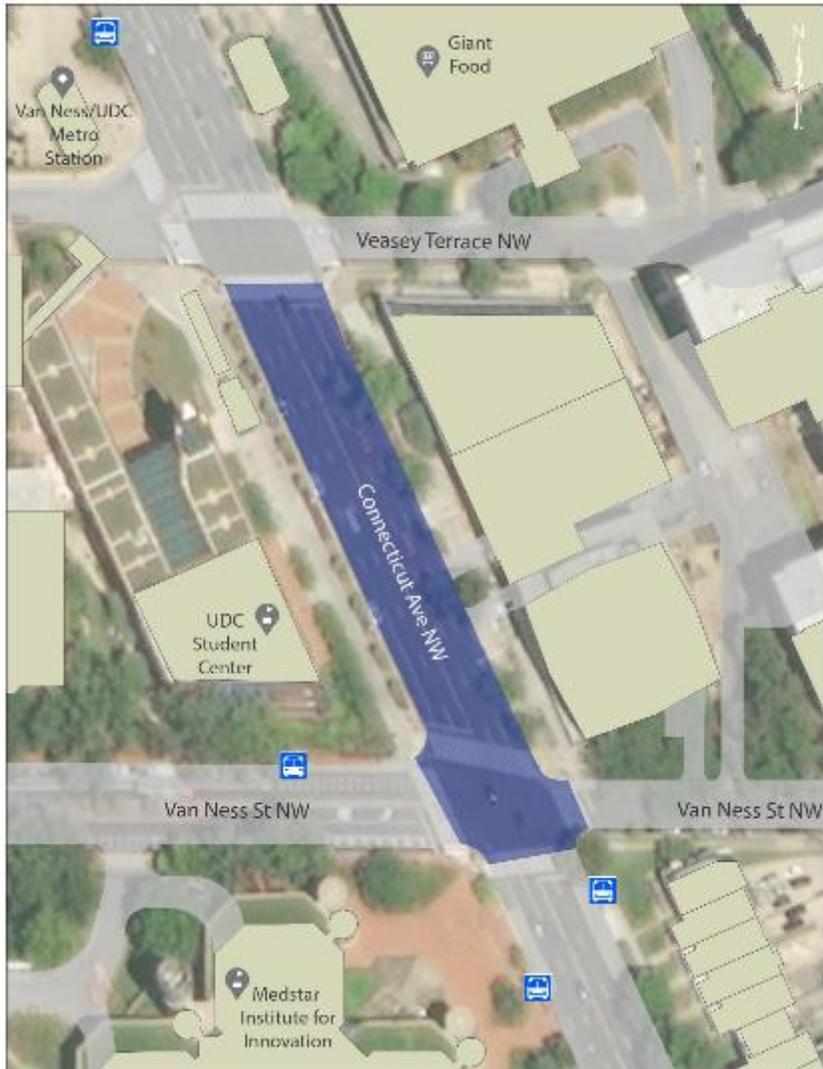


# Existing Conditions



## Connecticut Avenue - Veazey Terrace to Van Ness Street

- Retail and Restaurants
  - Laliguras Bistro
  - Pho 14
  - Van Ness Wines and Liquors
- Services
  - Bank of America
  - Revo Nails and Spa
  - Off-Street Public Parking
- UDC Student Services Building and Bookstore



## Connecticut Avenue - Veazey Terrace to Van Ness Street

### Strengths:

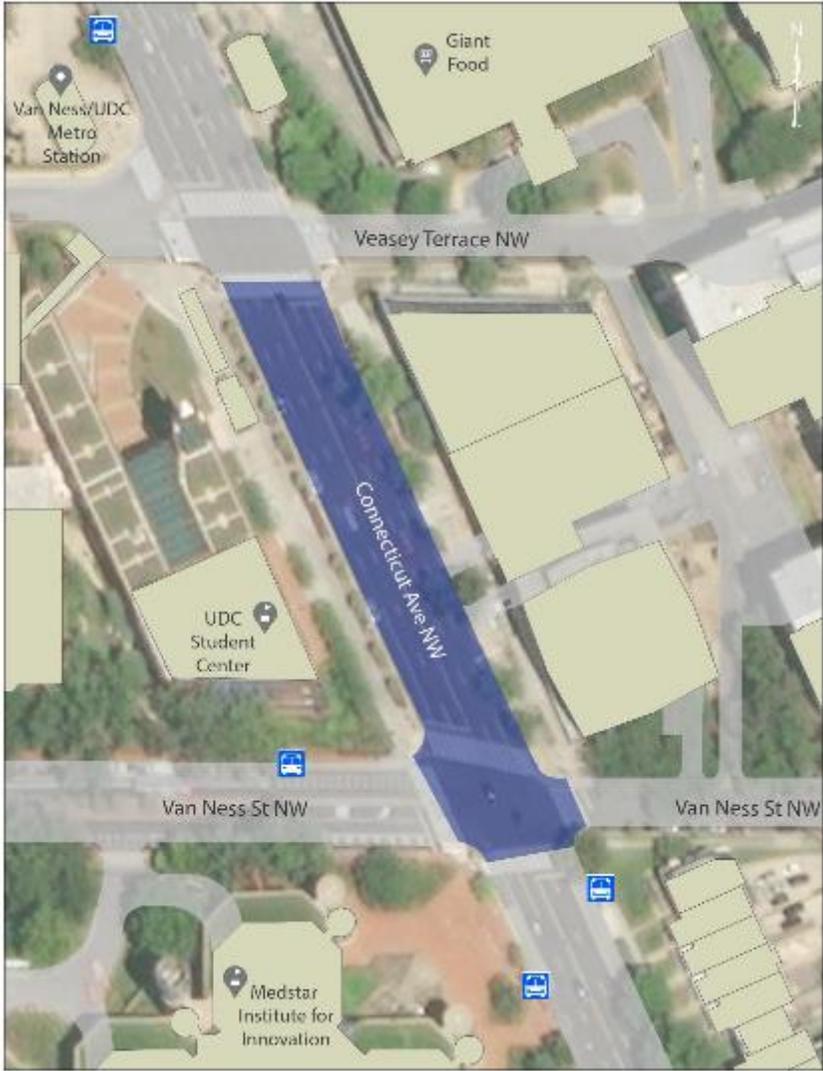
- Wide open space for and opportunities for seating
- Continuous treepits & ornamental planting in the amenity zone
- Café space opportunities

### Considerations for Improvements:

- Grade changes between sidewalk and building finish floor require stairs and ramps
- Driveway access doesn't prioritize pedestrian crossing

# Existing Conditions

## Connecticut Avenue - Veasey Terrace to Van Ness Street



# Existing Conditions



## Windom Place – Each side of Connecticut Avenue

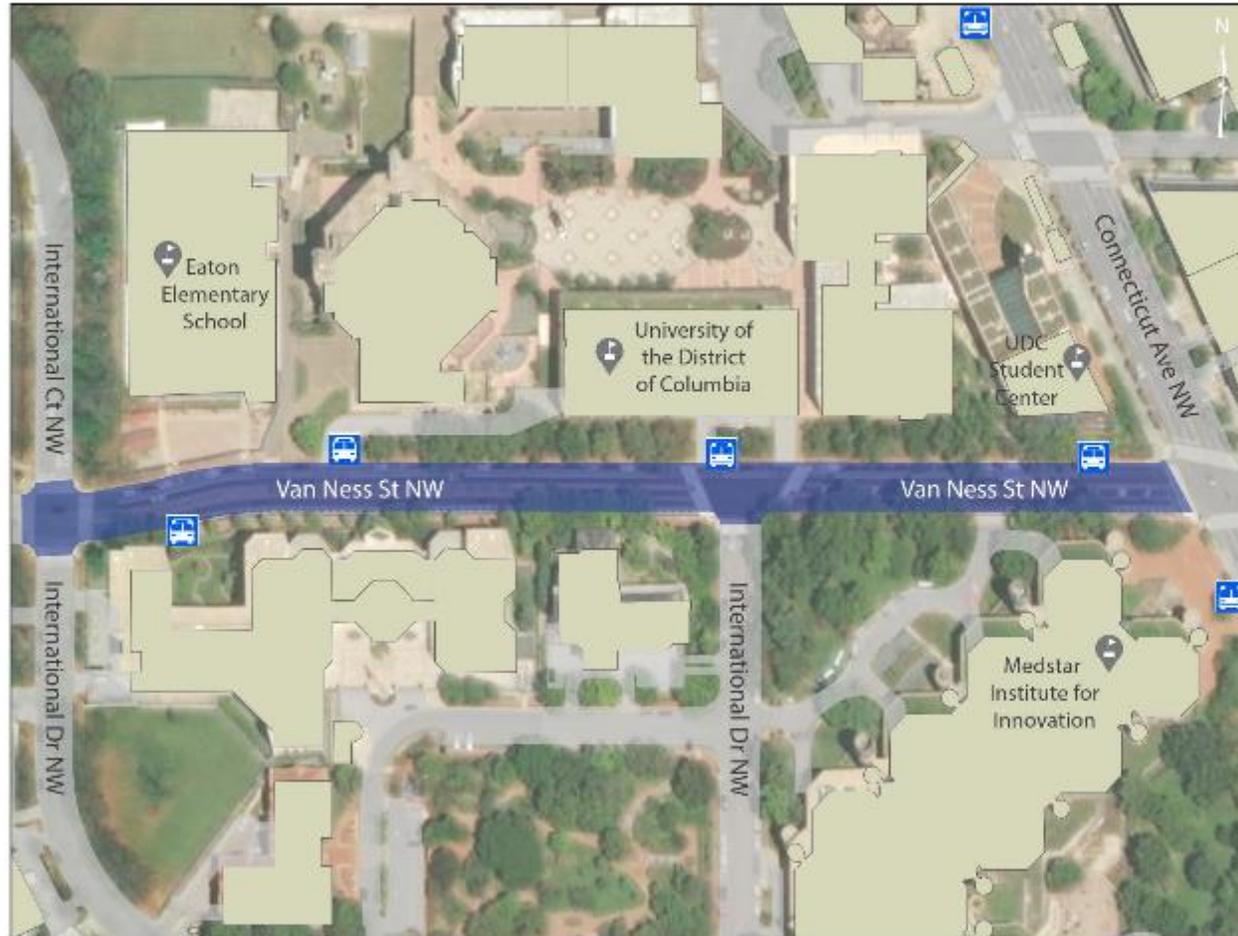
- Restaurant and Retail
  - Subway
  - The UPS Store
- Considerations for Improvements
  - Access to Parking Garages
  - UDC Student Drop-off
  - Pedestrian crossing improvements
  - Coordination with UDC Campus Plan

# Existing Conditions

Windom Place – Each side of Connecticut Avenue



### Van Ness Street – Connecticut Avenue to International Road



- Recently-completed Resurfacing
  - Road diet, reduced eastbound traffic to a single lane
  - On-road bicycle lanes
  - Buffered bicycle lane eastbound
  - “Bike box” at Connecticut Avenue
  - Improved bus stops
- Institutions and Facilities
  - University of the District of Columbia
  - ANC 3F Offices
  - MedStar Simulation Training and Education Lab (SiTEL)
  - Car Sharing Services, Permit Parking
- Embassies
  - Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China
  - Embassy of Singapore

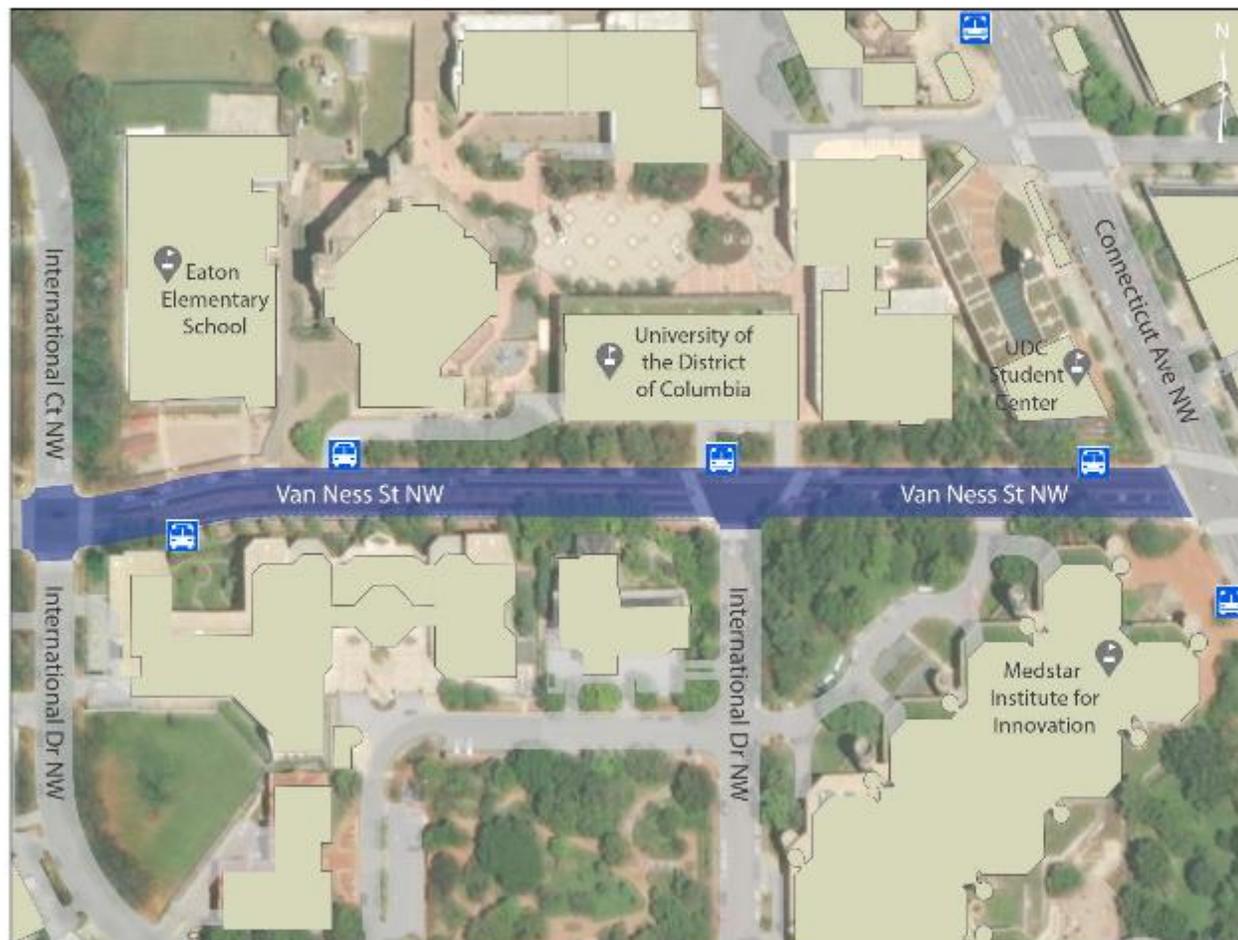
### Van Ness Street – Connecticut Avenue to International Road

#### Strengths:

- Medians bump out to provide opportunity for tree plantings
- Back of sidewalk trees are a significant size
- Security fence design is open and doesn't block views of the landscape beyond
- Consistent brick paving throughout

#### Considerations for Improvements:

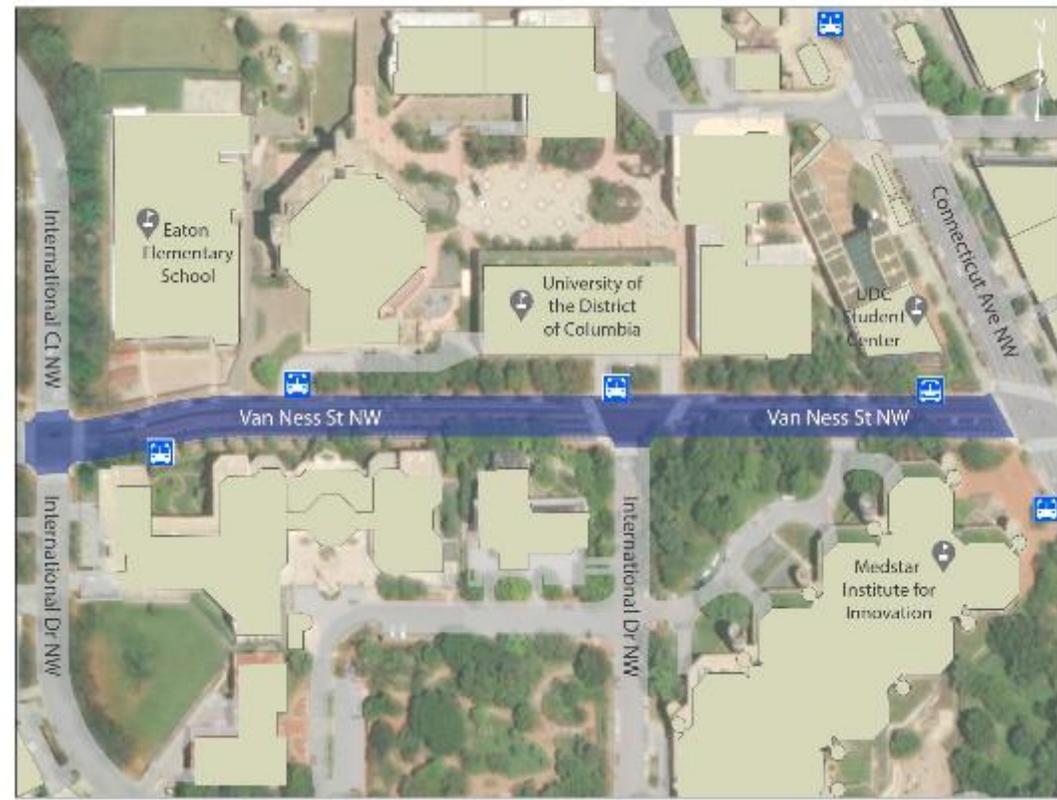
- Limited room for street tree plantings
- Driveway crossings do not prioritize pedestrians on sidewalks
- Room to expand on center median tree plantings
- Bus stop on narrow sidewalk zone
- Narrow sidewalk at International drive

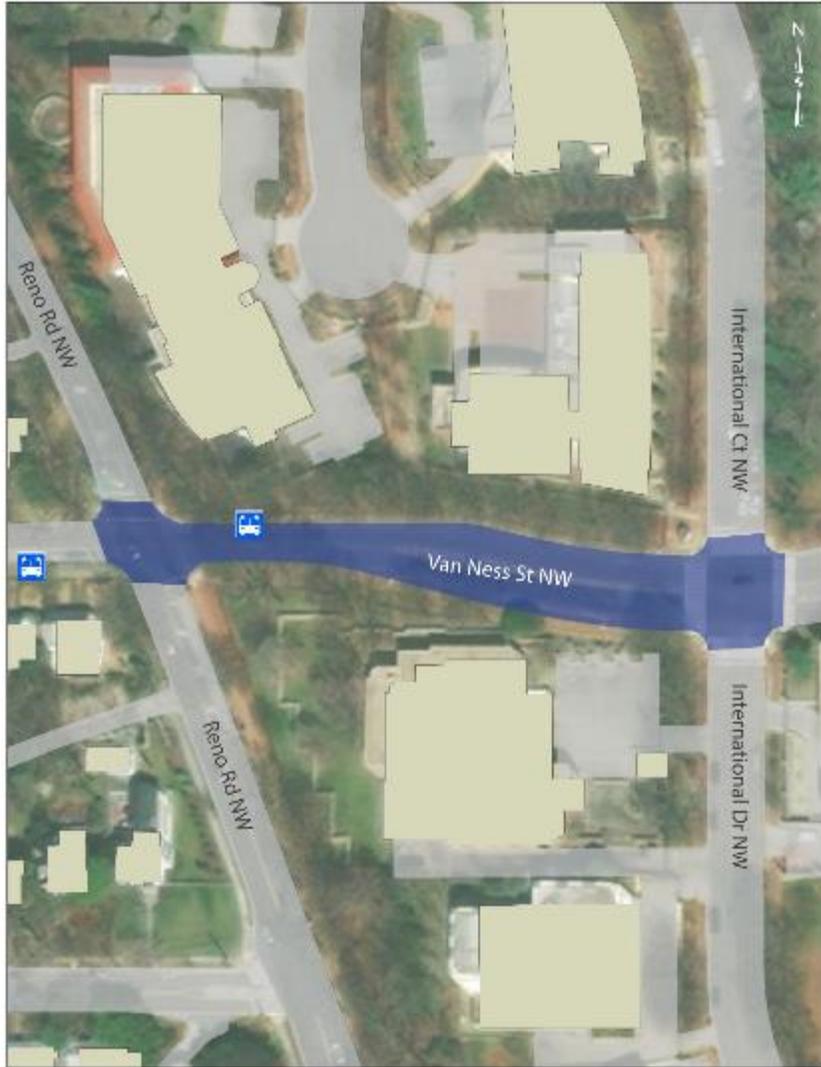


# Existing Conditions

## Van Ness Street – Connecticut Avenue to International Road

## Van Ness Street – Connecticut Avenue to International Road





### Van Ness Street – International Road to Reno Road

- Recently-completed Rerfacing
  - On-road bicycle lanes
  - Brick sidewalks
  - Improved WMATA H2 Route bus stops
- Institutions
  - Eaton Elementary School
- Embassies
  - Embassy of Israel
  - Embassy of Malaysia
  - Embassy of Pakistan



### Van Ness Street – International Road to Reno Road

#### Strengths:

- Planted center median could be maximized
- Brick sidewalks are consistent
- North side of the street offers more open space/planting opportunities

#### Considerations for Improvements:

- Fence is falling apart
- Security wall behind the sidewalk limits tree pit soil volume
- Narrow sidewalks have light fixtures in the middle not ADA compliant

# Existing Conditions

## Van Ness Street – International Road to Reno Road



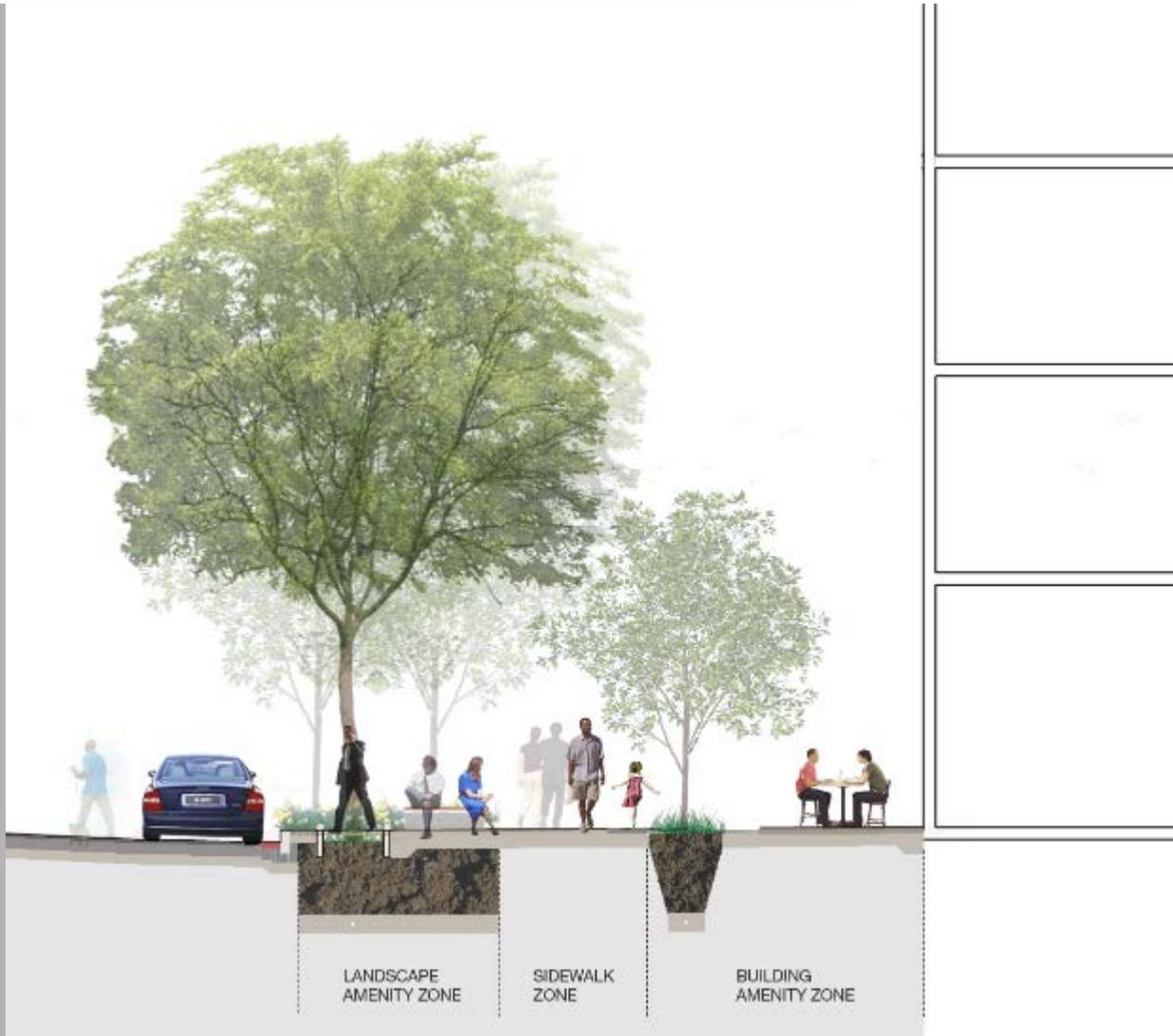


# ELEMENTS UNDER CONSIDERATION



## Overview Elements for Consideration

- Streetscape and Urban Design
- Transportation Facilities
  - Pedestrians
  - Bicyclists
  - Transit Patrons
  - Microtransit Users
- Curbside Management
- Public Space



## Establishment of Activity Zones

- Building Amenity Zone
- Sidewalk / Pedestrian Zone
- Landscape Amenity Zone
- Curbspace



### Building Amenity Zone

- Shared Public / Private Amenities
- Outdoor Café / Seating
- Accessible Building Entrances
- Landscaping
- Retail Displays





### Sidewalk / Pedestrian Zone

- Continuous Sidewalks
- ADA Accessibility
- Pedestrian Friendly Curb Cuts
- Safety and Awareness: Clear Line of Sight



### Landscape Amenity Zone

- Street Trees
- Streetlights
- Public Art
- Underground Utilities
- Street Furniture
- Green Areas
- Interaction with Curbspace:
  - Transit
  - Parking
  - Bicycles
  - Shared Mobility

# Streetscapes / Urban Design: Green Infrastructure

## Elements Under Consideration

- Street Tree Bioretention



- Expanded Soil Volume for Trees



- Back of Sidewalk Bio Swales



- Roadway bump out



- Permeable Paving





- Other Considerations
  - Urban Design Should Reflect Community
    - Frontage to Buildings (outdoor seating & other support uses)
    - Metrorail Station & Curbside Activity
  - Balance Public Space & Pedestrian Activity
  - Trade-offs Between Shade Trees / Landscape Buffering verses Access to Curbspace
  - Attention to Street Design: Underground Utilities & Green Infrastructure / Stormwater Management

- Recent Example - UDC Student Center





- MetroBus Stops
- Metrorail & MetroAccess
- Bicycle, Bikeshare Facilities, & Scooter Corrals
- Pedestrian Connections & Safety
- Access to Curbside Services / Shared Mobility

# MetroBus Stops – Connecticut Ave.



L2/D32 NB Connecticut  
at Van Ness



L2 NB Connecticut  
at Metro



L2/D32 NB Connecticut  
at Albemarle



L2 SB Connecticut  
at Albemarle



L2 SB Connecticut  
at Yuma



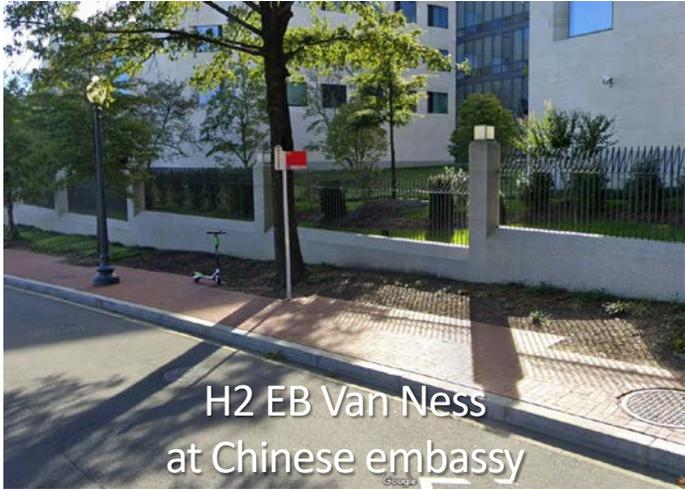
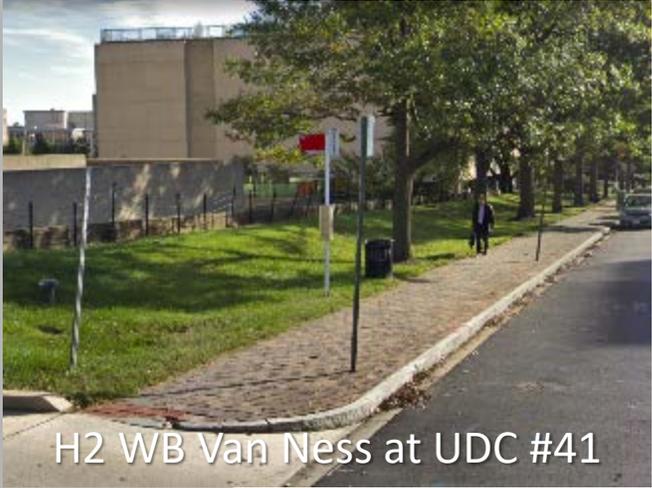
L2 SB Connecticut at Metro



L2 SB Connecticut  
at Van Ness

# MetroBus Stops – Van Ness St.

Elements Under Consideration



# Access for All Users of All Abilities

Elements Under Consideration



## MetroAccess

Metrorail





## Sidewalks and Pedestrian Treatments

- Connectivity to local destinations and regional transit
- ADA Compliance
- Frontage to Buildings (outdoor seating & other support uses)
- Pedestrian Zone Connectivity
- Landscape Amenity Zone
  - Street trees & landscape buffers
  - Access to curbside activities



## BICYCLE / MICROMOBILITY FACILITIES

### Connecticut Avenue

- Corrals
- Bikeshare Stations

### Van Ness Street

- On-street Bicycle Facilities
- Corrals
- Bikeshare Stations





### Micromobility Locations & Services

- Docked Bikes: Capital Bikeshare  
(2 stations on Connecticut)
- Dockless Bikes: HelBiz & Jump
- Dockless Scooters: Bird, Lime, Lyft, Razor, Skip & Spin

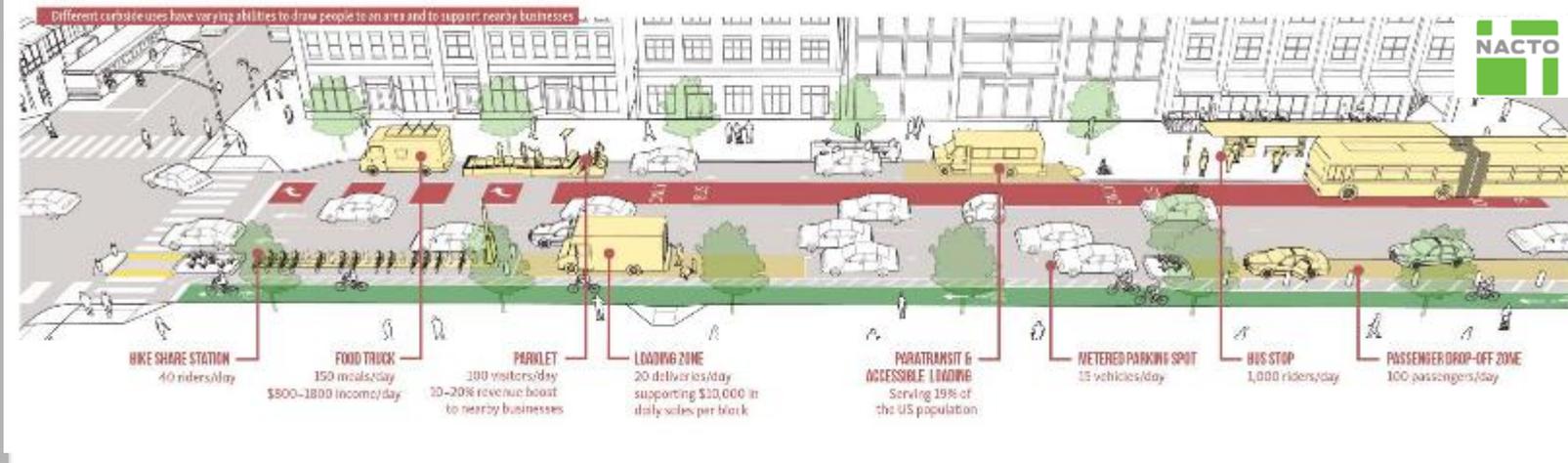


### Connecticut Avenue: Landscape Amenity Zone

- Sidewalk Area Abutting the Curb: Furnishing / Amenities / Landscape Area
  - Interaction / access to curbside mobility
  - Public space

### Van Ness: Curbspace & Landscape Amenity Zone

- Curbspace Management Assessment
- Sidewalk Area Abutting the Curb: Furnishing / Amenities / Landscape Area



# Curbside Management

## Elements Under Consideration



### Curbside and Sidewalk Use will Reflect the Needs of the Community

- Project will tailor uses to the variety of demands and diversity of the community
- Collaborate with the community to understand demands

### Connecticut Avenue:

Sidewalk area abutting the curb: furnishing / amenities / landscape area

- Wide variety of demands
- Varying amount of space on sidewalk to interact with the curbspace

### Van Ness:

- On-street parking & shared mobility access / parking / docking opportunities
- Limited sidewalk space



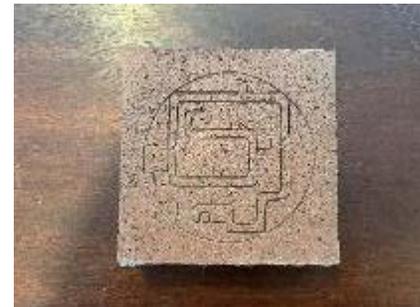
# Public Space Considerations

## Elements Under Consideration



### Unifying Standard Elements:

- Softscape
  - Bike Racks
  - Trash Cans
  - Benches
- Pavers





## Multi-Functional Public Spaces

- Farmers Markets
- Community Activities
- Resting Spaces





## Safety is Priority One!

- Vision Zero
- Visibility
- Line of Site
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
- Lighting
- Perimeter Security
- Waiting Areas



# PUBLIC INPUT



## What do you see as the most important aspects for consideration in the design?

- Crosswalk Improvements
- Streetscape Improvements/More Green Spaces and Trees
- Landscaping between Roadway
- Transit Access
- Sidewalk Continuity and Accessibility
- Pedestrian Lighting
- Passenger Drop-off Areas
- Other (include comments in the chat box)



## What is the highest priority use of the sidewalk?

- Improve access to bus stops and metro station via well lit, accessible sidewalks and street crossings
- Adding bus stop amenities such as user-friendly benches, natural shade and shelters
- Outdoor seating and accommodations
- Continuity between blocks
- Other (include comments in the chat box)

## Are there public activities or annual events that should be taken into consideration?

- Van Ness DC Jazz Fest
- UDC Farmers Market
- Movie Nights at the UDC Amphitheater
- Carpe Librum in Van Ness
- Celebrate the Heart of Van Ness Main Street!
- Others (include comments in the chat box)



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



## From the items presented this evening:

- What do you feel is most important?
- What other items do you feel should be considered?
- Was this presentation informative?



## Public Outreach

- Project Website
- Advisory Committee Meetings
- Fall 2021 - Project Charette and Concept Development
- Winter 2022 – Concept Review and Recommendations



**Thank You!**

**Title VI Questionnaire to Follow**

# Your Comments

As a recipient of Federal assistance, DDOT must ensure that all of its programs, activities and public meetings are conducted in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This Act ensures nondiscrimination based on race, color or national origin. The Title VI Public Meeting Participant Questionnaire is used to help DDOT ensure that we are informing the public and conducting our meetings in a nondiscriminatory manner, in compliance with Title VI.

- 30-day comment period
- Send comments through Title VI form for documentation
- Q&A during the meeting

# Title VI – rebrand.ly/VanNess-Comments

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



## Title VI Public Involvement Questionnaire

The District Department of Transportation is committed to providing all citizens, regardless of race, color, age, gender, or national origin, the opportunity to participate in and respond to transportation plans, programs, and activities that may affect their community. To help us make sure we are reaching our goal and maintaining compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all relevant federal and local nondiscrimination laws, we ask that you voluntarily complete the following information. DDOT's Title VI Coordinator will handle the information you provide with confidentiality. For more information regarding DDOT's Title VI Program, please contact DDOT's Transportation Equity and Inclusion Division at 202.671.2700 or [ddot@dc.gov](mailto:ddot@dc.gov).

Project/Meeting Name & Date

Van Ness Commercial Corridor, June 30, 2021

Was this meeting held at a convenient time?

Yes

No

Next

As a recipient of Federal assistance, DDOT must ensure that all of its programs, activities and public meetings are conducted in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This Act ensures nondiscrimination based on race, color or national origin. The Title VI Public Meeting Participant Questionnaire is used to help DDOT ensure that we are informing the public and conducting our meetings in a nondiscriminatory manner, in compliance with Title VI.

Project comments and/or concerns may also be submitted through this form. We appreciate anyone who is willing to complete the form.

Thank you for your participation.



# Contact Information

## Questions? Contact:

- **Ted Van Houten, AICP  
Transportation Planner**
- Planning and Sustainability Division  
District Department of Transportation  
250 M Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003
- **o.** 202.671.4580
- **e.** [theodore.vanhouten@dc.gov](mailto:theodore.vanhouten@dc.gov)
- **w.** [ddot.dc.gov](http://ddot.dc.gov)

d.

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District Department of Transportation