# Slide 1:

# Presentation Title: Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts

Information Presentation to MWCOG TPB Access for All Committee –September 2, 2022

Slide 2: Overview

* Background
* The Vision: The Avenue as a Venue
* Conceptual approaches
* Next steps

Slide 3: Background - The Initiative

* Purpose:
  + Envision a new future for the Avenue
  + Modernize infrastructure and improve programming
  + Update the 1974 Plan and governing agreements
* The Avenue spans 1.2 miles between the White house and U.S. Capitol
* The Study Area covers 12 city blocks including 40 acres of open space
* The land use mix is predominantly federal offices and private commercial but includes about 1,500 residents
* It is in proximity to cultural institutions and the National Mall
* It is accessible to several public transit options
* Executive Committee:
  + GSA
  + National Park Service
  + Government of the District of Columbia
  + National Capital Planning Commission
* Collaborating Stakeholders
  + Event DC
  + Downtown DC Business Improvement District

Screenshot of Study Area

Slide 4: Background - A History of Ceremony

* “In a democratic society, it is usually a public place rather than a building that stands for the commonweal… In the United States a great avenue serves this purpose.” National Park Service, The Pennsylvania Avenue District in United States History, 1965

The Avenue is the nation’s preeminent ceremonial boulevard

Slide 5: Background - The Avenue Today

The avenue is no longer a thoroughfare, has aging infrastructure and declining physical conditions, and does not meet today’s needs.

Images from various sections of the Avenue including pedestrian challenges

Slide 6: Background - Technical Study Key Findings

* 2015 Pedestrian Life Study
* 2016 Economic and Real Estate Market Analysis
* 2016 Cultural Landscape Report
* 2017 Urban Design Analysis
* 2018 Transportation Study
* 2020 Urban Land Institute Advisory Services Panel Report

Slide 7: Background - Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation and Accessibility

While the Avenue is a transit corridor serving al 8 Wards with ample public space, it is not pedestrian friendly nor well connected to downtown of the National Mall

Key Findings

* 20 feet of roadway available for other uses while maintaining acceptable level of service.
* E Street and Pennsylvania Avenue closures at the White House reduced east-west vehicular traffic
* One of the busiest transit corridors in the region with up to 80 buses an hour.
* Center bike lane carries nearly 2,000 bicycle trips per weekday.
* Pedestrians must share the median space with bicyclists, often resulting in conflicts.
* Lack of east/west connectivity leaves motorists accessing major north/south routes more often.

Image of existing vehicular level of service across the avenue with various grades

Slide 8: The Avenue as a Venue – Planning for Transit

Goals include strengthening the existing bus network:

* Add dedicated bus lanes
* Shifting bus routes to accommodate regular programming
* Plan for rerouting buses around major events

Screenshot of various transit lines across downtown DC and the Avenue

Slide 9: The Vision – The Avenue as a Venue

* An Inclusive Venue and Economic Generator for the city,
* An Iconic, Inviting and Resilient Public Space for the nation.
* Create an awe-inspiring public realm.
* Modernize the Infrastructure for 21st Century needs.

Slide 10: The Vision – A Street for People

Prioritize space among pedestrians, bikes, transit and cars by:

* Right-sizing the street and reallocating space
* Realigning the roadway
* Reconfiguring public space

Slide 11: The Avenue – as a Venue

The Urban Rooms

The corridor and rooms and their immediate environs can support programming for events of various scales, activities, and audiences.

* The Western End: Freedom Plaza and Pershing Park
* The Avenue: The corridor links the urban rooms as one cohesive public space
* Market Square: U.S. Navy Memorial and National Archives
* The Eastern End: Constitution Avenue, 4th Street, and John Marshall Park

Screenshot of the three urban rooms

Slide 12: The Avenue – as a Venue

Three Conceptual Approaches

* Urban Capital Street: A complete street with comfort amenities and service that create a go-to place and respite for locals and tourists.
* Linear Green: Prioritizes transit, people, and bikes, creating a unique destination for outdoor gatherings and connection to nature.
* Civic Stage: Centers pedestrians within a large median promenade with flexible public spaces that create iconic venues for a range of national and international events.

Slide 13: The Avenue – as a Venue, Right of Way Allocation

Screenshot of the three right-of-way acquisition diagrams for Urban Capital, Linear Green and Civic Stage. Each having different layouts.

Slide 14: The Avenue – as a Venue, Right of Way Allocation

* Urban Capital: Expanded sidewalks provide room for unique and varied pedestrian “pockets” and places for activity and mobile commerce. “A Complete Street”
* Linear Green: Pedestrian paths weave through the linear park landscape, creating informal areas for seating and recreation. “A Transit-Only Urban Park”
* Civic Stage: A grand promenade provides pedestrian space with Capitol views extending the length of the Avenue. “A Central Promenade”

Slide 15: The Avenue – as a Venue, Right of Way Allocation

* Urban Capital: Restores diagonal alignment with a curbless street creating two bow-tie open spaces --a new City Hall Plaza and National Theater Park.
  + Image of Western End: New Bow-Tie Plazas
* Civic Stage: A new generous mid-block pedestrian crossing joins with the center promenade to create a central square. “A Central Promenade”
  + Image of Market Square: A New Central Square
* Linear Green: Realigns Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues and permanently closes 4thSt.to improve connections; create more usable and flexible spaces. “A Transit-Only Urban Park”
  + Image of: Eastern End: A New Civic Plaza

Slide 16: The Avenue – as a Venue: The Western End

* Image of an example of a multi-day flower festival.
* The plaza configuration can be flexible to expand the event space to the adjacent buildings. Temporarily rerouting traffic can extend event activity down the Avenue and into Wilson Plaza.

Slide 17: The Avenue – as a Venue: The Entire Avenue

* Image of an example of a month-long cultural festival.
* The Urban Rooms can combine with the corridor to transform the Avenue into a mile-long venue.
* A center promenade could provide ample space for festival structures and visitors, potentially allowing some travel lanes to remain open or be used for additional programming support.

Slide 18: What’s Next?

Slide 19: The Avenue – as a Venue

* A New Plan for the 21stCentury
  + Infrastructure and Public Space Plan
  + Implementation Plan –Phasing and Funding
  + Governance Structure and Regulatory Framework

Slide 20: The Avenue - as a Venue: Incremental Improvements

* Near-Term - Pilot Projects
  + Potential locations for pilot projects to test feasibility of future improvements
* Mid-Term –Event-related Infrastructure
  + Potential locations for infrastructure upgrades to ready the Avenue for national Independence anniversary events in 2026
* Long-Term –Improve Overtime
  + Improvements to the urban rooms and the corridor can be sequenced and phased based on future needs / priorities

Slide 21: Thank You