



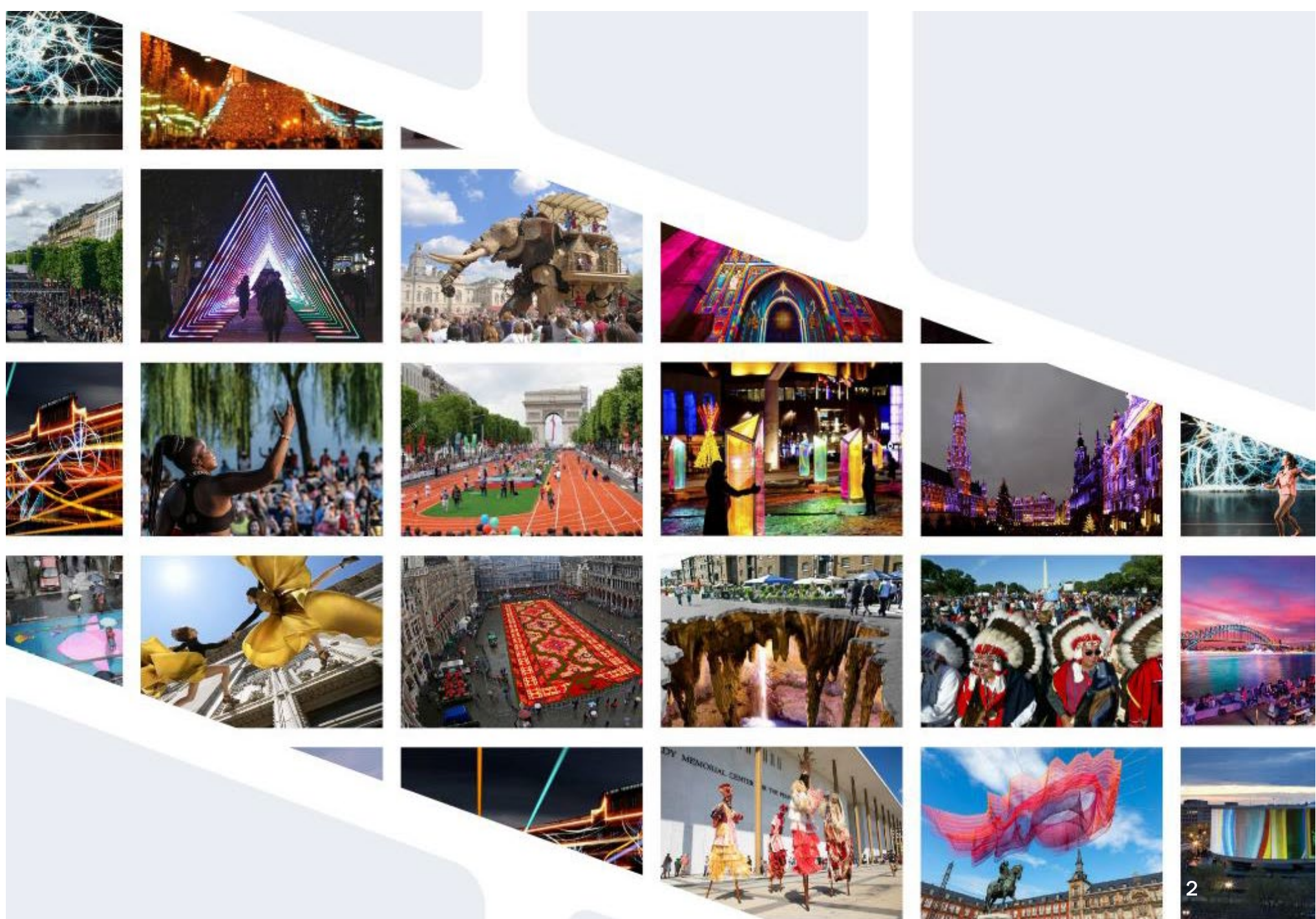
Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts

Information Presentation to MWCOCG TPB Technical Committee – June 3, 2022



Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts

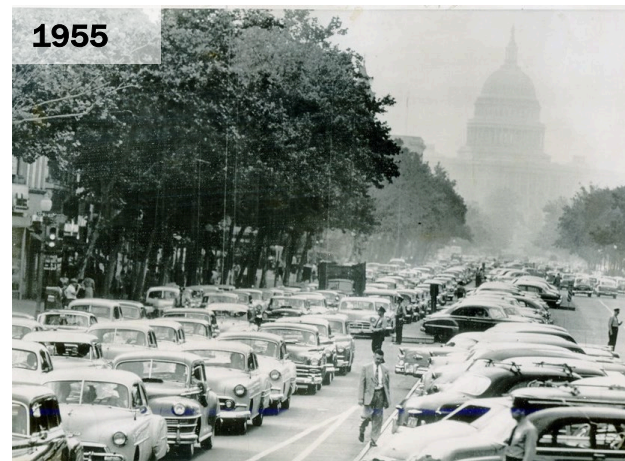
- Background
- The Vision:
*The Avenue
as a Venue*
- Conceptual
Approaches
- Next Steps



Background

Renewal and Reinvention

The Avenue has experienced cycles of renewal and reinvention for more than 200 years



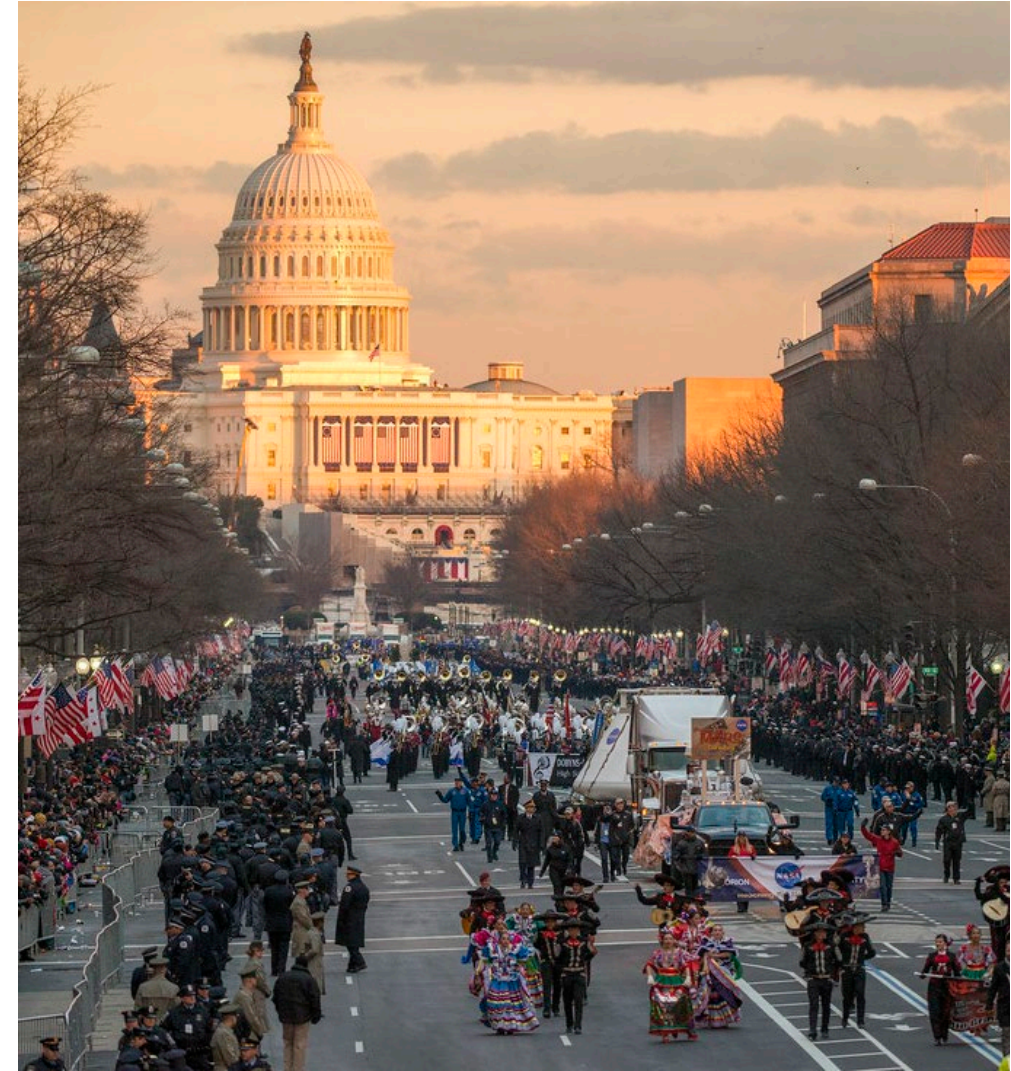
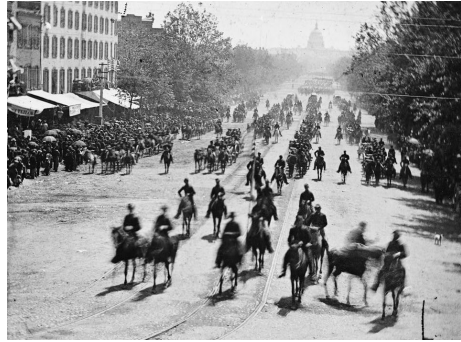
Daily life on the Avenue has ebbed and flowed over the years

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

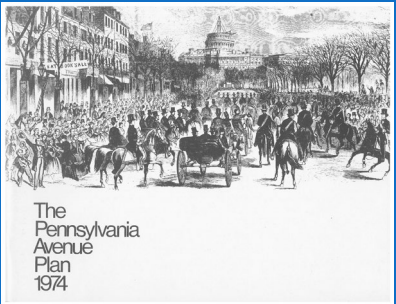
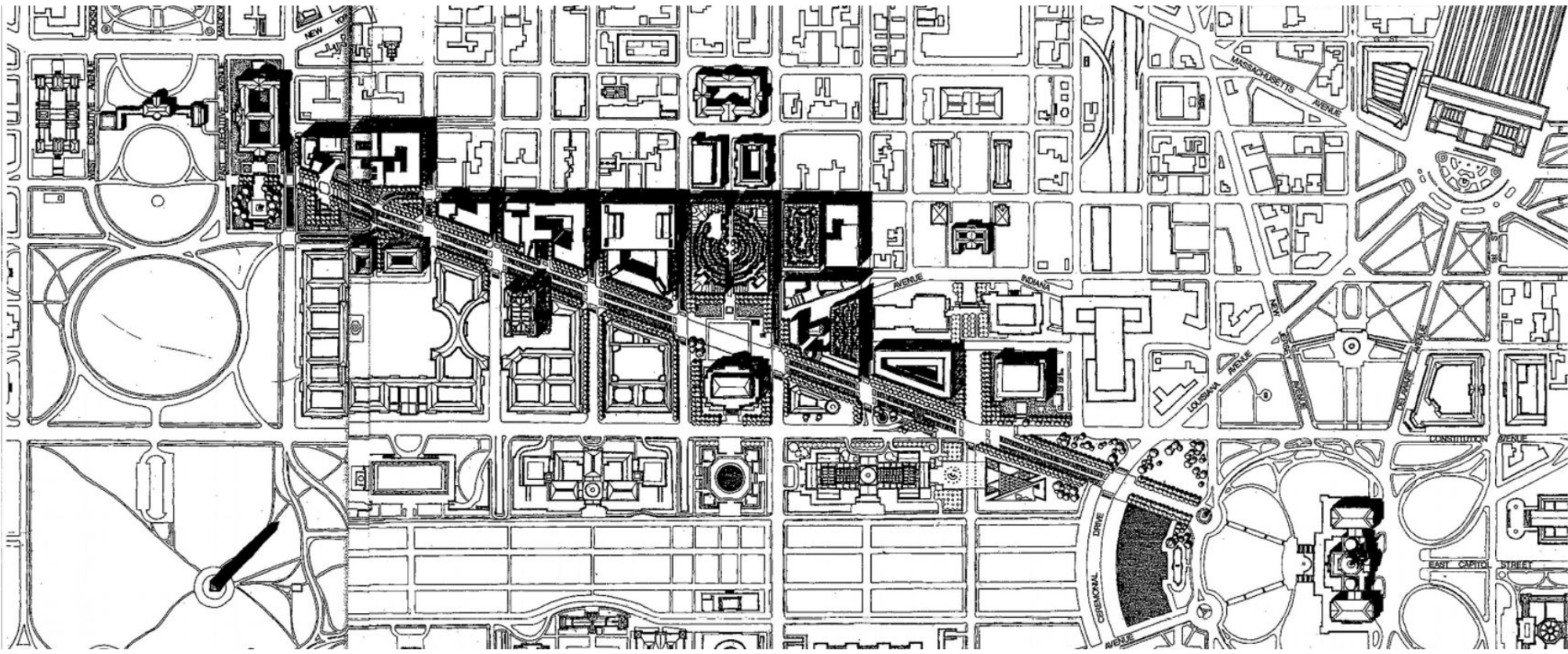


The Avenue is the nation's preeminent ceremonial boulevard

Background

1974 Plan

There is a history of efforts to revitalize the Avenue, including the 1974 Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Plan.



The Pennsylvania Avenue Plan 1974

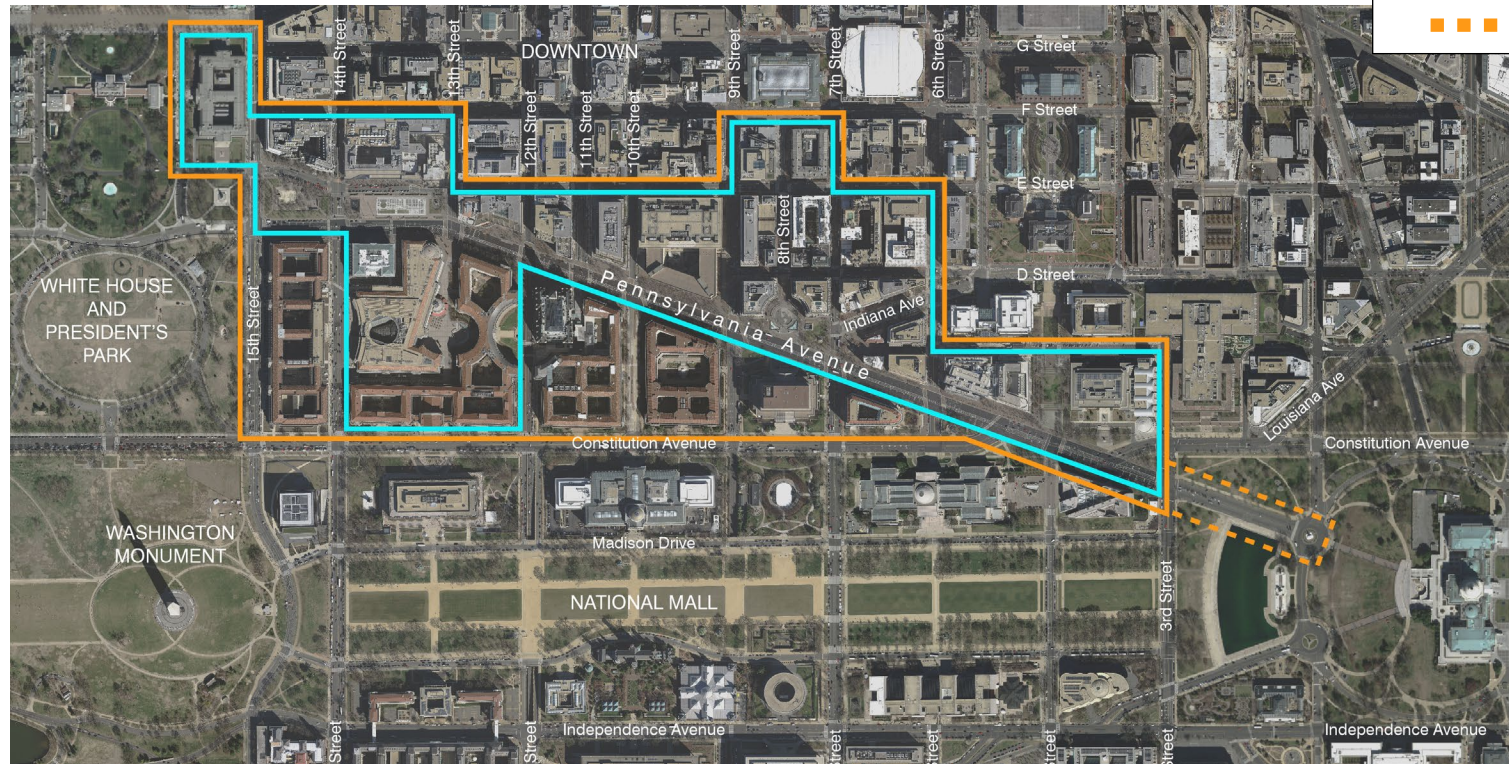
The 1974 Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Plan is close to 50 years old

Background

The Initiative

Purpose:

- Envision a new future for the Avenue
- Modernize infrastructure and improve programming
- Update the 1974 Plan and governing agreements



Study Area Map

	PADC Boundary
	Study Area Boundary
	Extended Area of Interest

- 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



Collaborating Stakeholders

- Events DC
- Downtown DC BID

Background

The Avenue Today

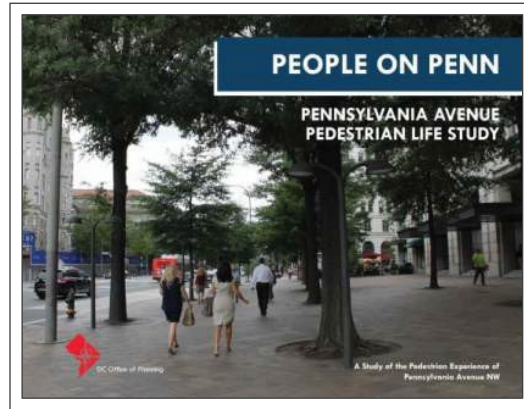
The Avenue is no longer a thoroughfare, has aging infrastructure and declining physical conditions, and does not meet today's needs.



The Avenue terminates at the White House and U.S. Capitol Grounds

Background

Technical Study
Key Findings



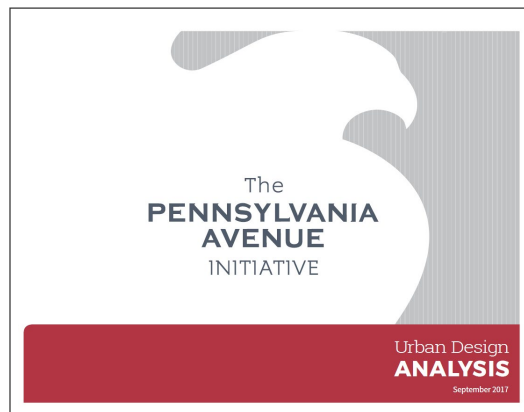
2015 Pedestrian Life Study



2016 Economic and Real Estate Market Analysis



2016 Cultural Landscape Report



2017 Urban Design Analysis



2018 Transportation Study

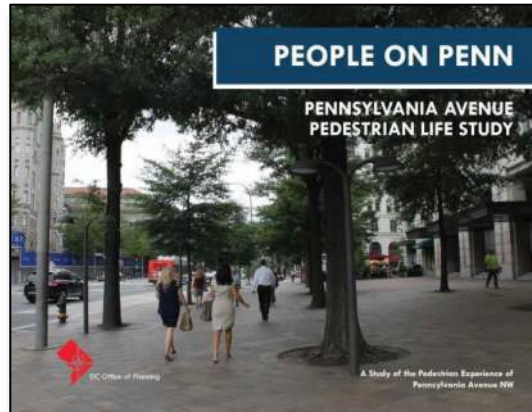


2020 Urban Land Institute Advisory Services Panel Report

Background

Pedestrian and Vehicular Circulation and Accessibility

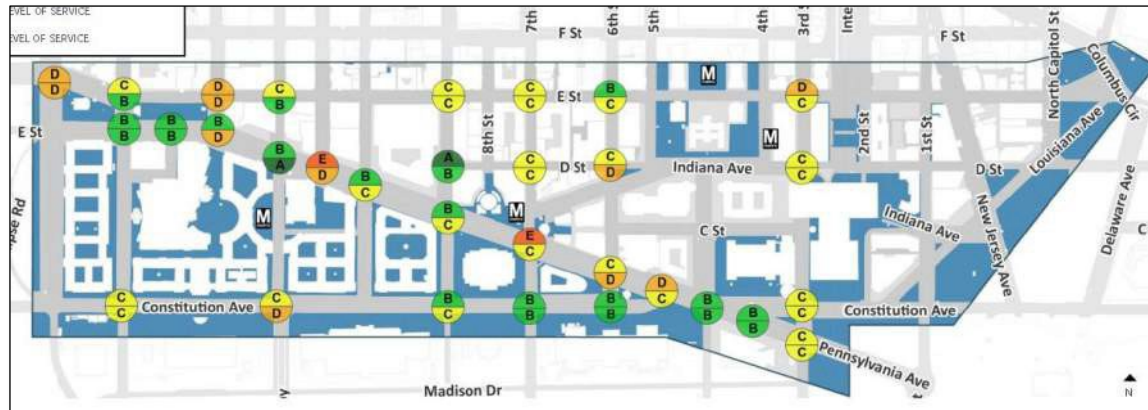
While the Avenue is a transit corridor serving all 8 Wards with ample public space, it is not pedestrian friendly nor well connected to downtown or the National Mall.



2015 Pedestrian Life Study



2018 Transportation Study



Existing Vehicular Level of Service

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.

The Vision



The Avenue as a *Venue*

Revive the Avenue to be:

- An **inclusive venue** and **economic generator** for the city
- An **iconic, inviting** and **resilient public space** for the nation
 - *Celebrate the Avenue's civic role and spirit of democracy*
 - *Create an awe-inspiring public realm to complement the Avenue's role and character*
 - *Modernize the Avenue's infrastructure for 21st Century needs*
 - *Elevate the identity of the Avenue as a great destination*

The Vision

A signature venue for spectacular and celebratory events where all are welcome, uplifted, and inspired



Comfortable and engaging public spaces to attract people back to downtown to meet up with others and connect



A place to tell our stories and have fun, elevating the Avenue's visibility and relieving pressure to overuse the Mall



A Street for People, offering better transportation options prioritizing pedestrians, bicycles, and transit over cars



The Vision



A Street for People

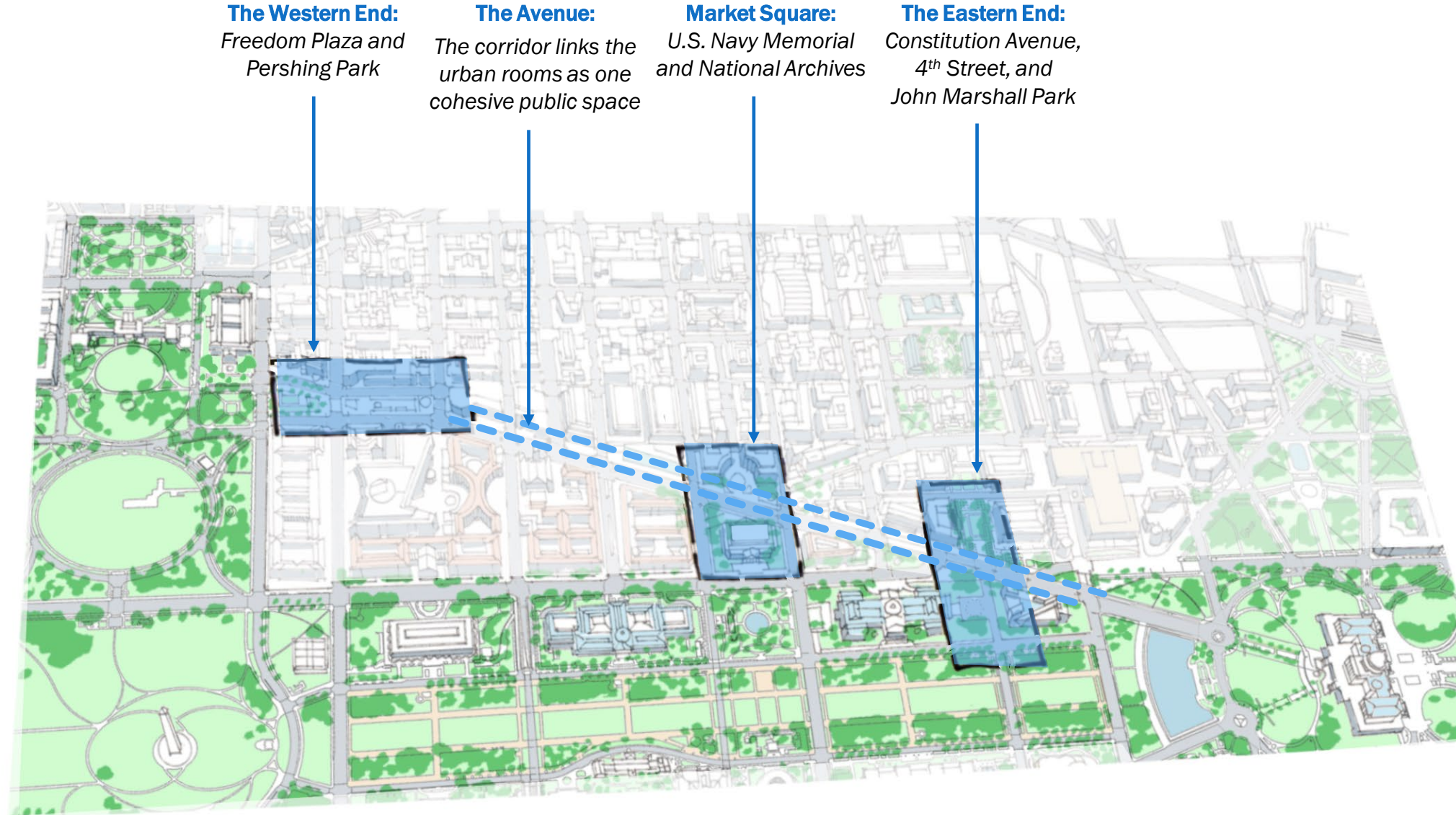
Prioritize space among pedestrians, bikes, transit and cars by:

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

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 Avenue *as a Venue*

Three Conceptual
Approaches

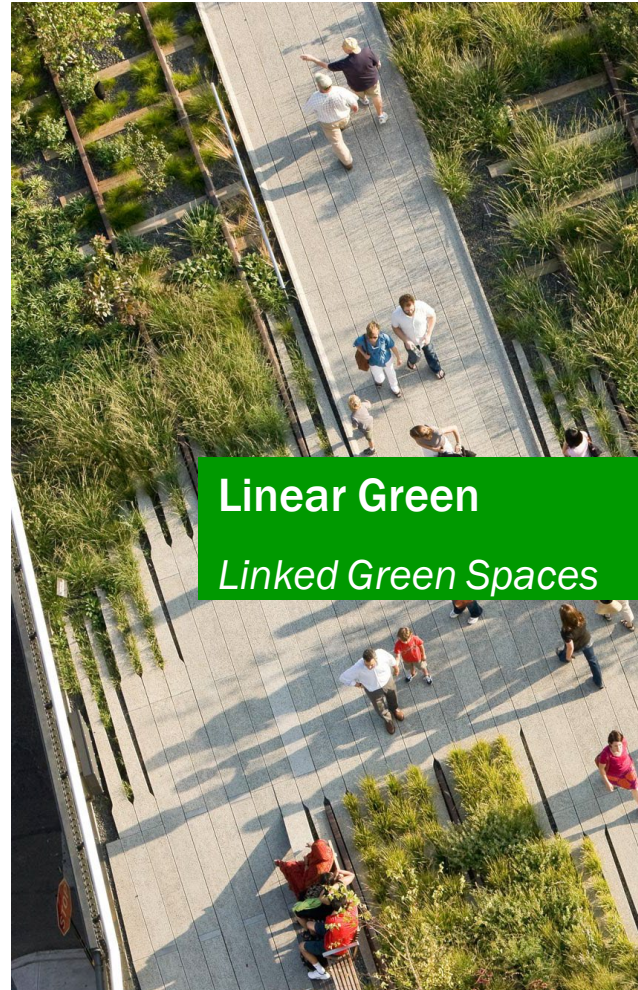
Urban Capital Street

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.



The Avenue as a *Venue*

Transportation Study Options

Bicycle lane configurations from the 2018 Transportation Study served as a basis for the conceptual ROW allocations.



Option 4
Two-way Protected Bike Lanes
(*Urban Capital*)



Option 3
One-way Protected Bike Lanes
(*Linear Green*)



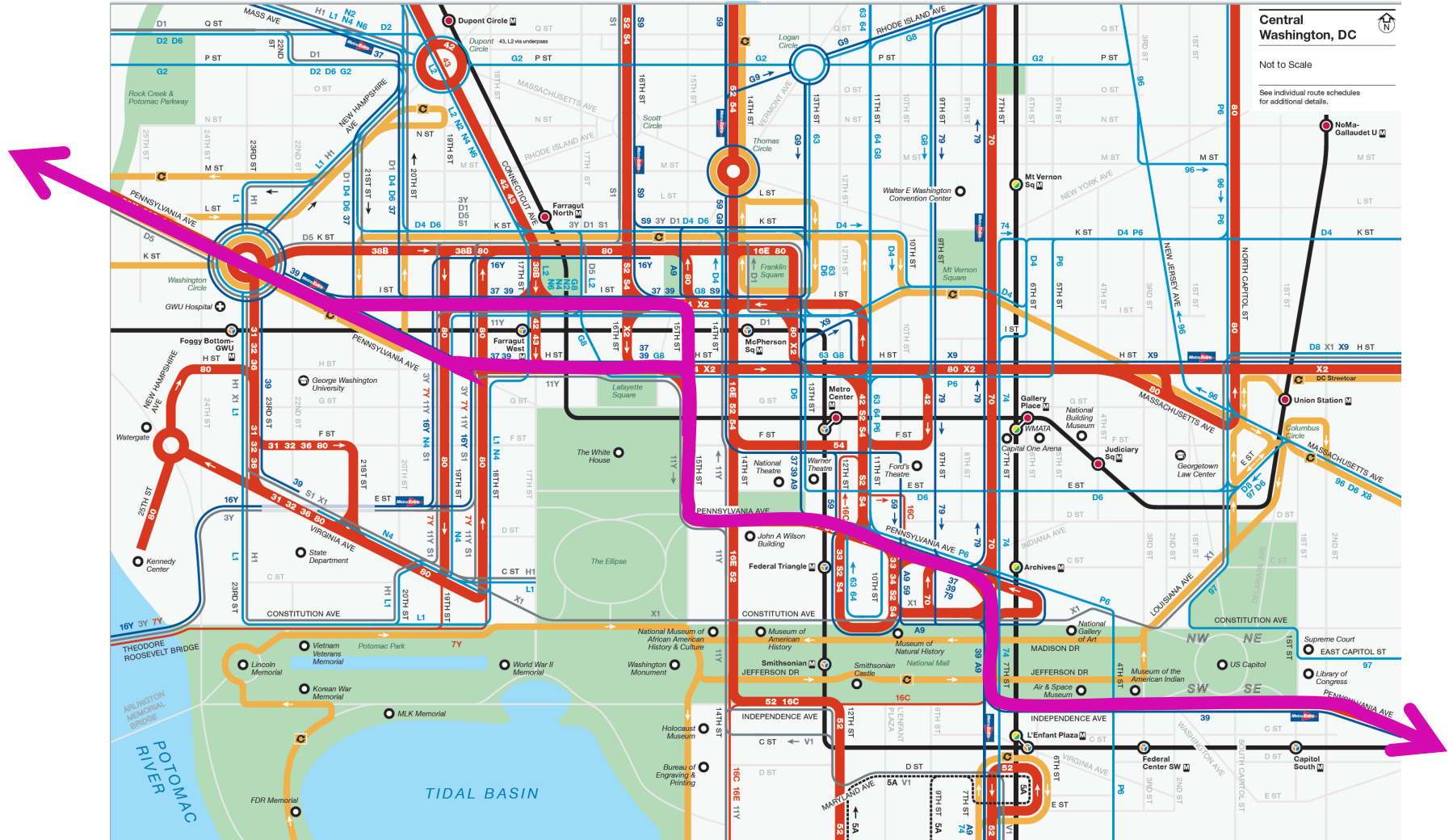
Option 2
Center Walkway w/ Two-way
Protected Bike Lanes
(*Civic Stage*)

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

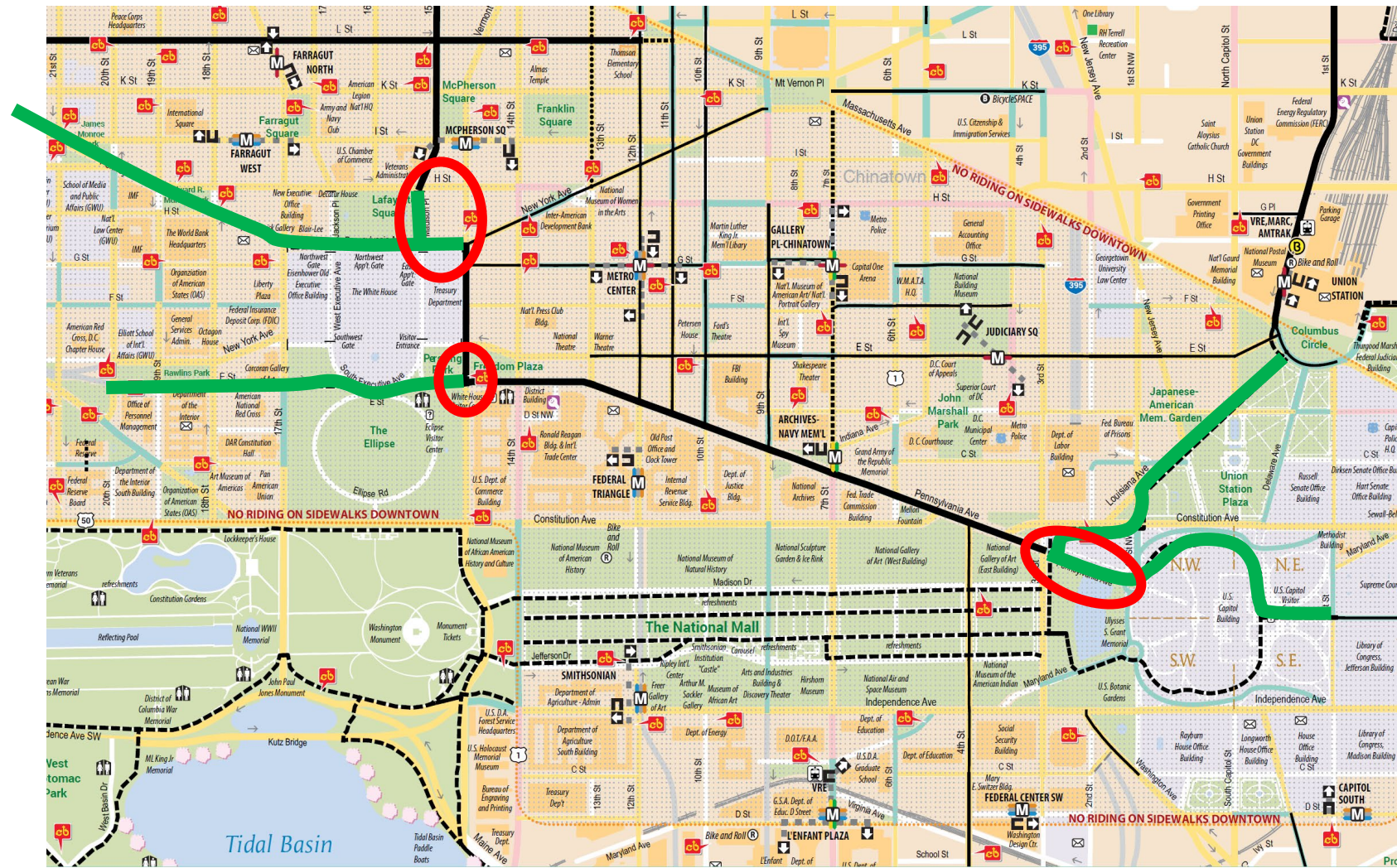


The Avenue as a Venue

Connecting the Bikeway

Goals include closing major bike trail gaps by adding connections to:

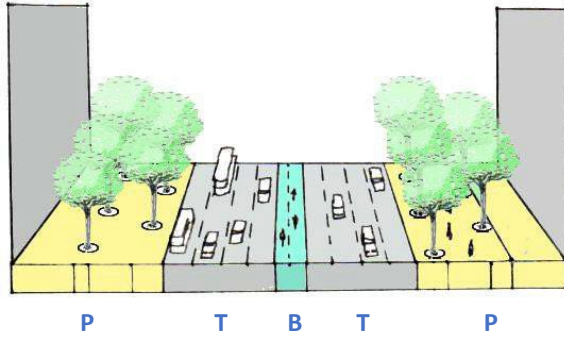
- East Capitol Street
- Union Station
- Lafayette Park
- The Ellipse



The Avenue as a Venue

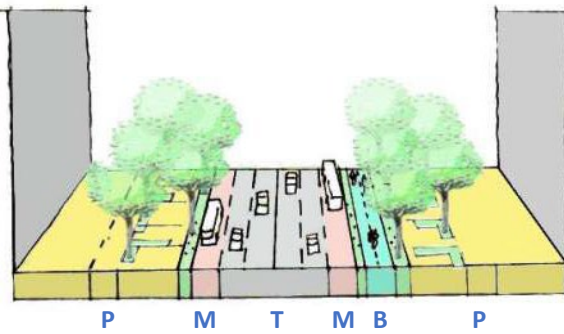
Right-of-Way Allocation

The Avenue Today

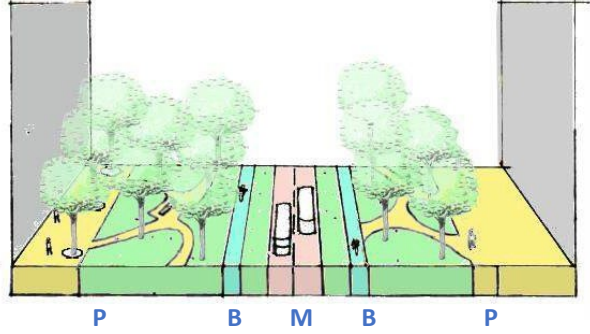


Key
 P Pedestrians
 B Bike
 T Travel
 M Transit

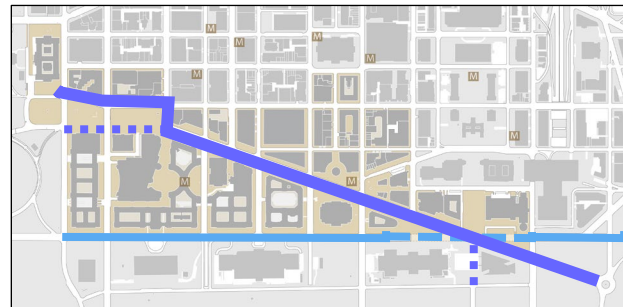
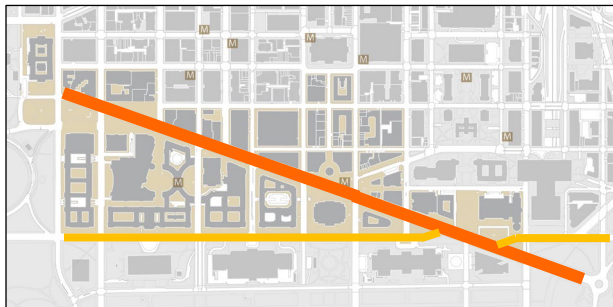
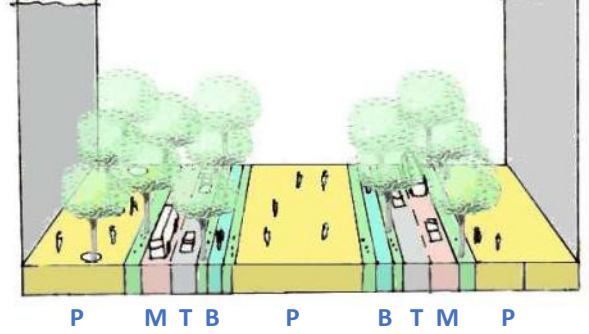
Urban Capital



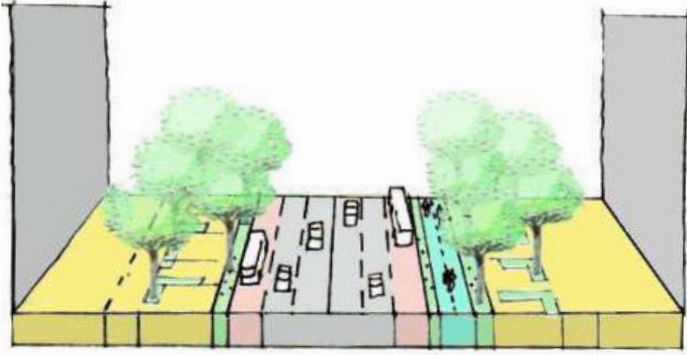
Linear Green



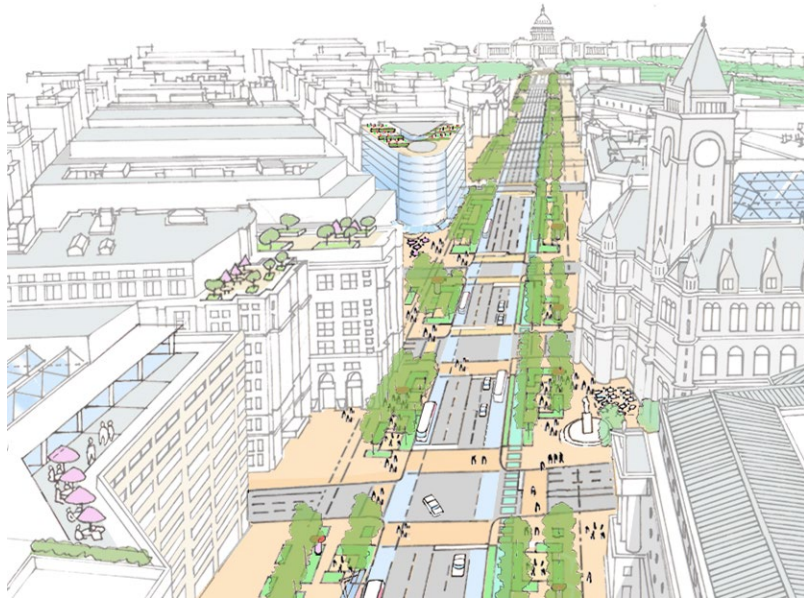
Civic Stage



Urban Capital

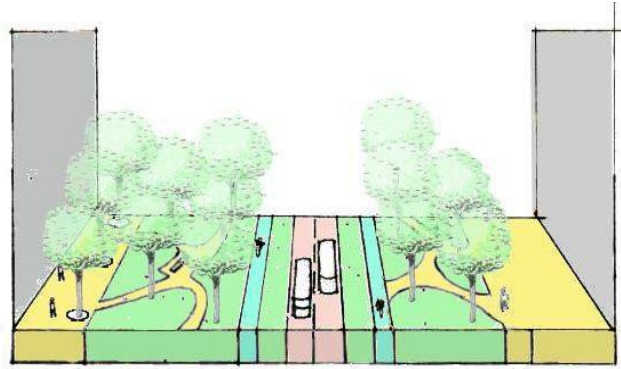


Expanded sidewalks provide room for unique and varied pedestrian “pockets” and places for activity and mobile commerce.

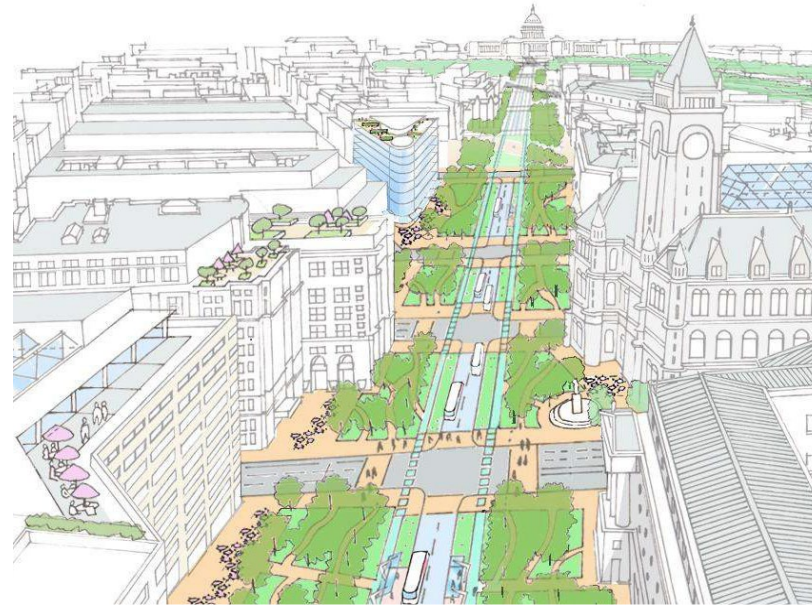


A Complete Street

Linear Green

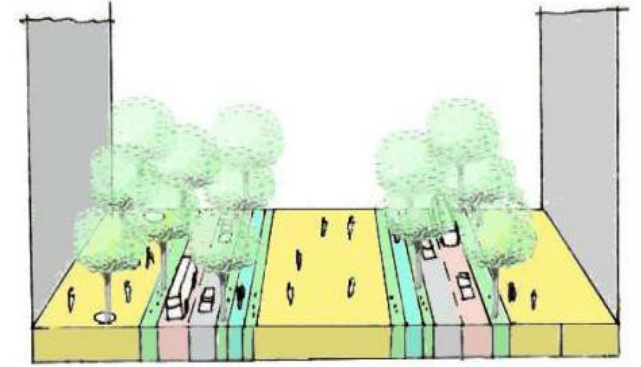


Pedestrian paths weave through the linear park landscape, creating informal areas for seating and recreation.

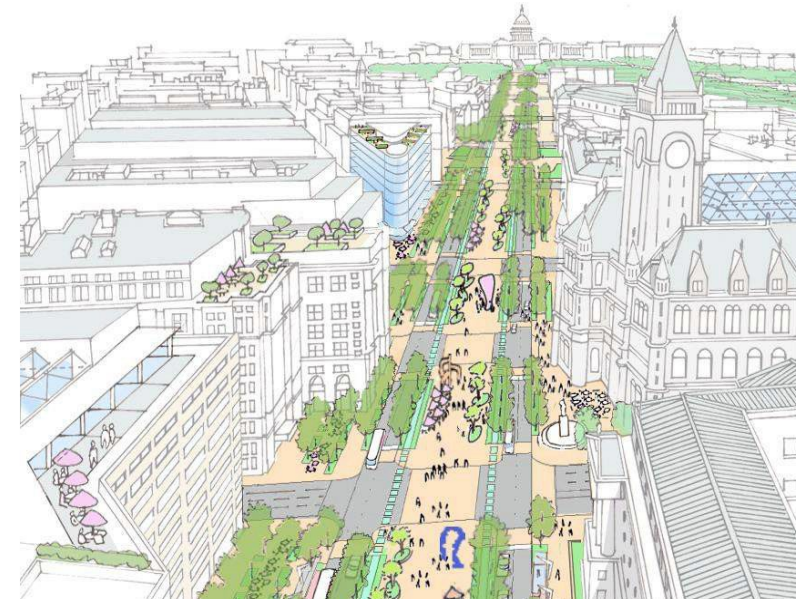


A Transit-Only Urban Park

Civic Stage

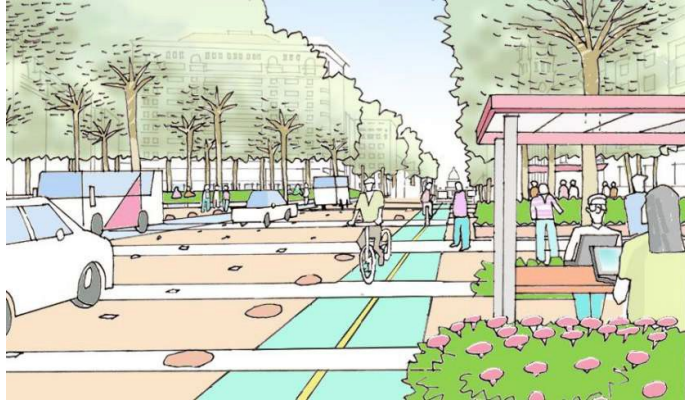


A grand promenade provides pedestrian space with Capitol views extending the length of the Avenue.

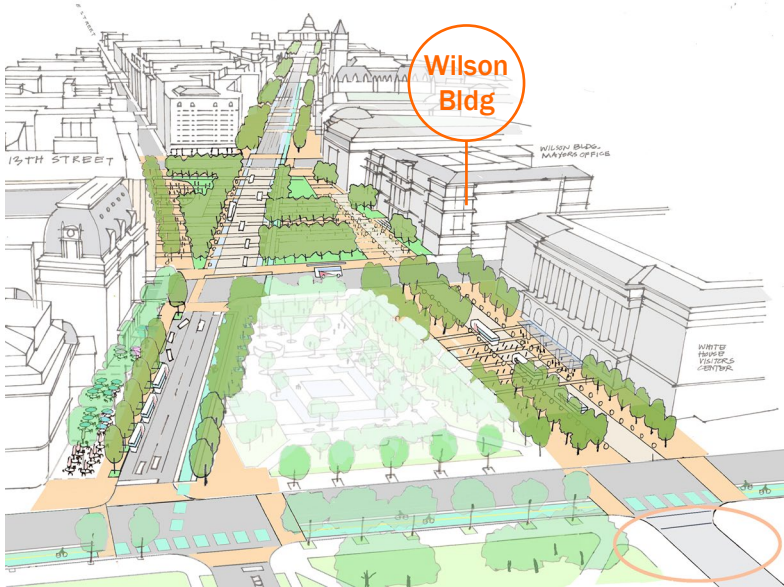


A Central Promenade

Urban Capital



Restores historic alignment with a curbsless street with bow-tie open spaces (a new City Hall Plaza and National Theater Park) that together can easily expand for events.



New Bow-Tie Plazas

Linear Green



Routes transit south of a new park that creates usable and flexible open space and service drive in front of the National Theater. Starts the landscape sequence to the Capitol Grounds.

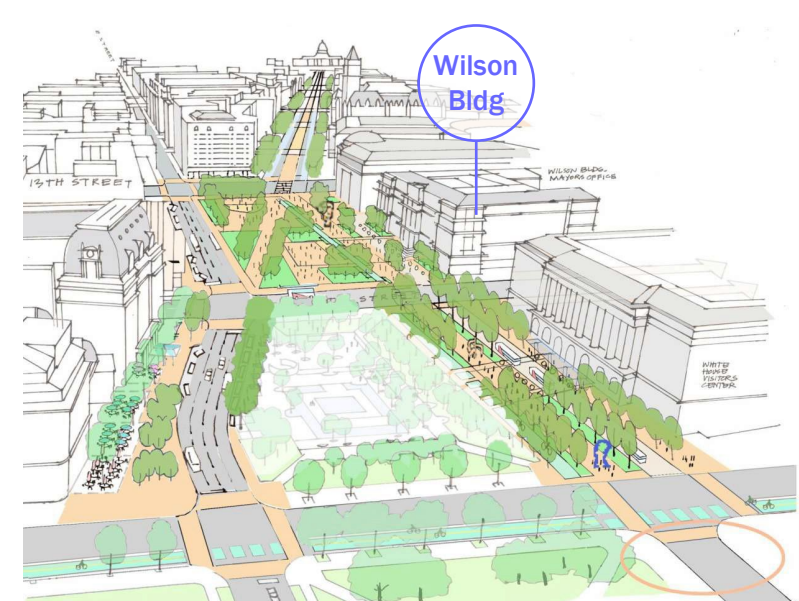


A New Urban Park

Civic Stage



Routes traffic north of a new plaza that creates City Hall plaza and a prominent entry for the White House Visitor Center.

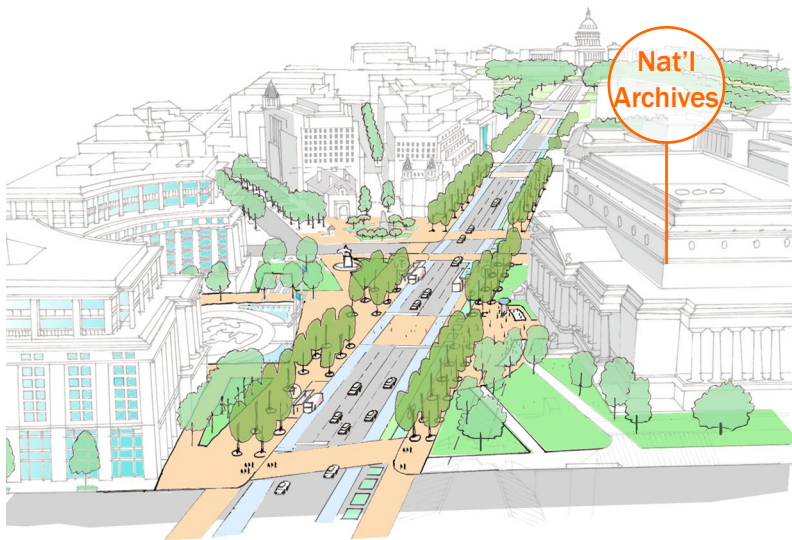


A New Public Plaza

Urban Capital



A new mid-block pedestrian crossing to improve pedestrian quality and activity.

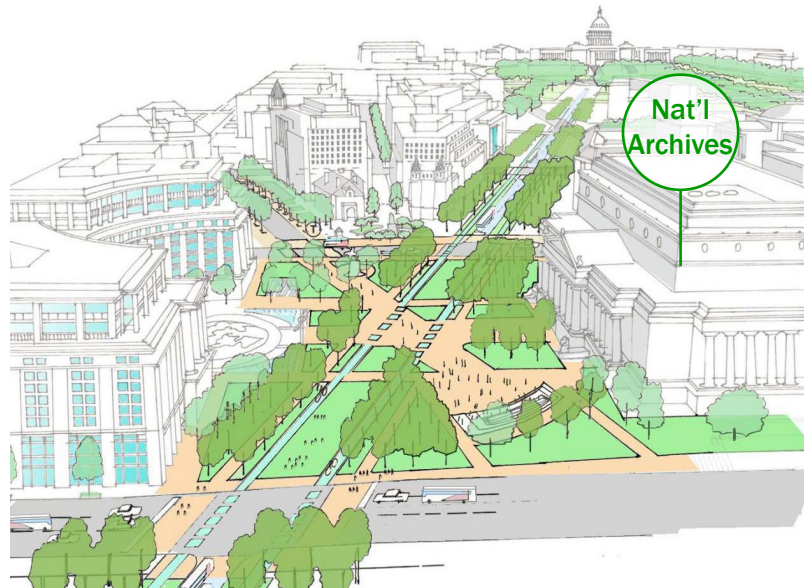


A New Pedestrian Crossing

Linear Green



Closes blocks between 7th and 9th Streets to create a new urban park for pedestrian activity.

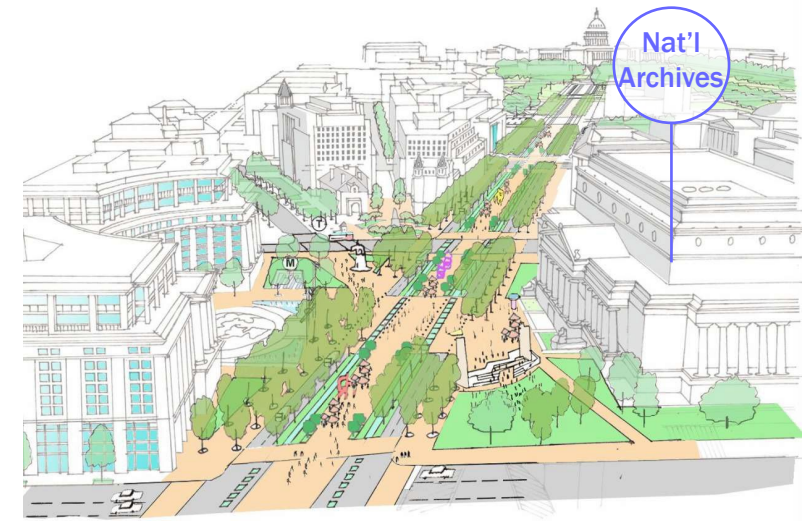


A New Urban Park

Civic Stage



A new generous mid-block pedestrian crossing joins with the center promenade to create a new central square.

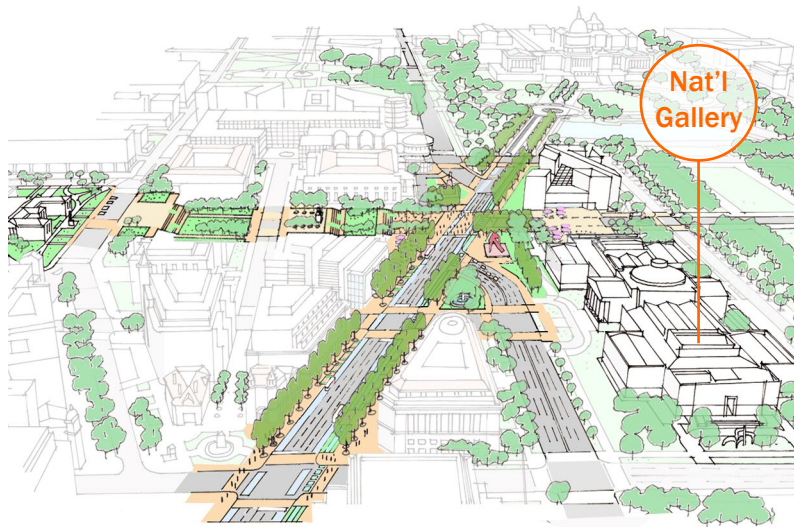


A New Central Square

Urban Capital

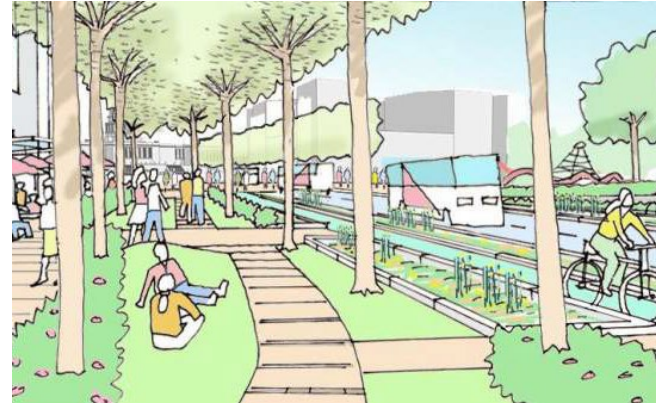


Retains current intersection alignment and adds a generous crosswalk at 4th St. to improve connectivity between the National Mall and downtown.

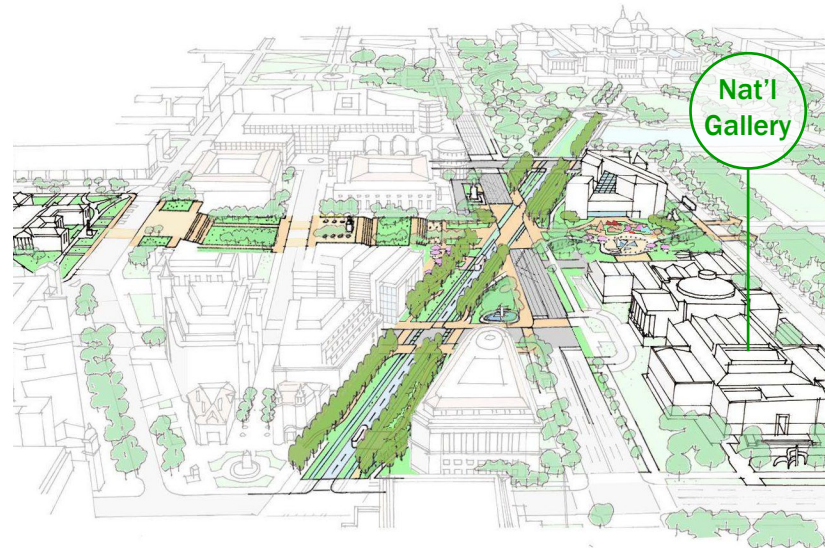


Connect to the City

Linear Green



Realigns Pennsylvania and Constitution Avenues and permanently closes 4th St. to improve connections; create a more usable and flexible space; and active space between the Galleries.

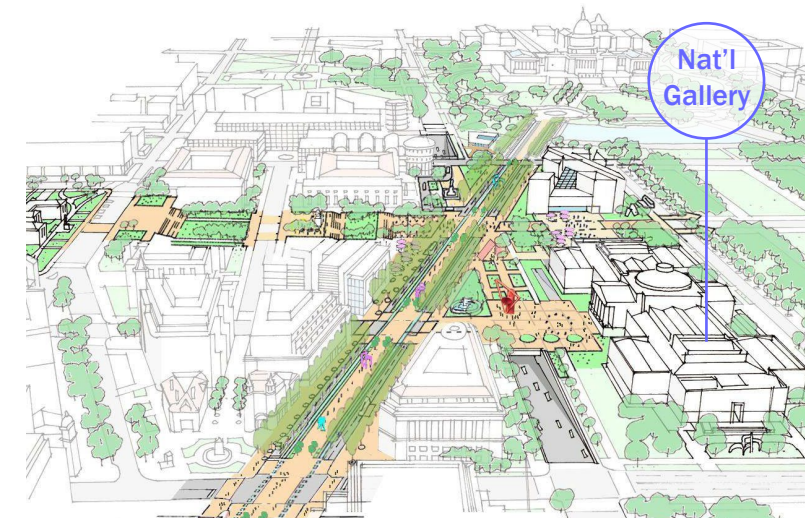


Connect to the National Mall

Civic Stage



Tunnels Constitution Avenue under the Avenue and closes 4th St. to improve connections and create a sequence of public spaces for outdoor programming and exhibits adjacent to the Galleries



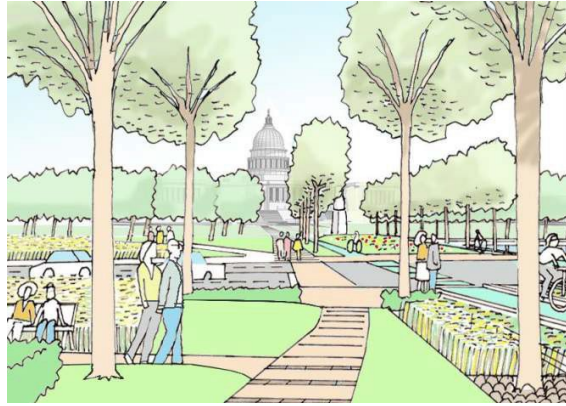
A Series of Plazas

Urban Capital



Replaces the center row of angled parking with a landscaped median to create a welcoming entry to the U.S. Capitol Grounds

Linear Green

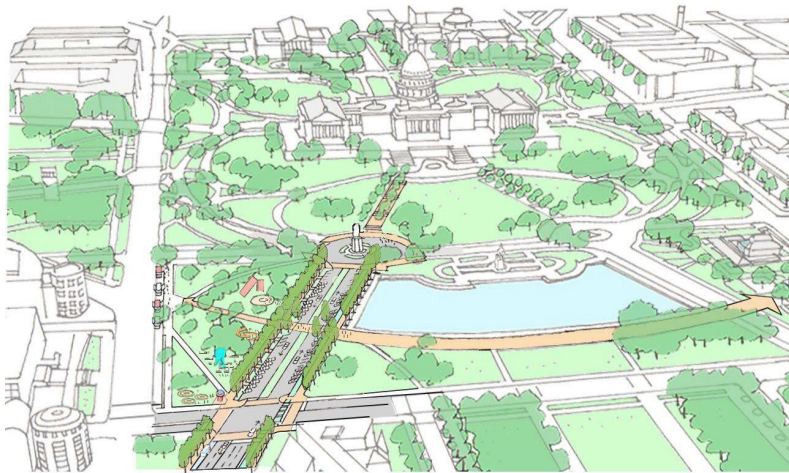


Removes all parking east of 3rd St. transforming the street into a garden gateway with a high-performing landscape.

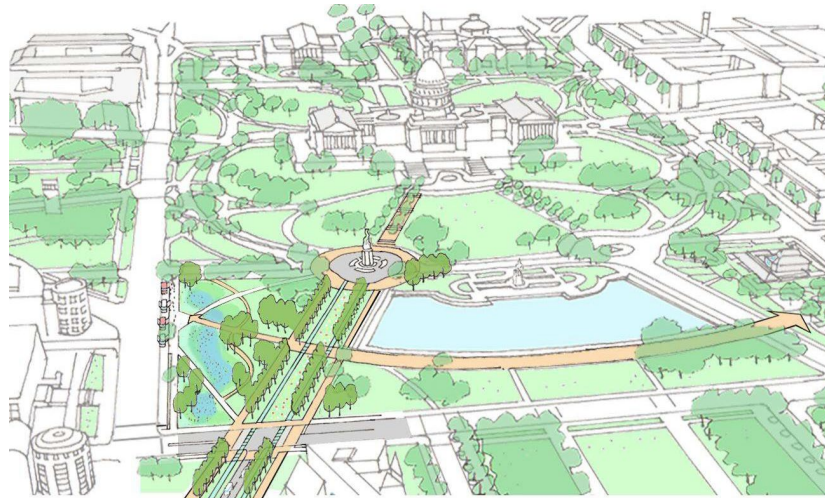
Civic Stage



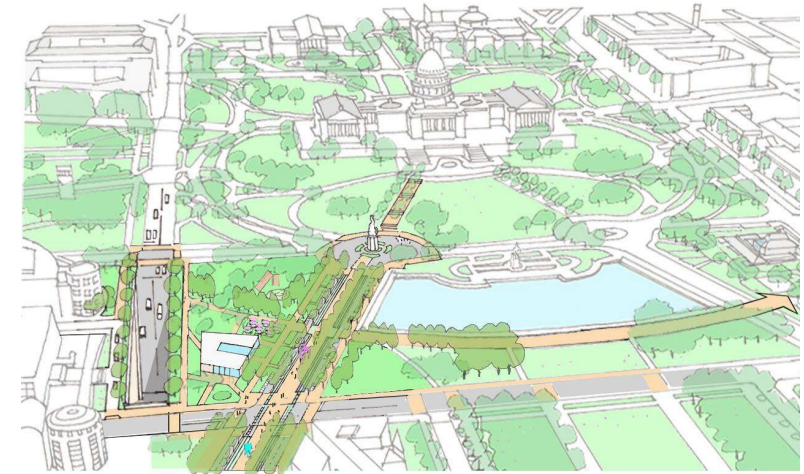
Replaces angled parking with parallel parking along the curbs and extends the center promenade to create a dignified and ceremonial entrance to the U.S. Capitol Grounds.



A New Arrival Experience



A New Pedestrian Gateway



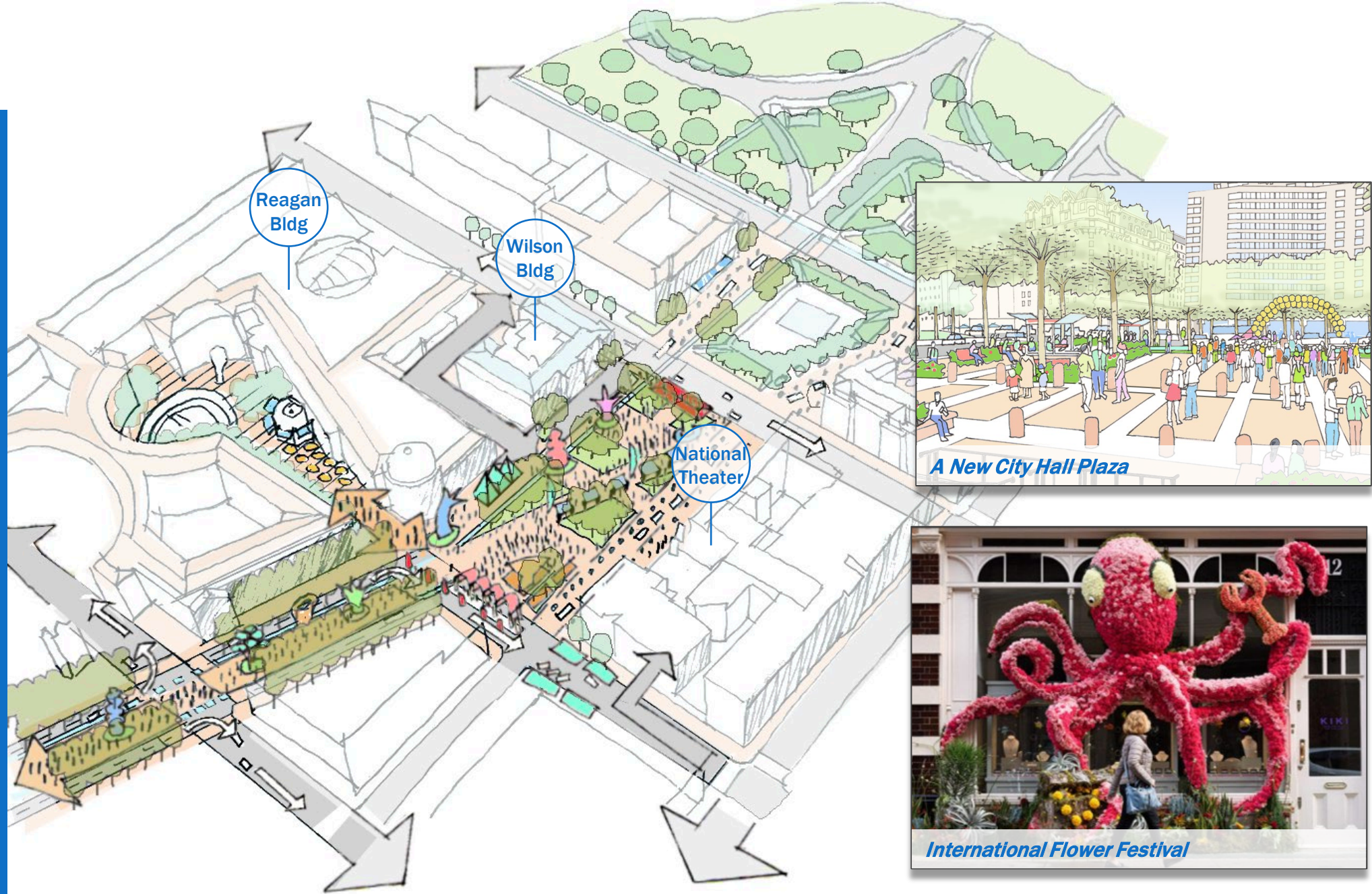
A New Ceremonial Entrance

The Avenue as a Venue

The Western End

This shows 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.



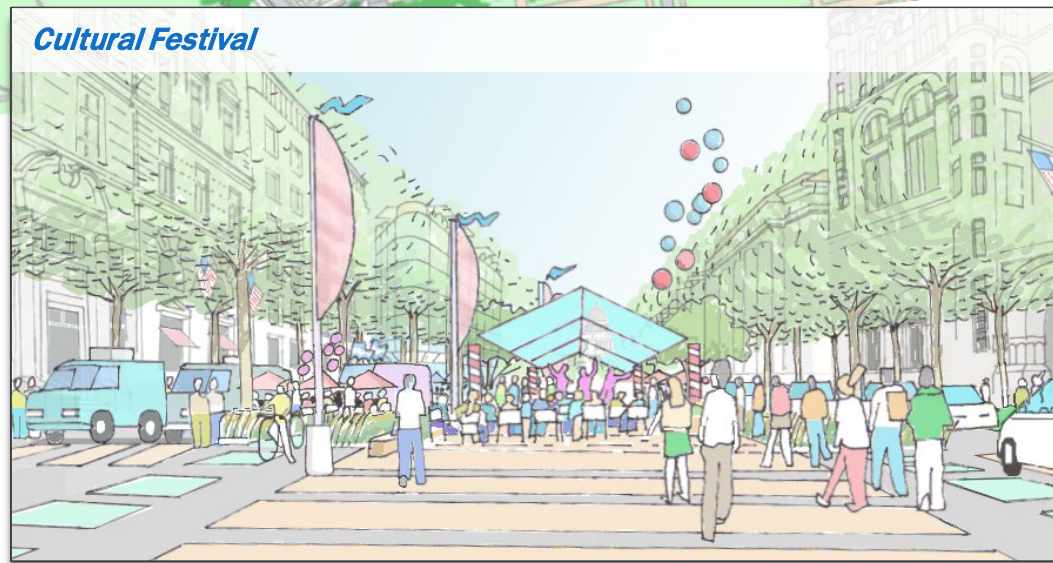
The Avenue as a *Venue*

The Entire Avenue

This shows 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.



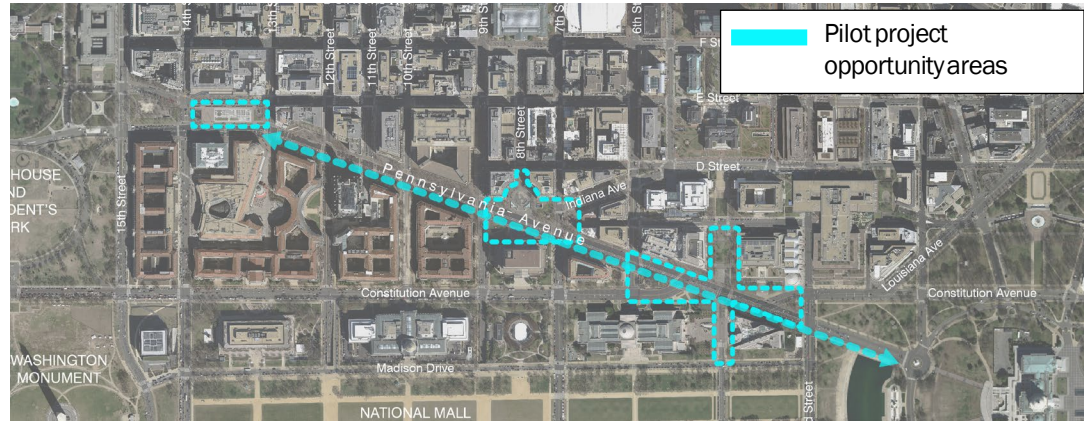


What's Next?



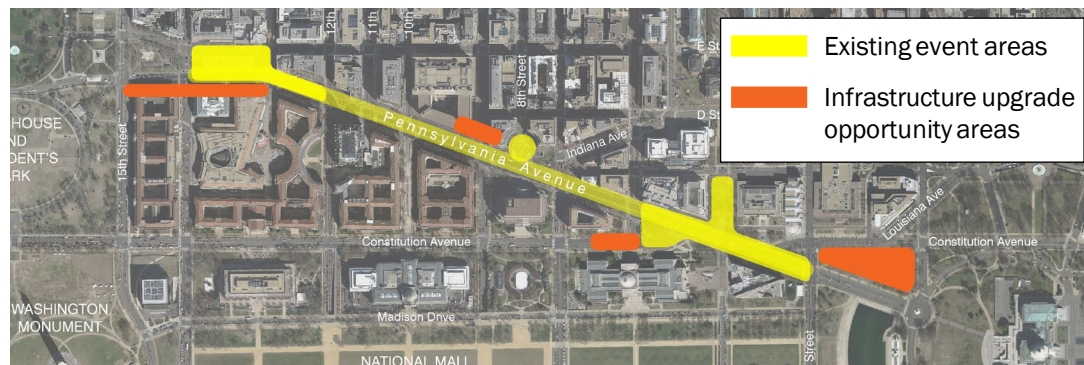
The Avenue as a Venue

Incremental Improvements



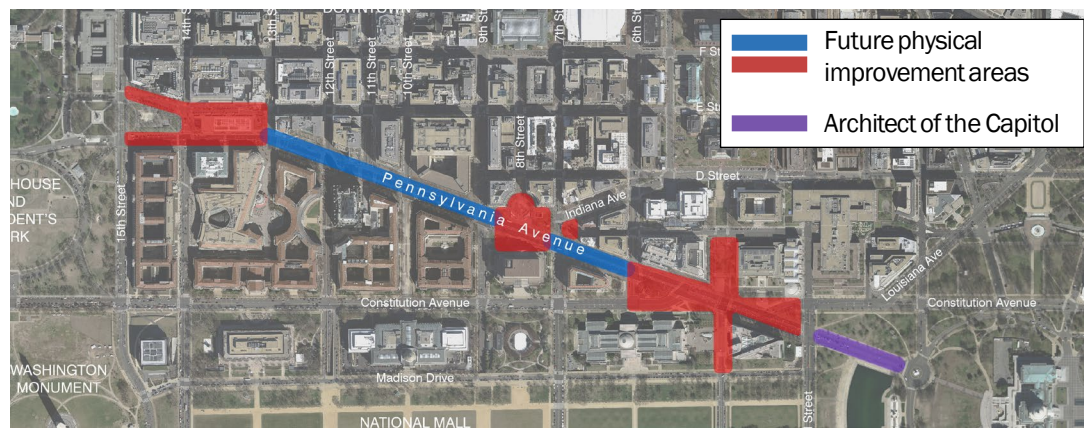
NEAR-TERM – Pilot Projects

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

The Avenue as a Venue

Learn More on
NCPC's Website

National Capital Planning Commission Vision & Comment

A New Vision for Pennsylvania Avenue

For a deeper dive into the three concepts, review a Story Map that provides a visual narrative and details. You can also view a video of a presentation made at the February 16, 2022 Special Commission Meeting.

NCPC staff will present the vision and concepts and you can ask questions at three public meetings. Click on the Public Meetings button below to register for one of these meetings: **Wednesday, April 13 at 12:00 pm**; **Tuesday, April 26 at 7:00 pm**; and **Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 am**.

Public Meetings

Share Your Thoughts

Share your thoughts about the vision and the three potential concepts to achieve it. What ideas from each would you mix and match to create your vision for the Avenue? Your input will help determine how to evolve and refine these concepts for further study and design.

We're accepting comments through July 13, 2022.

Your name

Your e-mail address

Where you live (city, state)

Your comments...

Select file...

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Submit Comments

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Penn Ave Main Project Page: <https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/pennave/>

StoryMap and **Comment Portal**: <https://go.ncpc.gov/avevision>

Email Comment Letters to: Info@ncpc.gov



Thank You

