



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 16, 2020 Agenda Item 1

Presentation

New Hampshire Avenue Bikeway 60% Design Presentation by RK&K

Recommended Council Action

Review design plans and provide feedback.

Context with Key Issues

Since 2008, the City of Takoma Park has advanced planning efforts for the development of a multiway boulevard along the New Hampshire Avenue (MD-650) corridor. With the completion of the Takoma Langley Transit Center, installation of two Capital Bikeshare stations, and the Purple Line construction, the New Ave Bikeway project leverages transit investment by increasing regional and neighborhood connectivity to bus and rail systems. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is especially important to increase bicycle and other mobility options.

The City received a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation-Land Use Connections grant in May 2016 to develop initial design plans for the future implementation of a low-stress bikeway along New Hampshire Avenue connecting the Sligo Creek Trail with the Ethan Allen Gateway to the south and the Takoma Langley Crossroads to the north. Thirty percent design plans for this project were completed by the engineering firm RK&K and were presented to the City Council in May 2017.

In November 2017, the City was then awarded an additional \$240,000 in grant funds from Maryland Bikeways to continue design work on the planned bikeway. This phase of the project includes the completion of a semi-final engineering designs for Section A of the bikeway from Holton Lane to Auburn Avenue as well as a natural resources inventory and associated agency outreach. The City and RK&K have coordinated extensively with agency stakeholders including MNCPPC, MD-SHA, and utility companies to develop an acceptable design within the constraints of the project area. 60% designs were completed in June 2020.

Moving forward, the City has received additional funding from Maryland Bikeways to fund 60% designs for Section B of the bikeway (Auburn Avenue to Poplar Avenue) which will bring the full bikeway up to semi-final designs. The City will use this to apply for final designs and the eventual construction of the bikeway.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All; Environmentally Sustainable Community

Environmental Considerations

The proposed bikeway will encourage alternative modes of transportation by creating a safer and more accessible travel lane separated from high speed automobile traffic. Dedicated bicycle infrastructure will help encourage bicycling as a viable mode of transportation in Takoma Park.

Fiscal Considerations

60% Designs were partially funded by a Maryland Bikeways Grant. The total project cost is \$300,000. \$240,000 is funded by the grant and the remaining \$60,000 by the City of Takoma Park.

Racial Equity Considerations

The New Hampshire Avenue Bikeway will provide greater transportation connections for sections of the community with large percentages of residents of color. The Bikeway would improve cycling access and increase transportation connections for the community. The current New Hampshire Avenue right of way is an uncomfortable and unsafe bicycling environment, so creation of the bikeway will improve livability and provide a safe and affordable transportation option for residents.

Attachments and Links

- Link to: [New Ave Bikeway](#)
- [Takoma/Langlely Crossroads Sector Plan](#)