



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – November 10, 2021

Agenda Item 1

Presentation

New Hampshire Avenue Bikeway – Section B - Semifinal (60%) Design Presentation by RK&K

Recommended Council Action

Review design plans and provide feedback.

Context with Key Issues

The goal of the New Ave Bikeway is to fill a gap in safe bicycle infrastructure along New Hampshire Ave (MD 650). This project aims to creatively redesign the underutilized service lanes on the southbound side on New Hampshire Avenue as a two-directional bikeway that creates new connections between local retail, recreation and transit hubs while also preserving vehicular access to neighboring properties.

The project is managed in two parts: Section A (Holton Lane to Auburn Avenue) and Section B (Auburn Avenue to Poplar Avenue). The division of the bikeway into two sections allows the City to pursue external funding to move the project forward. The City selected the engineering firm Rummel, Klepper, and Kahl (RK&K) to complete the designs for all stages of the project.

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. The bikeway in its current form was first proposed in the 2013 New Ave Feasibility Study. With the Takoma Langley Transit Center, 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. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the importance of increased mobility options and the need to provide alternate modes of transportation.

The City has been developing the design plans for the New Ave Bikeway with funding from a series of grants for both Section A and Section B of the bikeway. 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. Preliminary (30%) design plans for Section B for this project were completed by RK&K and presented to the City Council in January 2021.

In September 2019, the City was awarded \$235,000 in grant funds from the MDOT Maryland Bikeways Program to continue design work on the planned bikeway. This phase of the project includes the completion of a semi-final engineering designs for Section B of the bikeway from Poplar Ave 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 M-NCPPC, MD-SHA, and utility companies to develop an acceptable design within the constraints of the project area. RK&K presented plans in a virtual community meeting in February 2021. In October 2021, the

Montgomery County Planning Board approved the Mandatory Referral for the draft semifinal designs of the New Ave Bikeway – Section B.

The City recently received additional funding from MDOT Kim Lamphier Bikeways Program to fund the final (100%) designs for Section B of the bikeway, which will complement the final designs already underway for Section A. Upon completion of the final designs for Section B, the entire New Ave Bikeway will be ready for construction, pending funding.

Presenting the semi-final design plans will be Rob Gillespie and Stacy Barefoot of RK&K.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All; Environmentally Sustainable Community

Environmental Impact of Action

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 Impact of Action

60% Designs were partially funded by a MDOT Maryland Bikeways Grant. The total project cost is \$293,750. \$235,000 is funded by the grant and the remaining \$58,750 by the City of Takoma Park.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

The New Ave Bikeway will provide greater transportation connections for Ward 6, an area of the City with a large population of Black and Latino residents, many of whom are New Americans. The Bikeway would add new, safe bicycle infrastructure to enhance access to the Takoma-Langley Transit Center, community-serving retail and services, and local recreation opportunities that are underrepresented in Ward 6.

Attachments and Links

- Link to: [New Ave Bikeway web page](#)
- [Map of the New Ave Bikeway](#)
- [The New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Concept Plan](#)
- [Takoma/Langley Crossroads Sector Plan](#)