# Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues SE Intersection Improvement Project

## Concept Submission to National Capital Planning Commission

## July 15, 2021

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

# Project Overview- *Project Area*



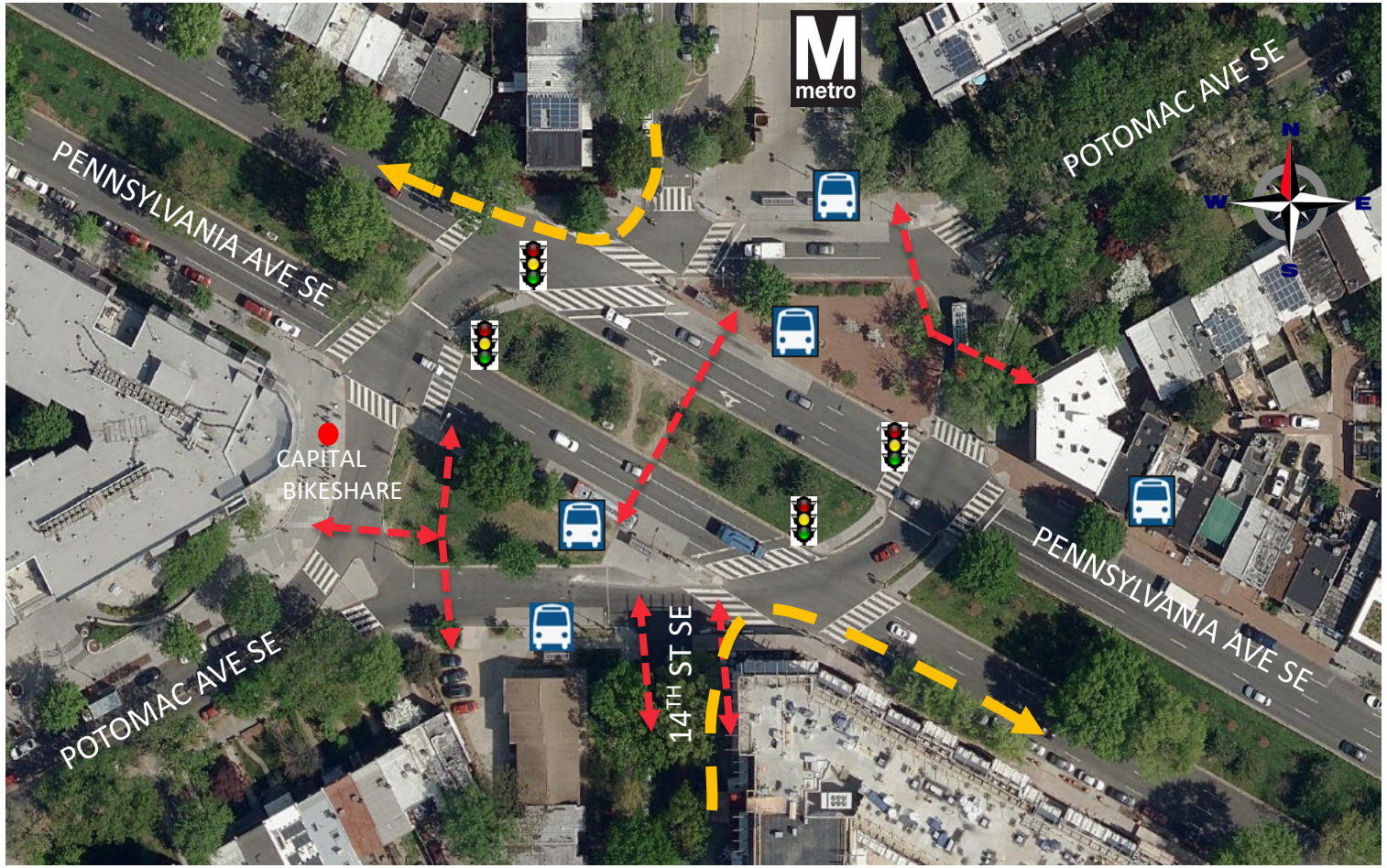
# Project History

- Project Discussed in:
  - Middle Anacostia Crossings (MAC) Study
  - Capitol Hill Transportation Study, 2006
  - Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan, 2008
- **2009-** DDOT initiated an Environmental Assessment (EA), was put on hold, and restarted in 2012
- **2013- 2015-** DDOT held several public and inter-agency consultation meetings with staff of NPS, NCPC, DCSHPO, WMATA, and CFA
- **April 2017-** EA was for publicly circulated
- **November 2017-** DDOT and NPS approved the EA by signing a Finding of No Significant Impact
- **2019**- DDOT started detailed design based on the approved EA preferred alternative.
- **June 2020 -** submitted project to CFA for concept project review and received comments.
- After extensive consultation on several design options with staff of the CFA, NCPC, and the DCSHPO, DDOT and NPS will today present two options the Commission's review

# Project Overview-Project Needs

## Project needs per the EA

- The pedestrian network is indirect and incomplete
- Intersections are closely-spaced with inconsistent traffic controls and skewed geometry (visibility)

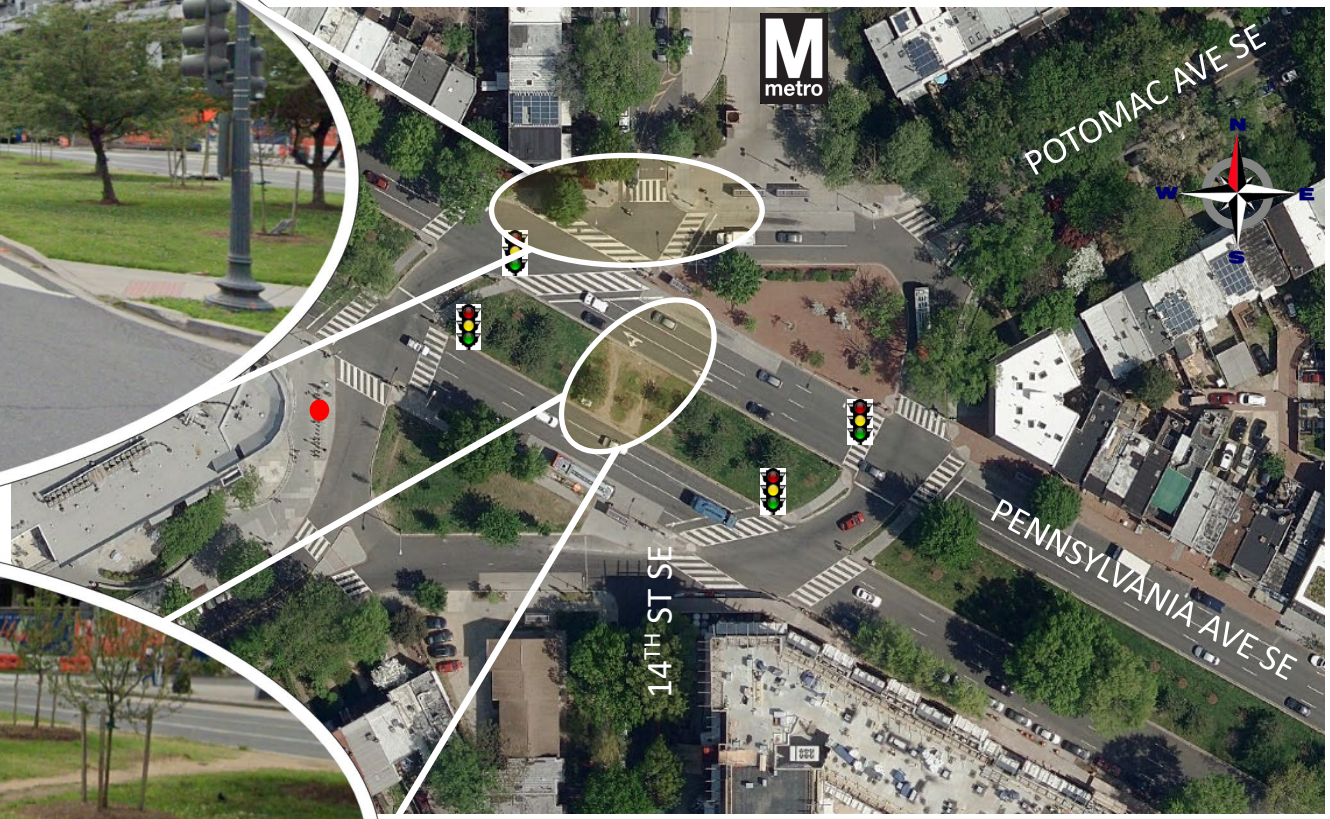



*Existing Observed Unmarked Pedestrian Crossings*

*Inconsistent Traffic Signals*


Pennsylvania Ave




M
metro
POTOMAC AVE SE
N
W
E
S
PENNSYLVANIA AVE SE
14TH ST SE

# Project Background- Preferred Alternative of the EA

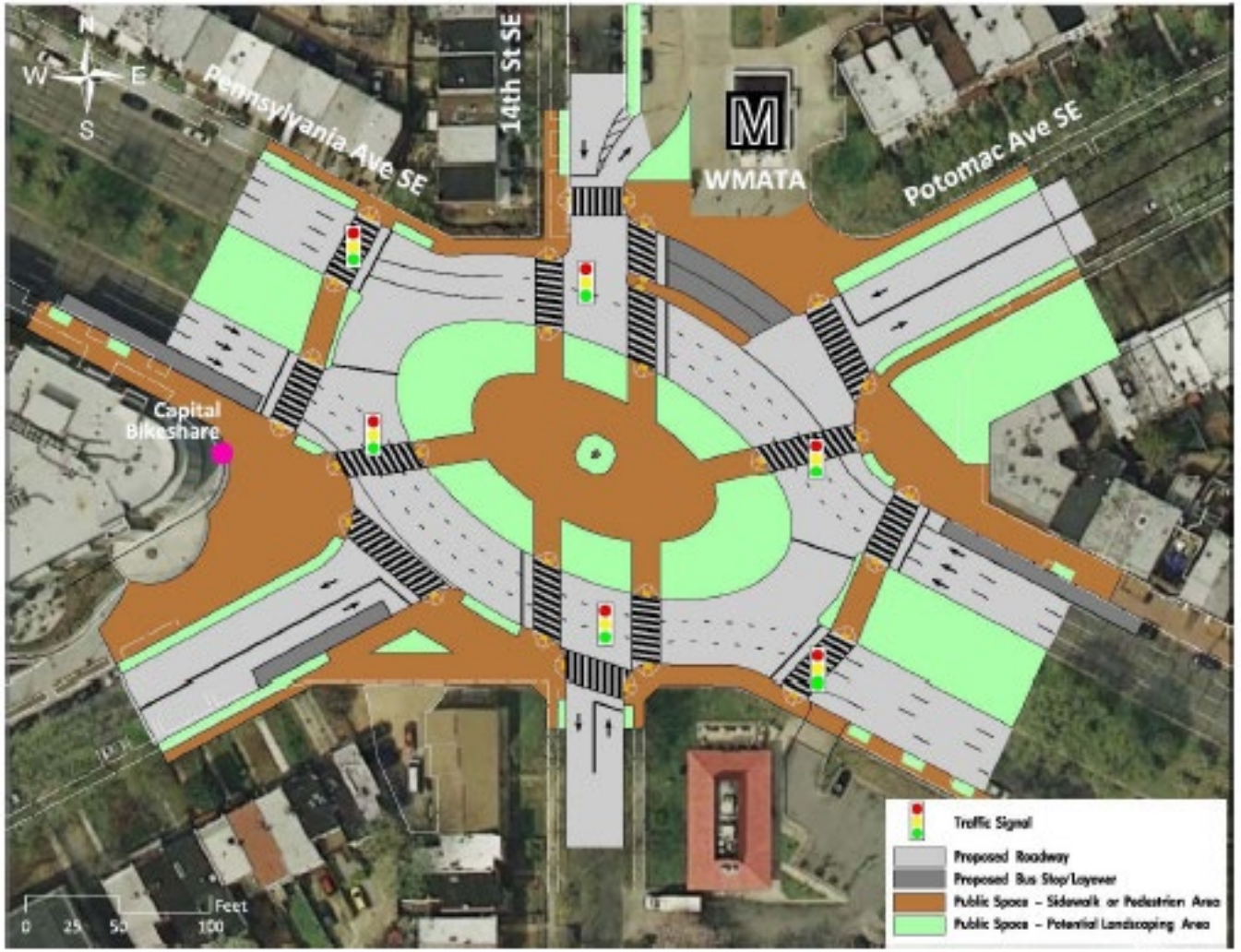
## Objectives

- Enhance pedestrian safety
- Improve pedestrian connections to transit
- Improve traffic circulation

## Preferred Alternative

Reconstruct intersection to create a signalized elliptical traffic circle **(Ellipse Park),** per approved EA

- Centralized park space inside the ellipse
- Lane reconfiguration
- Pedestrian crossings
- Land transfer to establish NPS jurisdiction over the ellipse and DDOT jurisdiction over the surrounding roadways



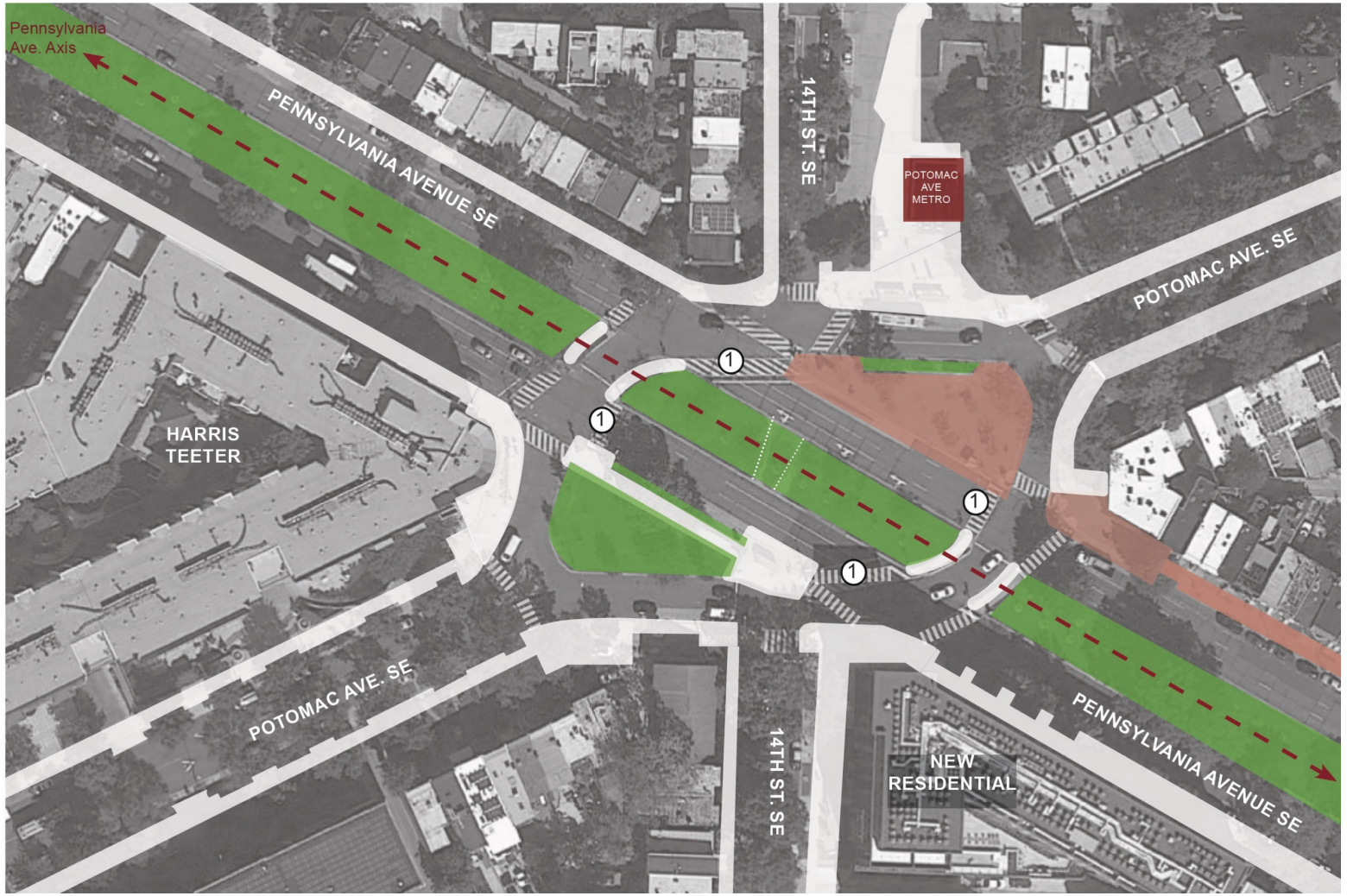

*2017 EA Preferred Alternative- Ellipse Park*

# Comments Addressed from Agency Work Session and Previous CFA

General Comments

- Design the central space as a distinct element
- Design for the shortest path from crosswalks outside of the ellipse
- Provide appropriately sized walkways in the ellipse
- Add relative sizes for reference in the presentation
- Soften the corner of cross walks. Remove the sharp edges and have less linearity
- Buffer pedestrian areas by using shrubs on the outer edge of the ellipse
- Consider using a double row of trees to define the central space of the ellipse.
- The designs accommodate the potential use of the central area for commemorative work

# Neighborhood Context – Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues




① Potential views of the Capital are blocked by existing mature trees along Pennsylvania Ave.

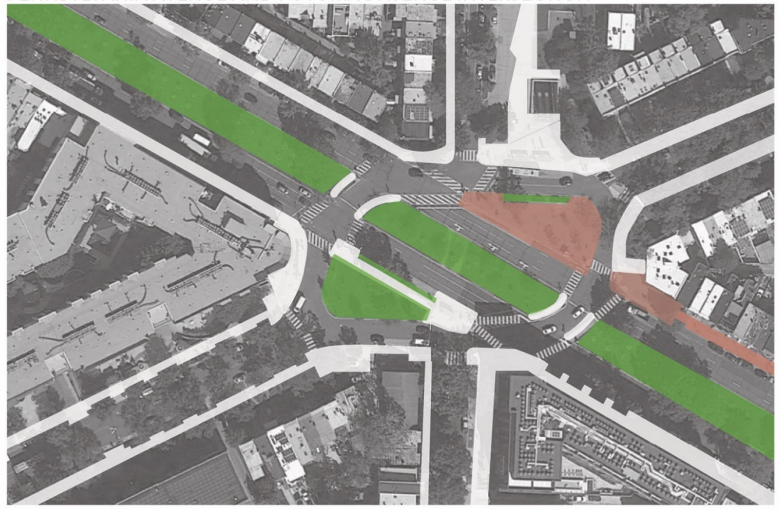
Green Space
Brick Paving
Concrete

Existing Informal Pedestrian Paths

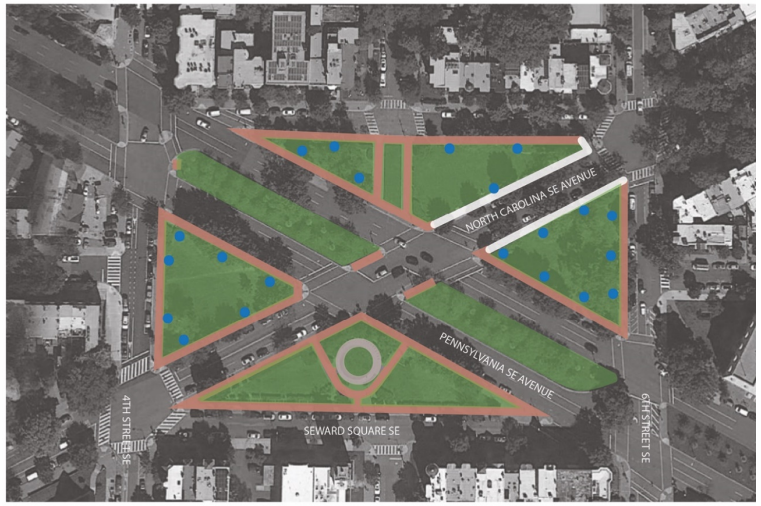
Scale: 1"=200'

# Site Analysis – Comparable Intersection Context

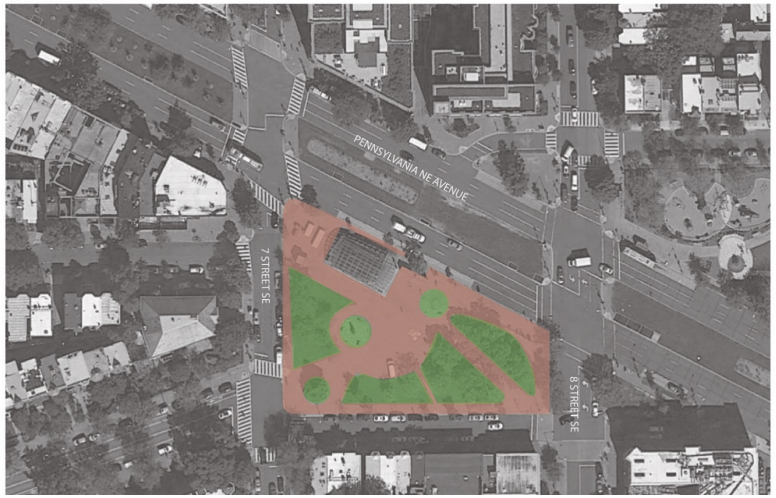
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND POTOMAC AVENUE INTERSECTION



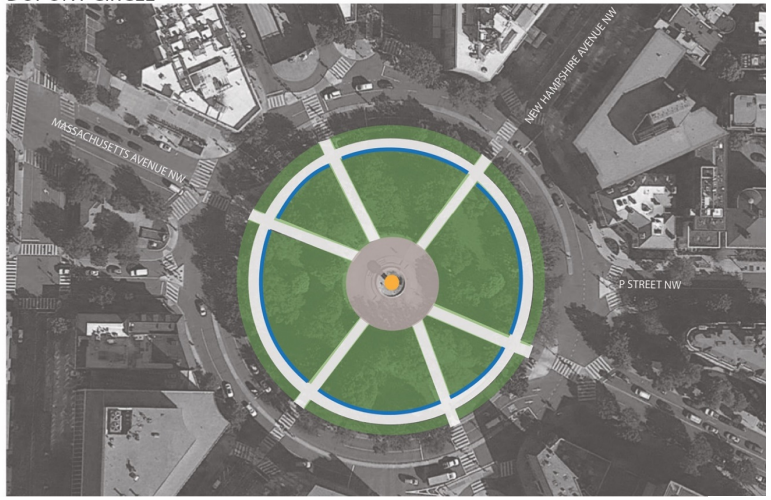
SEWARD SQUARE




EASTERN MARKET




DUPONT CIRCLE




Green Space
Brick Paving
Specialty Paving
Public Art
Concrete
Seating

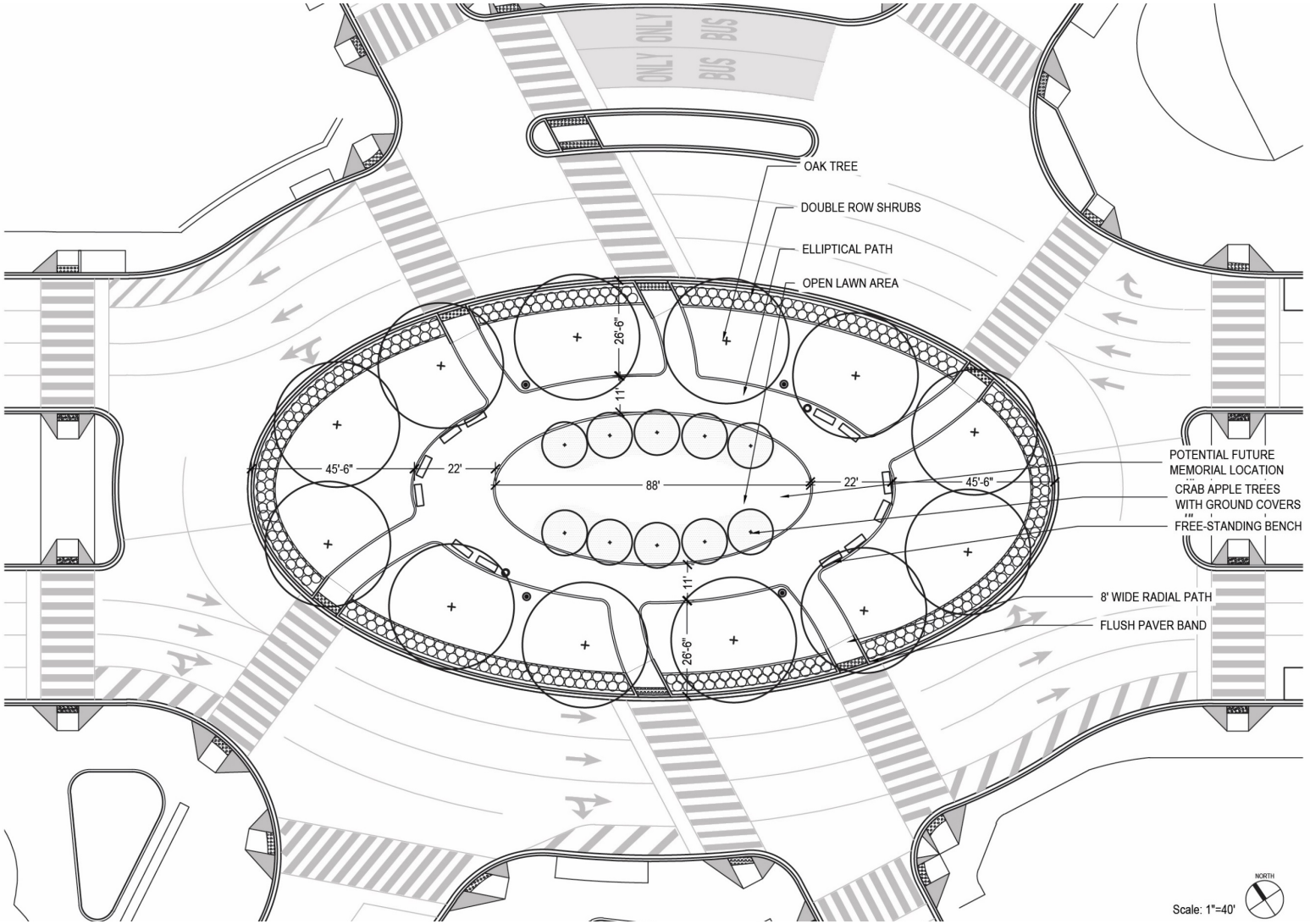
NTS

# Alternative 1 – Ellipse




Site Illustrative Plan

# Alternative 1 – Ellipse

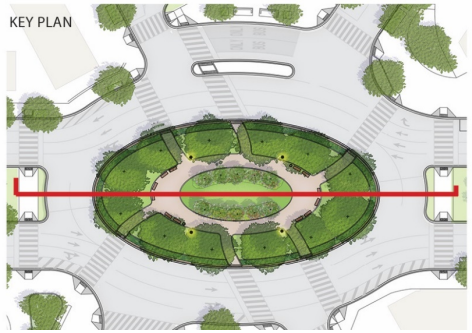



Site Technical Plan

# Alternative 1 – Ellipse



Site Section




Scale: 1"=30'

# Existing Condition – Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues



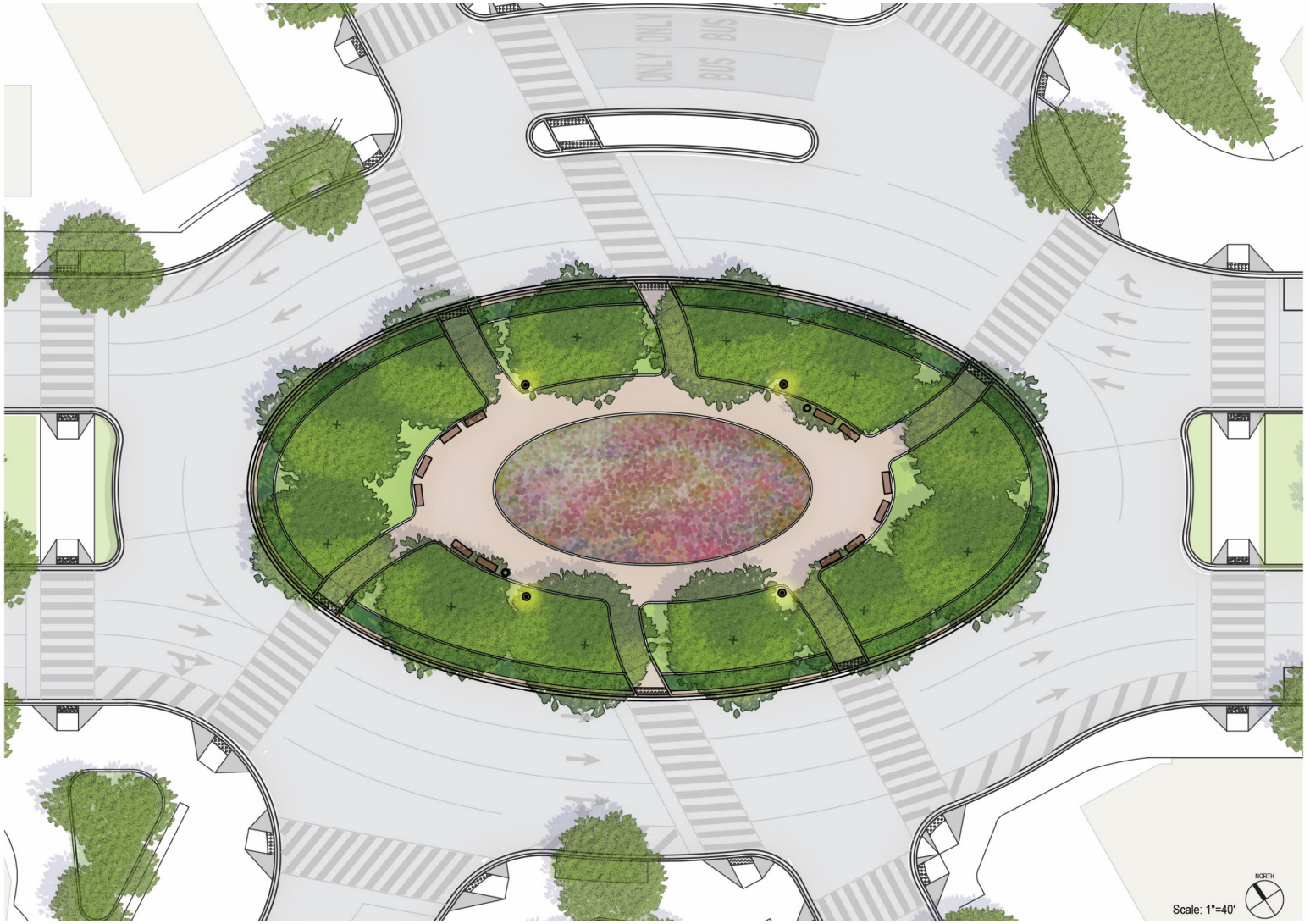

Site Bird's Eye View

# Alternative 1 – Ellipse



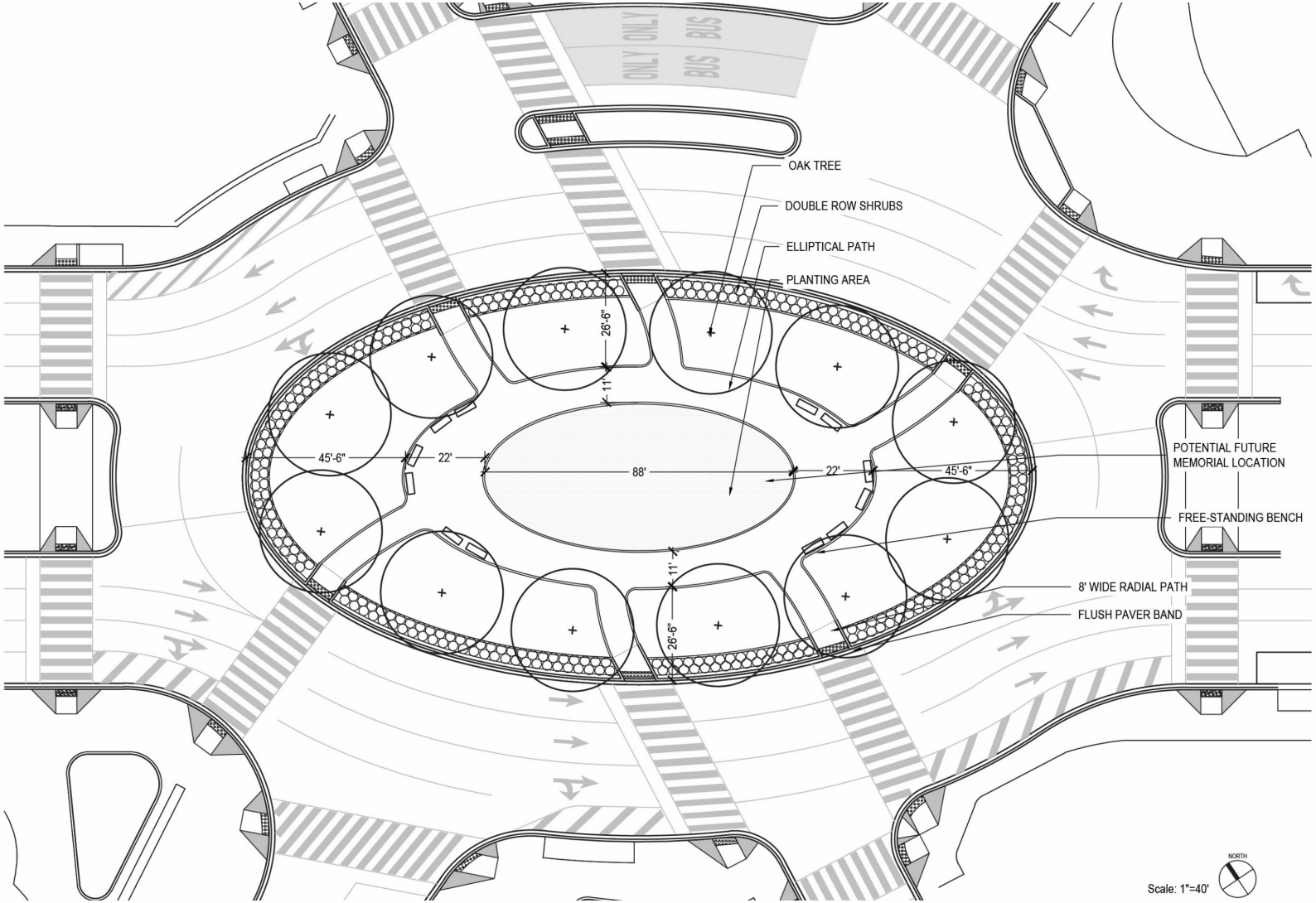
Site Bird's Eye Visualization

# Alternative 1A – Ellipse



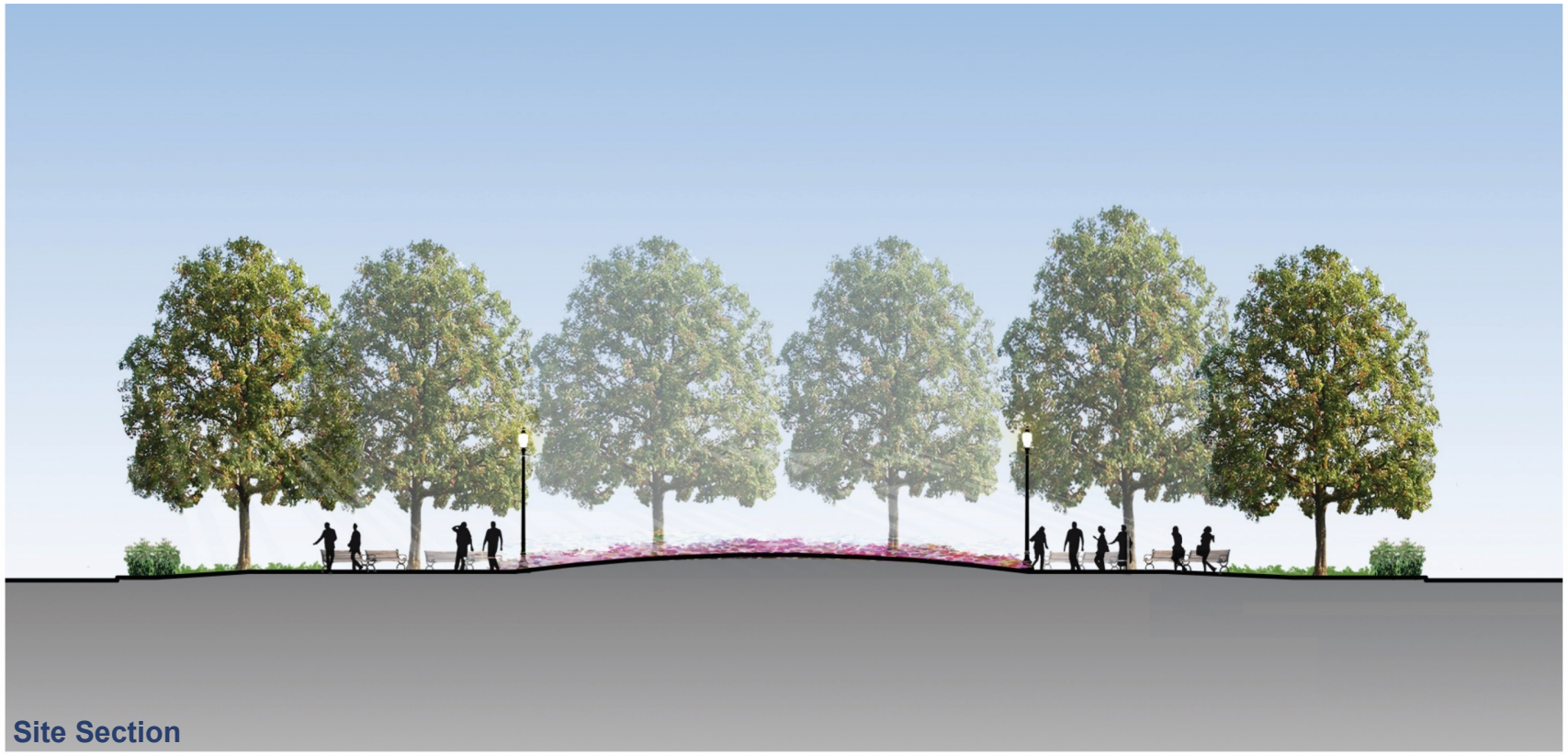

Site Illustrative Plan

# Alternative 1A – Ellipse

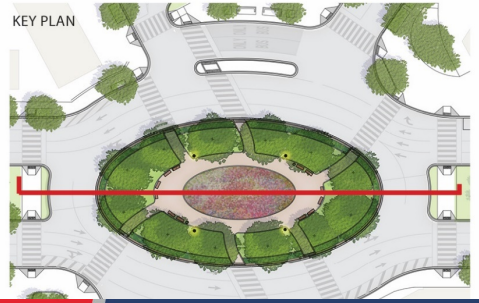



Site Technical Plan

# Alternative 1A – Ellipse



Site Section

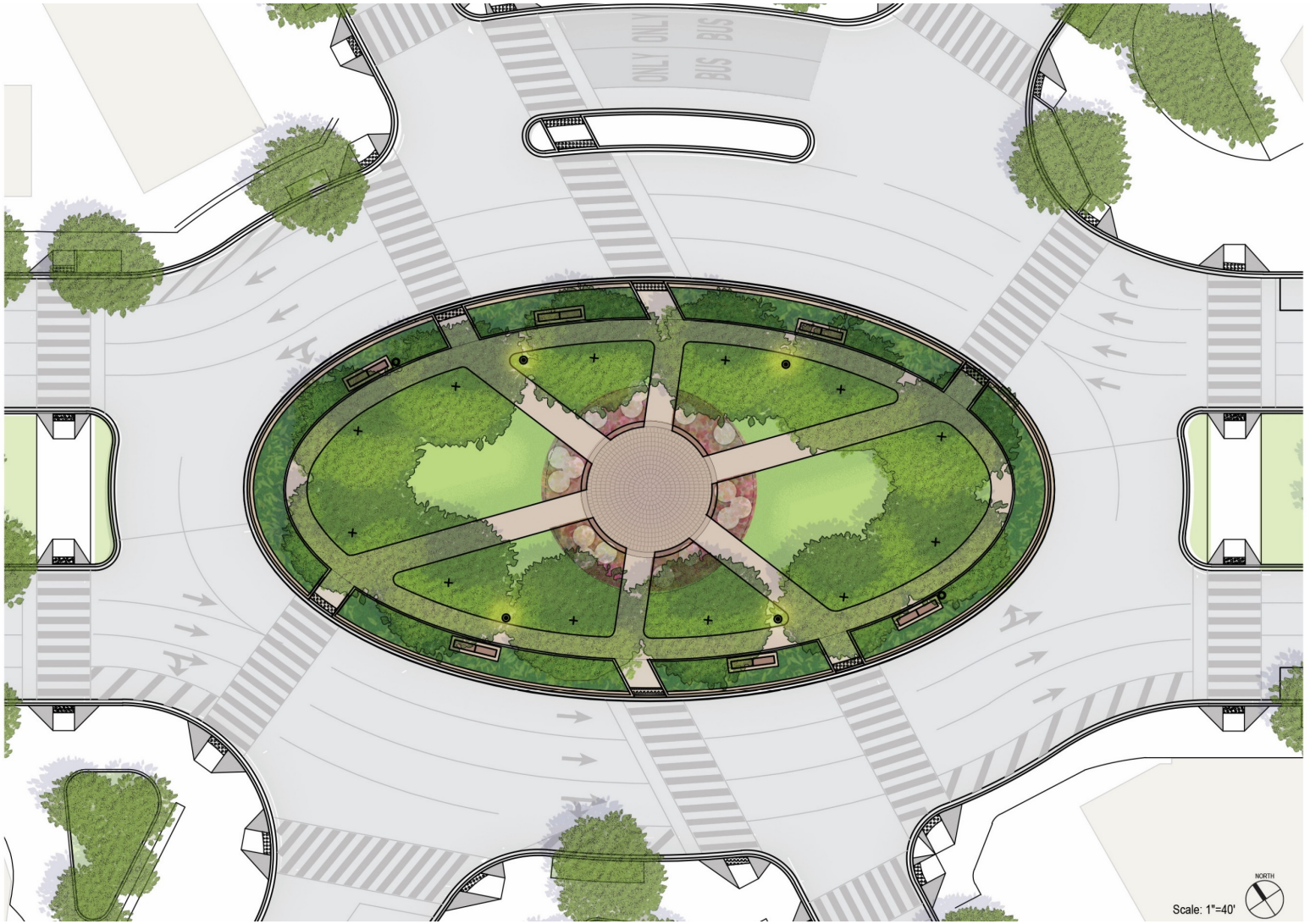


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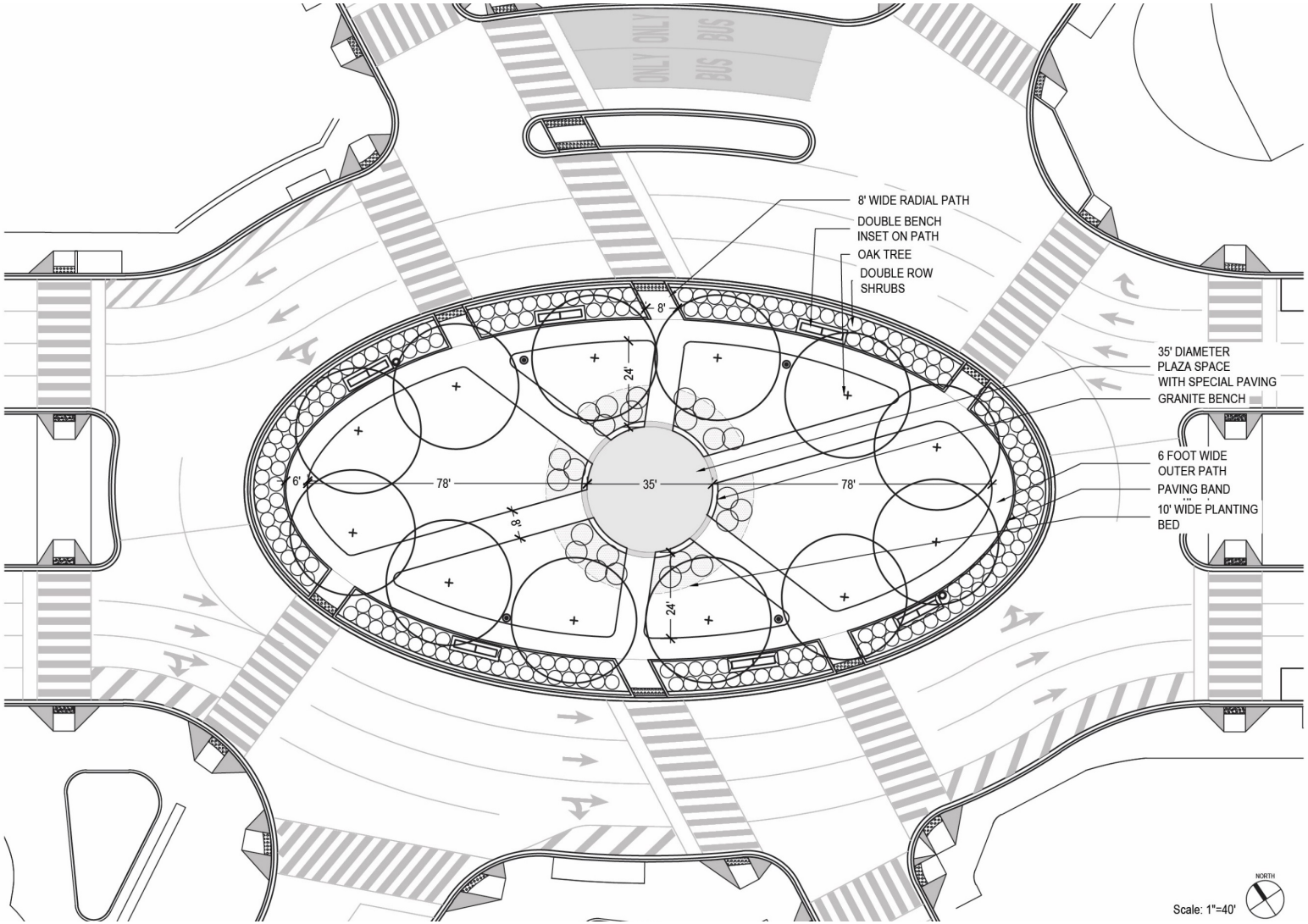
Site Bird's Eye Visualization

# Alternative 2 – Radial




Site Illustrative Plan

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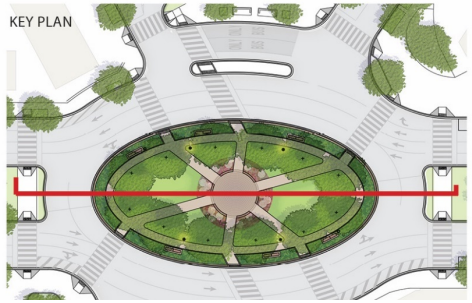



Site Technical Plan

# Alternative 2 – Radial



Site Section



# Existing Condition – Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues




Site Bird's Eye View

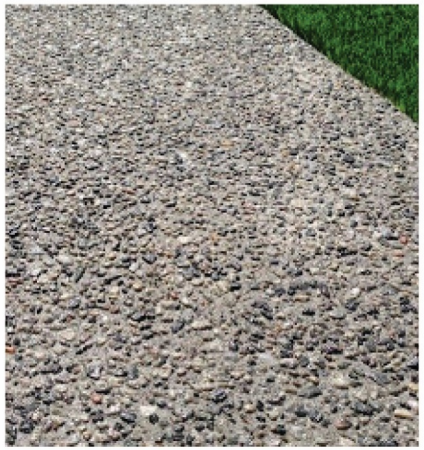
# Alternative 2 – Radial



Site Bird's Eye Visualization

# Materials Palette

COMMON MATERIALS - BOTH ALTERNATIVES



Exposed Aggregate Concrete



Granite Cobble Bands



Standard Park Bench



Standard Streetlight

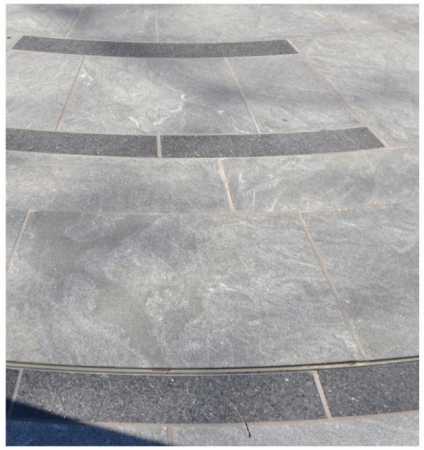
RADIAL ALTERNATIVE



Granite Seat Wall



Granite Seat Wall



Granite Paver Bands



Brick Pavers

# Planting Palette

SHADE TREES



Swamp White Oak - Quercus bicolor

SMALL, FLOWERING ORNAMENTALS



Crabapple - Malus 'Sugar Tyme'

SHRUBS



Cherry Laurel -
Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto Luken'



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Prunus laurocerasus 'Otto Luken'



Winterberry - Ilex verticillata



Beautyberry - Callicarpa americana

NATIVE AND AROMATIC PERENNIALS, BULBS, AND GROUNDCOVERS



Allium - Allium 'Millennium'



Oak Sedge -Carex pensylvanica



Daffodil - Narcissus 'Mount Hood'

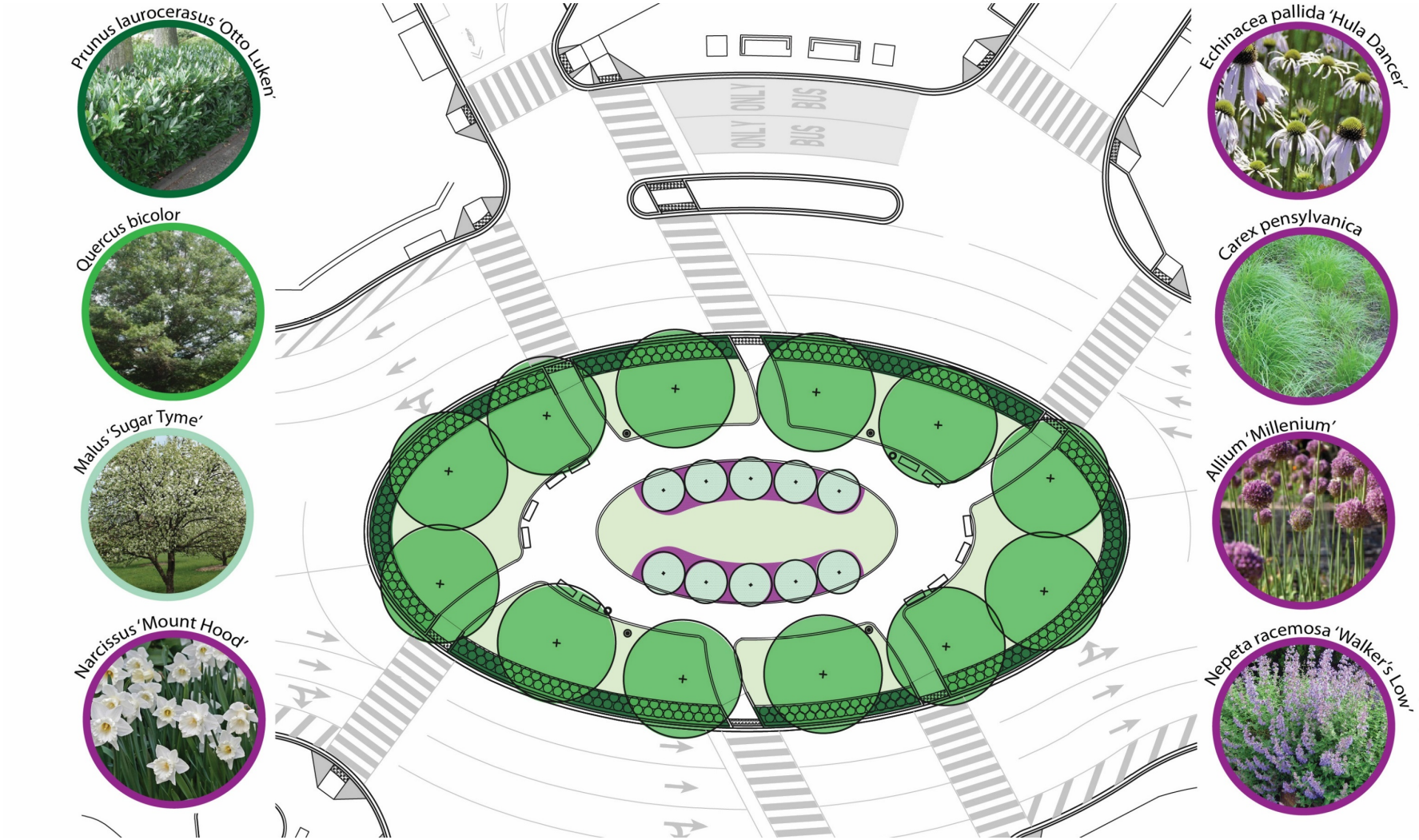


Catmint -
Nepeta racemosa 'Walker's Low'

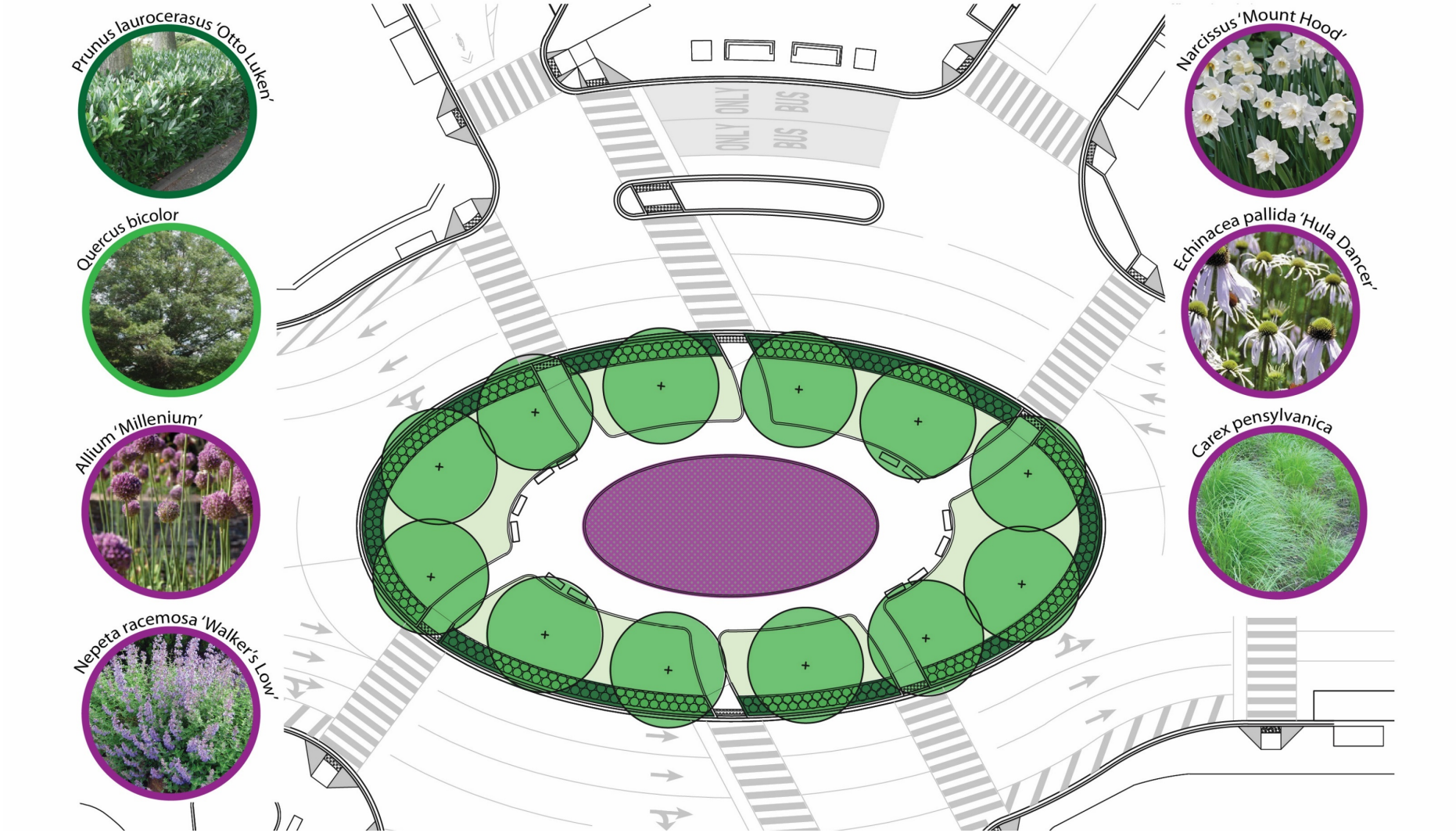


Echinacea pallida 'Hula Dancer'

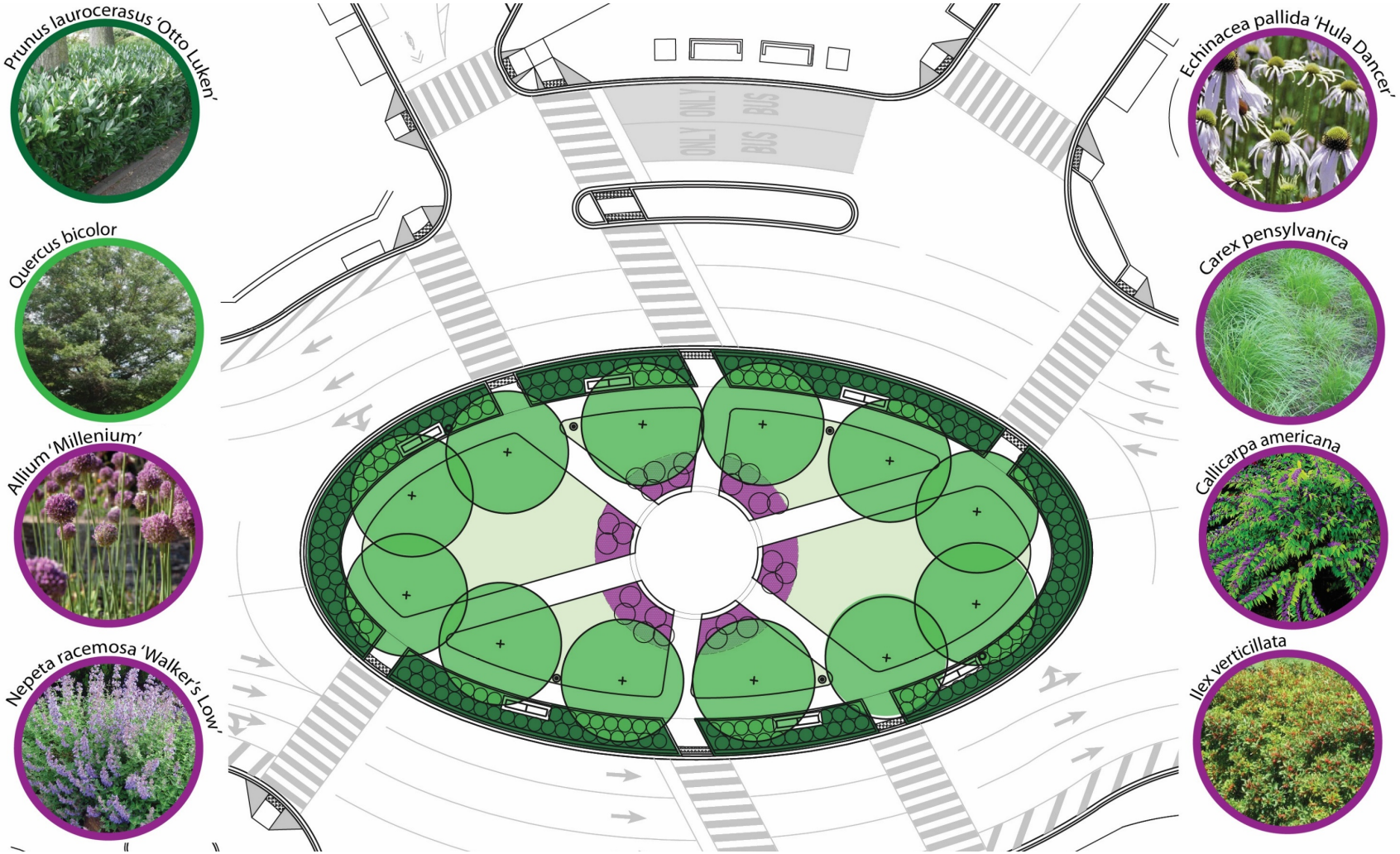
# Planting Palette: Alternative 1 - Ellipse



# Planting Palette: Alternative 1A - Ellipse



# Planting Palette: Alternative 2 - Radial



District Department of Transportation

