

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative

Public Comments
(March 16, 2022 - April 16, 2022)

and

Questions and Thoughts from Public Meeting #1
(April 13, 2022)

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Feedback for Pennsylvania Avenue Vision

April 17, 2022 15:04 pm

Name: Guy Durant

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

STOP Central City Planning! This is a Disaster in the Making! I don't support Any of your Terrible Plans, but if I had to chose the Lesser of the Evils, I would go with Please DO Nothing or at least do the "Urban Capital" to allow for the Most Traffic and Car Flow. Stop this Bike Nonsense! We should NOT WASTE Millions of DC Dollars to make Roadways into Bike Lines. Highway funding is for CARS NOT BIKES! Have you talked to Stakeholders like AAA MidAtlantic and Car Owners in DC about what they want for Roadways! DDOT and NCPC are Politburo Wonks that Believe in Communist-Style Central Planning and Destroy our Perfectly Mobile Car Friendly City. I suggest you Increase Parking Downtown like Maryland and Virginia do if you want more Activity downtown. Build New and Free Parking Garages for large Visitor Events and Tourists. Green Cars and Electric Cars are here and we Need to Stop the Spread of Diseases like Covid through Mass Transportation that spreads Mass Disease. Green Cars and Electric Cars need places to Park and Drive downtown. Bikes are a Hazard to Pedestrians and should NOT Share the Road with Cars, so Eliminate Bike Lanes, Not Car Lanes. Talk to AAA to Redraw your Designs to be more CAR Friendly and then you will get some support from Car Owners. Right Now, you are waging an Expensive and Wasteful "War on Cars" that is Anti-American and Anti-Freedom. Stop trying to Destroy DC Roads with your Central Planning Communist-Style proposals. None of your proposals are good, but the One that Increases Car Traffic and Car Parking is the one I would support and only if AAA-Mid-Atlantic Supports it. Contact AAA Mid-Atlantic to include Car Owners as Decision Makers and Stakeholders in any New Urban Planning. Thanks.

Name: Aleks Nickless

Location: DC

Date: March 16, 2022

Please keep Pulaski park/Freedom plaza the same!

Name: Matthew Croson

Location: Alexandria, VA

Date: March 16, 2022

The urban capital plan is the best option.

Name: Jackson Wadeson
Location: Washington DC
Date: March 16, 2022

I am a DC native, born and raised in Shaw, Washington DC, my whole life I have been going to freedom plaza, from being a kid with my parents, to hanging out there during highschool, to now eating lunch there during my break at work. I am all for adding new additions to dc, however, I think it wouldn't be wise to spend millions and millions on something that doesn't need to be fixed, especially with the ideas of renovating freedom plaza. I could just think of thousands of better ways to spend tax payers money. Thousand and thousands of people use freedom plaza every week. People eat lunch, play with their families, skateboard, host events and protest. Freedom plaza has created such a legacy for itself in dc, people visit from all over the world to witness it's glory in person. It is truly one of the most diverse places in the city, I see folks travel from all over the DMV every weekend to visit and enjoy its history. Also, the lay out is so cool already, showcasing Lefants earliest designs on top of the marble is so iconic to many Washingtonians. Please don't change a place that has meant so much to so many people for generations and generations.

Name: William Jordan
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 16, 2022

Any vision/concept that involves altering Freedom Plaza is a bad idea and should not be considered.

Name: Aris Kurtz
Location: Washington DC
Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom plaza has served as a haven for skateboarding culture since its creation. While the NPCP does not acknowledge this history, it should be preserved.

Name: Matt mcmahon
Location: Washington DC
Date: March 16, 2022

my whole family lives in dc and destroying Pulaski is literally going to kill people who depend on skateboarding as their livelihood and are unable to get different jobs. Please reconsider this plan as it pertains to Pulaski plaza freedom plaza

Name: Colin H

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date: March 16, 2022

Please do not destroy Pulaski Park!

Name: Jose Guzman

Location: Washington DC

Date: March 16, 2022

Please do not replace freedom plaza, this place has so much rich history and is a meeting place of all people to have they're voices heard! Martin Luther Kings time capsule is also here! We need to restore and maintain not replace!

Name: Isaiah Sullivan

Location: Silver Spring, MD

Date: March 16, 2022

Don't tear down Freedom. I feel as if it may be hard to convince you guys on the grounds of anti-development, as clearly the only thing that truly interests decision makers in DC is the money brought in by developers. Please look to the intense failings surrounding the "renewal" of Love Park, also torn down with the goal of stopping skateboarders. It didn't work. People still skateboard. Just leave things be for once! Please!! Put all this money in fixing the plaza...sharpen the ledges, fix the cracks, plant new trees. You are the governing body which makes freedom plaza unwelcoming - not skateboarders.

Name: Joel Barahona

Location: Arlington, Virginia

Date: March 16, 2022

The city and government in whole prove time and time again that they don't really care how the cities people are doing but more of how it looks and who it attracts. The city would rather address a lack of traffic on Pennsylvania Ave as an excuse to gentrify the city further for a demographic that didn't grow up around the dmv and especially not Freedom Plaza. Don't not tear down Freedom Plaza, do not waste money on pointless beautification, you should be focusing on providing more affordable housing better schools and availability to healthy food for the less fortunate.

Name: Edward Beamer

Location: Silver Spring, MD

Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom Plaza has been a meeting place for skateboarders for almost 3 decades. Socially and culturally, Freedom Plaza plays an important role for local skateboarders as well as for skateboarders internationally. I personally have met many people from around the country that have visited DC specifically for freedom plaza, proving that it plays a role in the areas tourist attraction. Street skateboarding and plaza skateboarding in particular provide large areas for skateboarders to practice their skills but to meet people as well. East Coast skateboarding culture holds pride in its access to street skating locations and the rich culture that comes from it, and Freedom Plaza is an important location in relation to this culture. Freedom Plaza as a meeting place for all DC area skateboarders also helps build careers through sponsorships and connections born from interacting at freedom plaza.

Freedom's central location, historical and cultural impact, and financial significance to the skateboarding industry cannot be overlooked during the planned renovation of the area, and any replacement would be a disservice and dishonor to the generations of skateboarders that have been there.

Name: Sean Maiwald

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

I strongly support all of the concepts, and specific elements in each concept as a resident of Washington, DC. In no particular order, I would like to see these things prioritized:

- Dedicated cycletracks
- Dedicated transit lanes
- Linear park space
- Space for regular events, vendors, street food, and related things

In short - a mixed use space that is active at all hours of the day that integrate well with the city is crucial, especially in light of COVID, where the downtown office core concept has to change. I would like to see more vendors, more places to eat, more places to drink, more places to gather, as well as a few different ways to transit though the area safely for people from all walks of life.

Name: kj thomas

Location: washington dc

Date: March 16, 2022

What's gonna happen to 1 out of the two martin luther king jr memorial's? and what's gonna happen to his time capsule that's supposed to be opened by 2088? what's gonna happen to all the culture and lives that the freedom plaza was able to build? what's gonna happen to the protests that's people hold at freedom plaza? what's gonna happen to the tourists who love driving past the big freedom plaza? what's gonna happen to me when i can't enjoy one of the most loved places in my life? what's gonna happen to my friends who love that place more than me?

Name: Elijah Butler
Location: Frederick MD
Date: March 16, 2022

Keep the current plaza. Don't change anything

Name: Ian Lee
Location: Vienna, Virginia
Date: March 16, 2022

Getting rid of Freedom Plaza, a historic monument and home of the time capsule of the late Martin Luther King Jr.'s belongings, is a bad idea. It is disrespectful to both Dr. King and everyone who believes in what he stood for. On top of that, Freedom Plaza is a home for skaters of all different backgrounds. Getting rid of the current plaza in favor of a generic park, which offers no life or character, will only hurt the city and the rapidly growing skate scene in the area. It's a tourist destination for any skater who visits the East Coast and I am strongly opposed to getting rid of it. Thank you.

Name: Gustavo Ordaz Renteria
Location: Mexico City Mexico
Date: March 16, 2022

I lived in the dmV for a large portion of my life, now I live in Mexico City. The last several years I was in the states I would spend most of my time D.C, most of that time i would spend my time at Pulaski park, freedom plaza named by MLK jr, I would be able to see and meet people from all over the world coming to the plaza as tourist, some come to do activities such as riding bikes, having dance sessions, roller skate, ext. skateboard is the main reason I went to Pulaski park. It was a place I could come into the city and meet up with my friends I made over many year going to Pulaski park. I would spend all day or several visits in one day. I do agree the need to be more trees around and I agree your idea of making it more pleasant for everyone who visits Pulaski park but you should leave the plaza as it because that opens space with garnet and marble all around is, a historical landmark because of the Time Capsule MLK left behind and the fact the he wrote "I have a dream" speech at the hotel across the street from Pulaski park and was looking at the plaza in the meantime, that smooth ground make it for a great place for family's to come out and do any type of activity on smooth ground. Please continue to improve the city for all who visit and live in D.C to enjoy but keep Pulaski park as it is.

Name: Owen O'Rourke
Location: Washington, d.c.
Date: March 16, 2022

Destroying Freedom plaza means completely disregarding all the history that it holds in the skate community. It has and still is considered one of the best skate spots in the world. Instead of wasting tax payers money on this, why don't you do something beneficial to the entire dc community.

Name: Patrick Sheehan

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

I think the linear green concept is the best and most forward-thinking of the three proposed designs. Pennsylvania Avenue is at its best when it is serving as a pedestrian-focused thoroughfare, and I think this design is the one that delivers on those strengths. The transit and cycle lanes allow movement of people through other modes, but I think general car traffic should be avoided in this area. Having a mile-long, car free linear park seamlessly into the city would be attractive to both locals and tourists. I also think this design works best with the three 'urban rooms' described. I also think that the linear green could accommodate some street vendors in areas, which would help make this area more lively. Finally, I think a large amount of greenspace is needed, especially to make it attractive during the hot summer. The park design will help keep the area cooler.

Name: Jack

Location: Raleigh

Date: March 16, 2022

Please do not destroy freedom plaza. It is a staple in the skateboard community that has helped shape the culture since it's beginnings. It is a destination spot for many skaters around the world. It would be a devastating loss of a historical monument if the plaza was taken out. Not to mention it is still used and self-regulated by local skateboarders everyday.

Name: Chase scott

Location: East coast

Date: March 16, 2022

I would like to voice my disapproval of the upcoming project on Pennsylvania Avenue. There is so much life and good attractions on in downtown DC already and I believe this upcoming project will strip the city of DC that essence. Please do not do this project and move the money from this project to bettering the neighborhoods in DC that truly do need it. Please don't destroy the history and integrity of our great city.

Name: Ronnie Brown

Location: Arlington Va

Date: March 16, 2022

Remodeling freedom plaza takes away from so man unique cultures. People visit from all around the world to visit that place for what it is and changing it takes away from history aswell as culture.

Name: Ty Beall

Location: Richmond, VA

Date: March 16, 2022

I would like to say that I think repurposing Pennsylvania Ave is a great idea, with some things to be taken into consideration. These plazas and parks that are along it are rich with history and should be preserved as is. It is one thing to change the landscape of the road but to remove history would be criminal. Freedom plaza is a perfect example. It is an incredible example of history. It was renamed this because of Martin Luther King Jr, which I'm sure you are aware of. It is a beautiful open air plaza and a monument that should be seen for years to come.

Name: haakon Hunter

Location: wheaton

Date: March 16, 2022

I would like if penn ave was changed to a green space but please dont change anything about freedom plaza it is a historical site and has a lot of personal meaning to me.

Name: Jon Meade

Location: Ashburn virginia

Date: March 16, 2022

The charm and character of Washington DC is the people and places that grace it. While projects to better the community are helpful FREEDOM PLAZA is a key landmark and a piece of Washington DC's history and character. Please leave Freedom Plaza as it is now untouched... do this for the community and the people that use the space.

Name: Alex Craver

Location: Frederick, MD formerly Petworth, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom Plaza is a historic and famous location drawing people from all walks of life. I spent countless days taking the metro to visit the plaza after school and in the summer as an adolescent and still make it a point to visit as an adult. Do not change this; the DC community does not want this as well as thousands who visit here as a destination location or even those

that have this on their wish list to visit in the future. No need to fix what isn't broken.

Name: Nathanael Callan
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 16, 2022

As a bike route, Pennsylvania Ave is in competition with Madison Dr NW and Independence Ave SW. While Pennsylvania Ave is currently the only route with protected bike lanes, it can feel more tedious to use given the number of stop lights (14 on Pennsylvania Ave versus 5 on Madison Dr between 3rd st NW and 15th st NW) compared to the unprotected roads adjacent to the national mall. If the new vision is to succeed in creating an inclusive, bike-friendly space, I think it is important to either reduce the number of intersections or prioritize traffic travelling along Pennsylvania Ave so that a typical person can travel the length of the avenue on a bicycle without stopping for car traffic. Thank you all for your hard work in developing these concepts!

Name: Kodie Wilkins
Location: Washington DC
Date: March 16, 2022

please do not rebuild freedom plaza. People have been skating there since the 80s and it is extremely important to many people in the district. It holds much history. Thank you.

Name: James Locke
Location: Washington, D.C.
Date: March 16, 2022

Hello,

I would like to strongly support the Linear Green concept as it is the most accessible, lively, and keeping with the idea of Pennsylvania Avenue as America's main street. This concept would not only invite visitors to the monumental corridor but provide an area for residents of DC, Maryland, and Virginia to enjoy a park space close to amenities. It also would allow for a safe corridor for bicycles, pedestrians, and bus users to efficiently access the benefits, sites, and businesses along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor.

Selecting the linear green concept would not inconvenience or hinder vehicle commuters in the District. In addition to the immense benefits that prioritizing people over single occupancy vehicles has (as detailed above), it is important to note that there is negligible traffic demand at the moment from vehicle commuters using Pennsylvania Ave NW. There are numerous adjacent routes with sufficient capacity to meet the needs of them as well as numerous mass transit options that allow them to access the area without having to use a car.

Some suggestions for this initiative:

1. Please make sure there are numerous and well maintained bathrooms up and down the concept. There is a severe lack of public bathrooms in that area and makes it much harder for visitors to spend longer amounts of time in the area as they have to seek out bathrooms at their hotels.
2. Please either create a skate park or maintain the existing Freedom Plaza area to accommodate the large community of skateboarders in the District, Maryland, and Virginia who use the area to recreate.

Best,
James

Name: Byron kerr
Location: Washington Dc
Date: March 16, 2022

Many of my friends love Freedom Plaza and the history behind it. It would be hurting the city in many ways destroying it.

Name: Zev
Location: Philadelphia
Date: March 16, 2022

Hello! I know you'll get a lot of these so I'll keep it concise. I grew up in PG County, and started skating at 12. I met the friends I've kept for the past 15 years through the community that is held at Freedom Plaza. This park holds over 2.5 decades of cultural significance in the skateboarding community. It's become a GLOBALLY acknowledged landmark in skateboarding history, and is a place that an innumerable amount of people call home now. To change it in anyway would be an to erase a history and the city should be proud of. It would mean robbing current and future generations of skateboarders of knowing and experiencing this place. It would dramatically alter the landscape of entire community. Please reconsider. Thank you.

Name: Anthony Lisi
Location: Alexandria, VA
Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom Plaza is a historical site that should be left alone. It is a place for protesting and for gathering, not to mention the most famous skateboarding plaza left in America. Leave it be for the people.

Name: Luis Turcios

Location: Hyattsville, Md

Date: March 16, 2022

Please don't allow this concept to destroy freedom plaza. Freedom plaza is an amazing place where many people come out and express there views and peacefully protest. Also the skate culture has found a home here at freedom plaza and we mean no harm when we skate were are just having a great time. Please don't destroy freedom plaza the same way love park in Philly was destroyed.

Name: Airon Sero

Location: Hagerstown, MD

Date: March 16, 2022

You are DESTROYING history and culture with this "new vision". Places like Philadelphia and San Francisco tried this with their plazas and look at those places now. Empty plazas that attract no one and doesn't benefit surrounding businesses. Don't make a mistake. Freedom plaza is an escape for many, a mecca where you can hangout and meet new people. The new vision would destroy a safe place for thousands.

Name: Jason nam

Location: Arlington virginia

Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom plaza should not be torn down, the history behind it contains Mlk's relics that are planned to be opened by 2088 and a statue of General Pulaski. The plaza alone is a physical representation of racial justice and woman empowerment. General Pulaski was a women that disguised as a man to participate in war.

On top of that freedom plaza holds home to many different cultures including peaceful protesting, outdoor events, dancing, skateboarding and many more. It's one of the only places downtown where you will consistently see people interacting on the weekdays and weekends even when all the tourist suddenly disappear from the street. All the news outlets saying that Freedom Plaza is deserted and an eyesore is completely lying. Also they mentioned that they want it to be more welcoming, every day people stop by to see events happening, to see skateboarders skating with happiness. What reporters are saying simply just isn't true.

Listen to the people who utilize this space and not people just trying to fill in their own agendas and profits.

Name: Lincoln Pafford

Location: District of Columbia. (DC)

Date: March 16, 2022

Keep freedom plaza as is. It is a huge piece of history for the communities of DC and all of skate culture. Instead use money to keep freedom plaza pristine for not only the skaters but make it enjoyable for any person inside or outside of DC.

Name: Mario Callner-DeRosa

Location: Mount Rainier, MD

Date: March 16, 2022

Please don't do any of this if it means ripping up freedom plaza. It's a Mecca of skateboarding history that should not be removed with so little thought. I understand no one uses that road as it is, but people do use the plaza, a lot of them. Pros travel around the world to film there and inspire young skaters. Embrace that, don't destroy it.

Name: Soh Samuto

Location: Silver Spring, Maryland

Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom plaza should be left the way it is. What the skaters have turned it into already aligns with what the urban rooms are trying to do. Skateboarding is park related activity. The skaters who show up drive commerce throughout the area. It is hailed as somewhat of a Mecca for the culture when it comes to skateboarding. People come from all over the world to skate at freedom plaza. It's a home away from home for many. You would be displacing hundreds of skaters across DC to have to skate in places they aren't wanted. Even with new skateparks in the area there are not enough to handle the sheer amount of people who do skate. And it's not just skateboarding, many people of all shapes size and different interest come together just for the community feeling. If you aren't convinced by this, check out the community in action here <https://youtu.be/IyL42iLQjlw>

We will be back this summer for go skate day 2022, we are welcoming so come check what we are about! We don't bite :)

Name: Malcolm R

Location: Greenbelt, MD

Date: March 16, 2022

This is destroying the community. Please don't allow for this project to go forward.

Name: Zach Bernstein

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

I support, in order, Linear Green, Civic Stage, and Urban Capital. Whichever we choose, it is important to prioritize non-car means of transportation and give pedestrians more access to nature.

Name: nick

Location: apex north carolina

Date: March 16, 2022

i don't think you should re do the plaza because it has lots of history around it and is a cool piece of architecture. as someone who skates if i lived near by i would be devastated if the plaza got redone or destroyed completely. lots of the locals are very cool people and are always at the plaza. i very much want to visit sometime and hope it does not get changed

Name: Liam Donovan-Jenkins

Location:

Date: March 16, 2022

Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative please do not make any changes to Freedom Plaza. It is one of the most diverse and culturally relevant parts of Washington D.C

Name: Henry Dempsey

Location: Arlington, Virginia

Date: March 16, 2022

As a life long resident of the DC area, I personally do not think transforming this entire area into a more "pedestrian friendly" space would add any real value to the city.

Looking at the concepts that have been drawn up, it looks like you are trying to make almost a mock up of the national mall, when in reality there is no need considering the actual mall is just a block to the south. Not to mention, the historic plazas that line Pennsylvania Ave that would be scrapped. Look at Freedom Plaza for example. It is one of the few spaces still left in the city where DC culture still has a space to flourish. It is also congregation spot for almost every protest, as well as being the Mecca of skateboarding in DC area.

All in all, is this really something we should be pouring millions of dollars into when all around the district there are underperforming schools in need of a boost, people struggling with food and housing insecurities, and many more pressing problems.

Name: dominic grasso

Location: silver spring md

Date: March 16, 2022

i believe that this newly proposed idea is rather bad. i enjoy the aspect of a new community spot being built in the city but with only blocks away from the mall, building something like this destroys communities and friendships. this may seem like a small matter in this aspect to higher up city council. but to me a 17 year old skateboarder, i have made life long friends skateboarding here, my dad was a skateboarder here. there are so many different cultures and so much diversity through skateboarding and just at freedom plaza. i believe that rather communicating with skateboarders, skate shops, etc we could all work together to build a safe historic community. destroying this would create a bad environment between the city and skateboarders, and to be honest the real truth is many uneducated people would retaliate to violence and vandalism. a safe welcoming community starts with communication.

Name: Genevieve Grenier

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom Plaza carries so much historical and cultural significance, and every DC resident I have spoken to about this new plan has voiced concerns about erasing such a beautiful, unique place with such a rich history. Future generations deserve to visit this place and see the unique inlay of the L'Enfant city plan, White House floor plan, and other amazing details. History books and cultural archives contain stories of the impactful protests, famous concerts, MLK time capsule, and significance of the location to the international skateboarding community. Future generations should be able to visit the place, not just see photos and hear stories. I myself have no connection to the skateboarding community, but I know people from all over the world come to DC to skate at Freedom Plaza. This brings business to our city, and offers opportunities to youths that may not have access to team sports. DC is such a cool city to visit and live in because of its monuments, parks, and outdoor spaces that are so different from other cities' designs. If this plan moves forward, the destruction of culture and history is irreversible. Please listen to residents who take the time to participate in this public forum and err on the side of preserving history, not erasing it. I am sure one could find creative ways to improve the space without destroying it. Freedom Plaza carries so much historical and cultural significance, and every DC resident I have spoken to about this new plan has voiced concerns about erasing such a beautiful, unique place with such a rich history. Future generations deserve to visit this place and see the unique inlay of the L'Enfant city plan, White House floor plan, and other amazing details. History books and cultural archives contain stories of the impactful protests, famous concerts, MLK time capsule, and significance of the location to the international skateboarding community. Future generations should be able to visit the place, not just see photos and hear stories. I myself have no connection to the skateboarding community, but I know people from all over the world come to DC to skate at Freedom Plaza. This brings business to our city and offers opportunities to youths that may not have access to team sports. DC is such a cool city to visit and live in because of its monuments, parks, and outdoor spaces that are so different from other cities' designs. If this plan moves forward, the

destruction of culture and history is irreversible. Please listen to residents who take the time to participate in this public forum and err on the side of preserving history, not erasing it. I am sure one could find creative ways to improve the space without destroying it.

Name: Alexandra Wisbiski

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

My name is Alexandra Wisbiski and I am a Ward 5 Resident and frequent biker of Pennsylvania Avenue. I am glad that this project is being undertaken- a major road diet is needed for this street. My biggest priorities (and I would argue the priorities of others like myself) are the retention of the historic and civic parts of freedom plaza, protected bike infrastructure, and a road diet. First, the retention of freedom plaza. Right now freedom plaza is an important place in the city where one can engage in their first amendment rights. With it so close to the federal government and district government, this space needs to be retained for people to use their rights. Additionally, retaining the plaza is important historically. The skate culture it has fostered is as deep a part of the district as go-go music. It's a place where people can come together, whether for protests or skating. Please keep the plaza for those reasons. Secondly, protected bike infrastructure needs to be put in place. Right now with the bike lanes in the middle of the road, it is hard to bike all the way through Pennsylvania ave. The green lights do not line up for bikers so it takes a long time to bike this length of road. Additionally, the few, low barriers and flexposts do not protect bikers (or pedestrians) from cars. Please harden the protections for bikers (concrete bollards, more paint, and higher barriers). Last, Pennsylvania avenue needs a road diet, which I am happy to see in your plans. The road is never fully used and the 3 lanes in both directions is a massive waste of space. Changing it to 1 lane for drivers, 1 for buses, and 1 for bikes in both directions would be a much more equitable and smart use of the space. Also as a part of the road diet, the speed limit needs to be lowered to 15-20 mph in this section. I would urge 15mph if it will become a civic plaza or the like, as speeds greater than that aren't needed on this stretch and endanger pedestrians and bikers.

Thank you so much for engaging the public in this process, and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about my priorities.

Thank you,

Alex Wisbiski

Ward 5 Resident and Biker

Name: Robin Forsyth

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

If this project is to proceed despite the overwhelming outcry from the city, and without any visible public support, then you should end this sham of public input and stop giving us the

false hope that you might not tear apart our city. Your restoration initiatives have been an unending war against DC's black residents, our unhoused residents, and our historic spaces and it will not continue.

Name: Aaron
Location: DC
Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom Plaza should stay the same!!

Name: David Sim
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 16, 2022

Good afternoon NCPC,

Thank you for opening a public comment section. Growing up in Maryland as a skateboarder, Freedom Plaza was and it still known to be a legendary place for not just the local community but the national and now even international community of skateboarding. With video footage spanning decades, Freedom Plaza has offered a strong sense of community to countless people that do not have a community elsewhere. Making significant changes to the park, takes this community away from so many that call Pulaski home.

With the rise of popularity in skateboarding, and having skateboarding debut in the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, there is no denying its influence. Getting rid of the way this park is set up and making it non-friendly to skateboarders, there is a good chance that Washington D.C. is denying someone who has the potential to become a world-class skateboarder and Olympian.

One could argue that skateboarders could simply migrate to the remodeled park in Shaw. However, that would lead to overcrowding, which usually leads to more accidents. Another reason that this is not a good idea is a bit more idiosyncratic to skateboarding that is very hard to describe to others. Freedom Plaza is considered "street skateboarding" which is a subculture of skateboarding in itself, and making significant changes will mean a large portion of street skateboarding in Washington D.C. will become extinct.

I sincerely thank whomever took the time to read this comment and hope you have a great day.

Name: Mia S
Location:
Date: March 16, 2022

The park should be left as is. There is so much cultural and historical significance in this

location that needs to be preserved. What message are you trying to send by erasing it? Not to mention this spot is already one of great recreational importance to the local skate community. Changing the design and removing the current infrastructure will only ensure that you are pushing a group of people out. Sociologically, having parks such as this one boosts community morale. It also gives people a safe space to spend their time which leads to decreased crime rates, especially among the youth. If your true goal is to create a safe, popular, and happy environment then the park should be reinforced not redone.

Name: Alex Ingersoll

Location: Baltimore, MD

Date: March 16, 2022

Pulaski Plaza has been a landmark in skateboarding culture for over 20 years. Generations of people have grown up skating this plaza. It has become a meeting place for people to connect, spread ideas, and share their love of skateboarding. This is one of DCs most beloved locations and it breaks my heart to know the city is planning on taking this place away from us. I know I'm not the only one who feels this way. There are thousands of other people who would be affected if Pulaski Plaza is removed. This place is home to some and to others a huge part of their life. I hope to be able to bring my children to the same place I used to skateboard as a kid so that we can celebrate the city of DC and it's rich history in skateboarding culture. I implore you to reconsider the cities decision to remove Pulaski Plaza so people like me can continue to enjoy this amazing place in peace. Thank you for your time.

Name: David horsey

Location: Baltimore, MD

Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom plaza is a historic skate spot and should be preserved as is.

Name: Jeff

Location:

Date: March 16, 2022

Test

Name: Dyllan Cole

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date: March 16, 2022

Dear NCPC,

My name is Dyllan Cole I am 24 and I had grown up in a small town in Northern California named Vacaville, and moved to D.C. when I turned 17. As someone being used to a downtown area the size of Freedom Plaza itself, I do love this location because not even Embarcadero in San Francisco can recreate the essence of it.

All three concepts seem to heavily confine this space and take it off of the pedestal that it always gets to be on. The three stair stage is viewable from traffic with no trees and this is good because this place is federally designated for people to come and protest, skateboard, read L'enfant plans of D.C., and more. Only one concept proposes an even somewhat reasonable amount of room for people to even come here. Concept 3 is the best, but it takes the grace away from Freedom Plaza regardless.

Freedom Plaza is clearly a home to skaters all over the DMV. I have heard and understand there are issues within this area that citizens feel intimidated by the crowding of skaters. However where do you expect these skaters to go? I know people who have been skating there since they were children, and there still are children that go there everyday to learn skateboarding and make friends. Especially in times like this when having a sense of community and camaraderie is extremely hard to find.

Shaw skatepark is not big enough, not iconic enough, to ever house all 50+ skaters that roll through Freedom Plaza everyday, and with how crowded Shaw skatepark already is.

Destroying and trying to replace a real important piece to the anatomy of D.C. (sub)cultures only leaves more opportunities for kids to find interest in crime and other things that this city does not need. There are seriously good people, and children, that go to this Plaza everyday to make memories.

Please, revise these concepts and this whole plan to destroy Freedom Plaza. Give Freedom Plaza a refurbishment, give it care and upgrade it a bit.

At the very least give skaters a designated area in this park that gives them enough space and Freedom to not have the rug pulled from underneath us.

Freedom Plaza is extremely important to a lot of people in skateboarding. Without it where would these people be, and where are the future ones to go?

There is a very enormous and famous skate plaza in Paris, France called Place de la République. Take inspiration from this place, skaters are allowed to skate all the time, there is a lot of foot and bike traffic that comes through yet there are designated obstacles, ledges, etc. for skaters to have fun at. It's beautiful and the people of Paris love it.

Thank you for listening,
Dyllan Cole

Name: Animesh
Location: Alexandria, VA
Date: March 16, 2022

Please prioritize linear green as there isn't a lot of green left in the city.

Name: Reese Baldwin
Location: Washington, D.C.
Date: March 16, 2022

I know you don't know me, and my opinion might not be that important to you, but I just ask that you take a few minutes to consider this email when you are thing about the Pennsylvania Avenue Project. I am just emailing to let you know what freedom plaza means to me. I cannot imagine living without that place. Freedom plaza represents the pure dream of Dr.Martin Luther King Jr, which inspires me to live the life I do. It also provides the perfect space for the public to let their voices be heard, which is really valuable these days. It is a world renowned plaza that acts as a lifeline for the culture of the city. Altering or destroying freedom plaza would corrupt all of this, including that dream Dr. King blessed us with. I, along many other lifelong DC residents, would not know what do do with myself without freedom plaza and all that it represents. Freedom plaza also stimulates the downtown D.C economy tremendously by attracting professional skateboarding teams from different parts of the world. From the guy whose been pushing carts of "ice cold dolla' waters here!" For the past 30 years— to Nike SB sponsored events, freedom plaza and the people it attracts is a vital part of the downtown Washington economy. And that is just one side of the economic stimulation that freedom plaza attracts! More examples of the economic value of freedom plaza are shown during music and dance events at the park, food truck competitions, go-go events, and much more. Furthermore, on a more personal note, Freedom plaza is my safe space on this planet, so I'm just asking that you please don't take it from me.

Name: elena arbelaez
Location: washington dc
Date: March 16, 2022

I think linear green would be nice. we have a lot of parks but not a lot of open grass areas. please don't get rid of freedom plaza though. it's decades of culture and history down the drain. it's home to the dc and east coast skate community. if you visit it at any time of day you'll be met with incredibly welcoming and kind people.

Name: Landon Powell
Location: Mechanicsville, Virginia
Date: March 16, 2022

Tearing down freedom plaza is the worst decision you can make. Years and years of civil rights history and skate history will be paved over and completely destroyed. Thousands of peoples lives will be negatively impacted by this decision. Please keep it up not just for me but for all skateboarders and racial injustice history.

Name: Scott Lamar Forbes

Location: Northern Va

Date: March 16, 2022

I would like to say that Freedom Plaza is a historical site not only for the skateboarders locally and all over the world that travel into DC and rent hotels, buy food and spend money in the district it holds a value of culture that is a rarity that should be kept the way it is.

Martin Luther Kings time capsule is buried there and that alone speaks volumes and fills the plaza with a amazing energy and its filled every day with diversity.

Freedom plaza also as it is allows any person any race a place to speak out and voice there right and opinion in the name of Freedom.

Its a shame to think the city would remove it and replace with a "park" that i could easily walk uptown and go to many.

I say keep Freedom Alive and protect the plaza

It has changed many peoples lives and has saved countless amounts of lost kids that find it home and a place to call home. A place that is special. A plaza that is historic on so many fronts. A plaza that speaks to visitors and locals within its history written in the marble. Lets keep this alive for many generations to come and maybe het the fountain repaired and functioning again and plant some trees and admire Freedom Plaza for what it is worth.

Name: Andrew Feldt

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Date: March 16, 2022

I spent the greater part of my youth hanging around Freedom plaza from age 13 to my 30's. In high school I spent at least 40 hours a week there. I still go there frequently when visiting family and friends. The current open concept that exists is beautiful and not like any other space in the country. It would be an absolute disgrace to change that plaza, because essentially you would be erasing history. There are no parks in this country that still have that look and to me that is quintessential DC architecture at its finest. The city I grew up in lost a lot of its identity over the years and this would only further add to that problem. Please don't turn this park into another cookie cutter park and make it another Austin Texas or any new "trending" city. The plans are bad and freedom plaza in general should not be changed. Funds should be allocated instead to more important programs like helping with youth, affordable housing for DC residents and education...

Name: Janelle Devore

Location:

Date: March 16, 2022

Eliminating space for cars is a bad idea and will add to the already challenging traffic along that stretch of road. Find another place to spend money...like something for the homeless and the community.

Name: Gabriel LHeureux

Location: Northwest DC

Date: March 16, 2022

Please leave Freedom Plaza as it is. We don't need any change to its current layout

Name: Tony

Location: Gaithersburg

Date: March 16, 2022

Freedom plaza is a safe space. A place to go after work and skate, do your favorite activities and enjoy a show of many talented skateboarders. I've met life long friends here. I've been to many protests such as the BLM, Pride, and many more starting at freedom plaza it's a place many call home. You can't change culture. It's been around for decades and the people come with it. Keep freedom plaza the way it is. #freedomplaza #MLK

Name: John Vorhes

Location: Bethesda, MD

Date: March 16, 2022

The street needs more sidewalk amenities, cafes, food carts, art, , display cases, and some interesting shops. I'd make the sidewalks on each side as wide as possible. I think a center walkway will not get the pedestrian traffic, if all the action is on the sides. People wont cross a traffic lane to sit on a bench in the middle no matter how well landscaped it is. The "happening" should be on each side. Keep bike, bus and auto traffic in the middle with plantings to soften them.

Name: Helen Houghton

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 16, 2022

The Linear Green is amazing but honestly all of the ideas are wonderful. The space is incredibly underutilized and would make great public space.

Name: Joan Callahan
Location: Falls Church Virginia
Date: March 16, 2022

Total Gentrification. This is absolutely unacceptable. Martin Luther Kings Time Capsule lies here, not to be open until 2088! Let the HISTORY IN DC LIVE ON. Extremely disappointed in this decision. You cannot do this.

Name: jonah ginsburg
Location: potomac maryland
Date: March 16, 2022

This plaza is very special to me and my community. My kids spend time here appreciating their hobby, skateboarding and, this plaza represents the freedom and work of Martin Luther King Jr. Please save this plaza

Name: p
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 16, 2022

Don't change the plaza. It's a globally important skate spot. If you change it, it will just become another plaza.

Name: Eliot
Location: Miami, FL
Date: March 16, 2022

Please save Pulaski Park. It brings many, many skateboard tourists and they bring money that is spent in DC. If you get rid of Pulaski then that money will go away. Please don't get rid of it. You'll make more money this way. Thank you much.

Name: Maddie Hazlett
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 16, 2022

The current Freedom Plaza has been a haven for skateboarders in the DC area for years. It has given us an outlet to express ourselves and hang out with like minded people. This public space has created an area of inclusivity for anyone who shares the same passion for skateboarding.

The new initiative would destroy this amazing place that allows us to skate and exist in the city. The historical significance in our community and all of the incredible things that DC

skateboarding could bring would be lost without Freedom Plaza.

It's where we start and end our skate days. Some days we never even leave. It is used and loved and cherished by a large and diverse community right here in DC.

The idea of improvement should not include destroying a place that has so much to offer the citizens of DC. I believe that your ideas can be implemented without destroying Freedom Plaza.

Thanks.

Name: Monika Weisman

Location: Arlington, VA

Date: March 16, 2022

Strong vote for either of the carless options -- more green space and fewer cars would make this area so much more beautiful and (ironically) accessible for those of us who live and work here!

Name: Jovon vest

Location: Santa Ana California

Date: March 16, 2022

My name is Jovon. I've had many great times meeting people in Washington DC Freedom plaza. I started coming here when I was 15 years old. Skateboarding I heard it was MLK freedom plaza. I can't see skateboarding and the historical history of Mr Dr King. I don't want to see anything change to freedom plaza. The whole world knows 1980 renamed Freedom plaza 1988 is when it was build I have a Dream.

Name: Matthew Brennan

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 17, 2022

I don't even skate, but I love driving or walking by and seeing the current freedom plaza as a space where skaters congregate. I hope that history is honored and that space is provided in the new design.

Name: Grant

Location: Baltimore, MD

Date: March 17, 2022

Freedom plaza has a massive cultural impact on the surrounding community. Besides bringing

skaters of all walks of life, it has a history that no “new” public space could compare. Without it, many would be taking a massive loss. There are enough areas with this plan in mind already. Why break something that has lifted and empowered so many people, youths and adults alike.

Name: Joe Bartolotta

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Date: March 17, 2022

The current Pulaski Plaza is perfectly fine the way it is and should remain the same due to its cultural significance. It is a destination for many across the county and around the world.

Name: Michael Wine

Location: Los Angeles CA

Date: March 17, 2022

My name is Mike. I am born and raised in Washington D.C. I spent my childhood going to Freedom Plaza and the people and culture there have impacted my life profoundly and helped shape me to become the person I am today. None of the proposed ideas are the answer. Freedom Plaza is historic and cultural. I am all for fixing up the plaza, adding some trees in the planters, and fixing the fountain that’s been broken for 15 years. It would be devastating to destroy a unique, iconic and beautiful plaza that shows a map of the district from above. There is also a time capsule buried beneath as well. Stop destroying classic features of the city that make it unique.

Name: Kevin Britt

Location: Silver spring, MD

Date: March 17, 2022

Why would u destroy freedom plaza? Martin Luther King's time capsule is buried there. It is named freedom plaza after Dr. King. I grew up visiting freedom plaza. I have been a regular since 1998. Met all manner of people and seen all manner of protests. Many people feel like you guys are trying to be rid of the plaza to help silence the people. Not everything new is better especially in this case. Please rethink your decision you're gonna upset a lot of people especially with everything going on in the world. Why would you destroy a plaza named after Martin Luther King? How long before Black Lives Matter protesters are out in the 1000's? Just seems like poor taste in decision making.

Name: Colin Henderson

Location: Washington, District of Columbia

Date: March 17, 2022

I think it's imperative to think about the use of the space as it is now. There are many places that look exactly like what you all want to put here in the same exact area. As it is now, there is a cultural significance to the space that many wish not to impede or destroy. The skateboarding community deserves the one space that has been constant for them in Dc for Decades and that is Freedom Plaza. Please reconsider your plans and think about the community that already uses the space for good reasons.

Appreciate y'all's time - A very concerned resident of Washington DC

Name: Dan Mele

Location: Olney

Date: March 17, 2022

The thought of Freedom Plaza being redesigned is heartbreaking. It can't be understated for what this place means to the skateboarding community in Washington DC and throughout the world. You currently have a location that has been world-famous for decades, and has helped shape some of the greatest skateboarders of all time. Redesigning it and replacing it will eliminate the parks. most unique qualities and turn it into another run-of-the-mill park. Before making this decision, please consider the community that you would be destroying. If you need an example, research LOVE Park in Philadelphia. Freedom Plaza has literally saved many inner-city youths' lives, by giving them something to strive for and a community that supports them. Also, isn't there a time capsule that's not supposed to be opened until 2088?

Name: Daniel Baldwin

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 17, 2022

Please don't remove Freedom Plaza. Not only is it a near perfect activation site for the many events that Pennsylvania Ave hosts, but the park itself has become infamous for skaters in DC and draws nationwide attention in the skateboarding world.

Name: Joshua Blair

Location: Silver Spring, MD

Date: March 17, 2022

Save Freedom Plaza . Keep it the way it is. Freedom Plaza is a historical part of skateboarding culture, as well as a place for community gatherings of all kinds. It is a world renowned destination for skateboarders around the world. Open spaces like Freedom Plaza, that cultivate non-commercial, creative recreation of young people are already next to non-existent in the City. Do what you will with inefficient, underused car space on Pennsylvania Avenue, but Freedom Plaza is well used, and packed with people on most days. We don't need to change anything about that space.

Name: Natalie Schmitt
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 17, 2022

Thank you for taking the time to read our comments.

The most interesting of these proposals to me is the "Linear Green" concept, primarily due to the abundance of trees and the elimination of cars. HOWEVER, I think that the "Civic Stage" proposal will allow for the most flexibility in terms of the use of the space which, in this case, should be the highest priority. I believe that the "Civic Stage" proposal should be chosen, with elements of the "Linear Green" proposal incorporated to create a more wholistic space for DC residents and visitors.

I think concepts from "Linear Green" can be incorporated into "Civic Stage" - particularly the car-free aspect. Given that Pennsylvania Avenue is often used for demonstrations of various kinds and the fact that it's only used by a small minority of car users for travel, utilizing any space on the avenue for cars only furthers a car-centric (and thus inherently destructive) form of transportation and city planning.

I worry that, were the Linear Green option ultimately chosen, the demonstrations that so often take place on Pennsylvania Avenue would either be (1) constrained or (2) be damaging to the plant life that is included. Nevertheless, additional green space should be incorporated into the Civic Stage proposal, with an emphasis on utilizing more "green" construction materials for flat surfaces. Bicycle tracks should absolutely be included. Transit lanes for buses could also be considered, but these should be closed to cars.

Ultimately, I believe that a combination of the "Civic Stage" and "Linear Green" proposals will create a cohesive environment in which all visitors to Pennsylvania Avenue can enjoy their time.

Name: Jonas Feit
Location: Silver Spring, MD
Date: March 17, 2022

Freedom Plaza has a ton of cultural history and means so much to so many people. Please, if these comments mean anything to you, don't destroy the plaza.

Name: Hadley Chittum
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 17, 2022

While I love the idea of a car free space in DC, this entire plan for Pennsylvania Avenue is just

too over the top. Why does this revitalization have to be so expansive? Start it at 12th st! I suggest leaving out areas like Pershing Park and especially Freedom Plaza so not to erase the history of resistance and such an important and iconic cultural space for people all over the world. I don't believe it's ever a good idea in 2022 to revamp a space named in honor of MLK's vision, especially when that space has been the site of many large scale protests over the decades like the Occupy movement and the Women's March. Not to mention it's an iconic, globally recognized street skating location. The best part of Freedom Plaza is what it represents: a safe space for anyone in this world to express themselves and let their voice be heard. Freedom Plaza makes DC cool, especially in an area of the city that's so bland. Destroying it would be a huge mistake and would only benefit tourists who are most likely to use the space (and let's be real, that's not going to change even after your planned revitalization). Be on the right side of history that celebrates resistance, individualism, and culture and LEAVE FREEDOM PLAZA ALONE.

Name: Miles Wilson

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 17, 2022

This plan will ruin Freedom Plaza, a historical location and common place of protest. Messed up.

Name: Clayton Kosh

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 17, 2022

I am a new resident of Washington DC and wanted to provide my comment as someone that has limited exposure to the District living in the central region of the US a majority of my life. While growing up in Texas I have always known the key images of the iconic structures and buildings of Washington, DC. Some of these iconic are universally known throughout the world and one in particular is cherished globally among the growing and rooted sport/culture/lifestyle which is skateboarding. Freedom Plaza is a space that is known and loved world wide by the skateboarding culture as one of the few remaining plazas in the world still left that has embraced skateboarding and drawn so many professionals, teams, companies, and individual skateboarders from all over to experience doing what they love at this space. Please consider retaining this space and embracing the current layout and design of Freedom Plaza that honors Martin Luther King Jr. and brings some many people of all different races, ages, and backgrounds together in this community. I am all for creating the additional community and activity friendly space down Pennsylvania Avenue, but not at the expense of losing Freedom Plaza and the skateboarding world losing this cherished place. My wife and I live and work in the District and are happy to call the District our home. Thank you for your time in reading this.

Name: Nnamdi ihekwoaba

Location: Washington DC

Date: March 17, 2022

Saving this space will allow future generations to be able to reap the benefits of a historical landmark that promotes freedom of speech and expression.

The strength of unity in DC culture is something that is seen at freedom plaza. Freedom plaza has brought people from all over the world to Washington DC who might not have come otherwise. This space is a true represent of what MLK jr stood for. Freedom plaza is just as important as any other monument in Washington DC. Thank you for taking the time to read, best regards

Nnamdi

Name: Mason Padilla

Location: Washington D.C.

Date: March 17, 2022

Freedom Plaza has been a Mecca for culture and community in the Downtown Area for decades. People all around the world come to DC and stumble upon freedom plaza and get to see a very natural and authentic culture of downtown DC that isn't museums or grey government buildings. Skateboarding, dance classes, protests, to people who come to just eat their lunch and observe the plaza, all create a part of DC culture that can't be recreated somewhere else. There's so much history in the Marble at Freedom Plaza. Please consider leaving Freedom Plaza as it currently is. Thank you listening. -Mason

Name: Rashad Murray

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 17, 2022

I believe redesigning the area will take away from the historical background of Pennsylvania Avenue. Many people use this space to express themselves freely and engage in activities with their peers. Freedom Plaza brings individuals together from all over the world and it's current design is one of the main reasons people are so drawn to it. There are many parts of DC that are already being recreated and redesigned. It is important that the community focuses on maintaining its historical landmarks as opposed to destroying them and recreating a space that has no real meaning or value to DC residents.

Name: Kory Stuer

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 17, 2022

I would like to see the Pennsylvania Avenue redesign prioritize pedestrians and public transportation over car traffic, and for this reason I think the Urban Capital concept would miss the opportunity to re-envision the space and would undermine the idea of the avenue as a venue. There are elements to both the Linear Green and Civic Stage concepts that I enjoy, though I do think that overall the civic stage would best match the grandeur of the local architecture and would be most conducive to use as a venue. I also like the Civic Stage concept because of its design with regards to the changes to Freedom Plaza. As a DC resident, I and many others have gathered regularly at Freedom Plaza for vigils and other events oriented towards the Wilson Building. Although all three designs change the configuration of the plaza, the Civic Stage design best maintains a public space in front of the Wilson Building. I hope that the Commission is bold as it redesigns this space and goes with features from the Linear Green and Civic Stage options, rather than making minimal changes that wouldn't be very impactful with the Urban Capital concept.

Name: Sebastian Finch

Location: Washington, D.C

Date: March 17, 2022

The Linear Green model is by far my favourite.

It makes the area much more appealing by the green coverage and absence of non-public transport (no cars, only buses / bikes). This will also make it more attractive for cyclists and pedestrians.

The Civic Stage is my least favourite, simply due to the wide central promenade with no green coverage.

I look forward to following what will, in any case, be an improvement on the current situation.

Name: Berin Linfors

Location: Washington DC

Date: March 17, 2022

I like Linear Green. It keeps it a functioning street for wheeled traffic, but increases the pedestrian area.

Name: Lee-Or Bentovim

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 17, 2022

I would love to see my city, our capital, model a car free future. While all of these visions are beautiful and major improvements over the current reality, the linear green is the best option

for the next century.

Name: Gretchen Gailey

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date: March 17, 2022

I believe the Linear Green is the most attractive and it would be nice to have more outdoor space when the Mall is often taken over by kickball leagues and such.

Name: Brandon Fitzpatrick

Location: Arlington, VA

Date: March 17, 2022

Hello NCPC,

I think the Linear Green is the best idea for Pennsylvania avenue. It would be a beautiful addition the wonderful park system in the capital. As a bike commuter, having another mile of bike lanes without cars will help encourage more people to bike and keep those people safe. The pandemic has shown the need for outdoor spaces for people gather safely. There are also many benefits of having more green space in cities such as less crime (<https://www.motherjones.com/environment/2019/04/trees-crime-cincinnati-philadelphia-ida-b-wells-chicago/>), better mental health (<https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/ParksandHealth/fact-sheets/park-s-improved-mental-health-quality-life/#:~:text=More%20time%20spent%20in%20parks,of%20life%20for%20your%20community.>), and cleaner air (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0269749114003546>). I'm very excited to hear that you are looking to improve Pennsylvania avenue and I hope you choose the Linear Green concept.

Best,

Brandon Fitzpatrick

Name: Alexander Walch

Location: Washington DC

Date: March 17, 2022

I do not believe that freedom plaza should be destroyed, it might need some maintenance and adding some trees might be nice but I do not want the overall structure of the plaza to be altered at all. I believe that freedom plaza is a historical monument that should be kept the same and not be destroyed. A lot has happened at freedom plaza, it is the organizational site of a lot of protests and even contains a time capsule with Martin Luther King's belongings. Growing up in DC I always thought freedom plaza was a monument to celebrate the freedom

that citizens of the US should have and I thought it was a place for individuals to express themselves in whatever way they desire because their freedom and liberty allows them to do so. I always thought it was a protected monument like the others but apparently not. I honestly can't believe you are considering destroying a historic landmark that means so much to so many people. Within one day of finding out that the plaza might be destroyed thousands of people signed a petition to prevent the plazas destruction. There are a lot of locals (including myself) who do not want the plaza to be destroyed and I believe that you should take the locals input.

Name: Munk

Location: Baltimore, Maryland

Date: March 17, 2022

Freedom Plaza is a cultural hub for the skateboard community. People from all over the world travel to visit it explicitly for that reason. Please do not destroy it or change it.

Name: Tim Smith

Location: Baltimore, MD

Date: March 17, 2022

Getting rid of Freedom Plaza in Pulaski Park will essentially get rid of the only reason I ever venture to the nations capital. This park is a cultural hub, a place where both the young and old commingle and cultivate relationships. This park has so much skateboard history. On any given day you can see professional skateboarders enjoying and loving an iconic piece of history. I know of Europeans, South Americans, Australians, etc all traveling to DC only because Freedom Plaza is there. To destroy this place is to destroy history.

Name: Kimberly V.

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 17, 2022

Given Pennsylvania's proximity to the National Mall, it seems like a large green space is not necessarily needed. I like a merged concept between the Linear Green and Civic Stage: gracious pedestrian promenade with a dedicated transit way and dedicated cycle tracks. This allows for large events, marches, and festivals while also prioritizing multimodal transportation options.

I support that each concept maintains the two-way cycle track since this is such a well-used and important bicycling connection!

Name: Samuel Ressin

Location: Vienna, VA

Date: March 17, 2022

As a suburban resident who greatly enjoys visiting DC for its walkable amenities and attractions, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide comment on the vision for Pennsylvania Avenue. After reviewing the story maps and outlines of the three concepts, I am most supportive of the Linear Green plan because I believe it embraces what makes the nation's capital so great: its walkability and friendliness to pedestrians. On a street with so much potential for connecting residents and visitors from all corners of the world, I don't see why there should be any dedicated lanes for cars. As a result, I don't support the Urban Capital concept, which is my least favorite of the three. I want to be able to walk down Pennsylvania Avenue without worrying about moving out of the way of a car or getting hit by a car. I am especially supportive of the Linear Green's proposal to remove parking near the US Capitol to make the building more friendly to pedestrians and bicyclists. I would be more supportive of the Civic Stage concept if it did not have travel lanes for cars.

Name: Bill

Location: Washington DC

Date: March 17, 2022

Please leave Freedom Plaza the way it is

Name: Ronald Eichner

Location: DC

Date: March 17, 2022

Please see the attached file. My younger self managed the design of all three of your "Urban Rooms for Venues" so I am comfortable offering a couple of Cautionary Tales.

Thanks for your good work on this important project

Ron

[Attachment](#)

Name: Mikey Payne

Location: Washington DC

Date: March 17, 2022

I love this place so much

Name: William Pike
Location: Alexandria
Date: March 18, 2022

Please leave freedom plaza alone. Do not redevelop it. Do not tear it out. Do not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Freedom is a beautiful park the way it is, with massive historic significance to the DC area. Far too often, "redevelopment" projects come at the expense of the represented constituency who already use the space. Look at the beautiful treasure you already have, and listen to your constituency. I guarantee I am not the only one writing this. Freedom plaza is a wonderful park used by all forms of DC folks and out of towners alike. Please do not destroy it. Ignoring the voice of the common citizen and tearing out freedom to fulfill your planning portfolio agenda would be a slap in the face to the public who uses it. This space means so much to the DC area. Do not mess with Freedom. LEAVE FREEDOM ALONE.

-Will.

U.S. Army Medic: Currently deployed in Africa. Returning in several months, hopefully to a plan that encompasses Freedom as it lies.

Name: Rebecca Johns
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 18, 2022

I'm a strong proponent of the Linear Green concept because I think it brings a much needed heatsink, per se, in that it introduces more trees to the surrounding area, which could have notable cooling effects for the whole stretch, along with aligning to climate goals (discourage wasteful individual passenger transit), and greatly encouraging transit use.

Please prioritize transit and shade within the changes!

Name: Donald Clark
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 18, 2022

Keep 2 bike lanes! I and so many others use them.

Name: Molly S.
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 18, 2022

I would love to see something like the Linear Green concept. As a bike commuter, I love the idea of riding through a park, rather than down the center of a wide expanse of asphalt. It would also make the ride much safer, with cars only crossing rather than driving alongside the

bike lanes, and only when they have the green light to cross. And it would be beautiful for pedestrians, not too hot in the summer with trees for shade. It could really make that part of downtown DC a destination for shoppers, tourists, people going out to dinner, and more.

Name: Jude Hazzard

Location: Albany New York

Date: March 18, 2022

Please save Freedom Plaza!!! It is an important piece of skateboarding history!

Name: Jurian

Location: Honolulu, Hi

Date: March 18, 2022

I did my final studies of computer science in DC , working for an embassy , and there is something I notice was the importance of that plaza, beautiful, many historic things, please leave it just like it is! Is simple, is beautiful! Spend the money on something else, maybe something more important! Thank you!

Name: Alex

Location: Denver, CO

Date: March 18, 2022

I believe removing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Plaza would do more harm than good for the residents of D.C. and its surrounding areas. Having grown up in the area, it served as a meeting point for many of my close friends, and is incredibly important to many. In a city that is constantly evolving, it seems that less and less of the D.C. of old is still present. Obviously, change can very often a good thing (surely Martin Luther King Jr. also believed that), but keeping the history of a city and a beacon of its cultural identity is also very important. I hope NCPC will continue to push towards improving the district's urban space while respecting what makes the city truly unique.

Name: William Clne

Location: Washington DC, on Penn Ave

Date: March 18, 2022

I live at 801 Penn Ave. Whatever plan is chosen, Penn Ave should NOT be made car-free--local traffic is bad enough already without further congestion on side streets. Looks like Urban Cap is best, with Civic Stage #2 and Linear Green unacceptable. Linear Green, for most of the year, would probably be as dead at the poorly designed "park" that was in front of Martin Luter Library and then, several years ago, returned to a normal street.

Perfectly OK to close Penn Ave from time to time for special events--although there should be better noise control. 120+ db racket is common on music stages--definitely ear damaging levels.

Name: Jon Lester

Location: 801 Penn Ave NW

Date: March 19, 2022

Hello,

Thank you for undertaking this initiative. All the prototypes look great. My only comments are: all the residences (where quiet times is appreciated and needed for hybrid work from home) are on the north side of the Avenue. Has it been considered to place all the social areas on the south side to had a distance noise buffer? One of our residents is always challenging the BBQ Battle and any other festivals as there is nothing worse than a Saturday full of bands and people on the Avenue. Hotels will not want to come to the FBI and be in the middle of gridlock where there patrons cannot drive in and out. Your south side should be where all green space should reside leaving vehicle traffic to the north side and a natural barrier for businesses and residences. Hope this helps and good luck on your exciting initiative!

Name: Eleanor Robinson

Location: Arlington, VA

Date: March 19, 2022

The linear green concept is most appealing to me. I think maintaining the ability to get through Penn Ave by means other than foot is important, and claiming this space for exclusively low- or no-carbon means like transit and bikes is a perfect way to do that. Making the remaining area into lively green space (as in the linear green concept) is preferable to the paved openness of the civic stage concept. I think the urban capital concept is the least appealing and that roadways reserved for personal cars (at the expense of space for cyclists, public transit, or pedestrians) should be deprioritized.

Name: LN

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 19, 2022

My first pick is Linear Green, second Urban Capital, and last Civic Stage. The city has plenty of performance venues, but as this world worms, more green space will be needed, as will a significant reduction in vehicular traffic, so the first two options' focus on biking and public transit is much needed. How this space will be maintained is also important--it can't be a case of simply building it and then done, which sounds self-evident but often apparently isn't.

Name: Peter Cafiero
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 19, 2022

Generally I like all the options, and thought I'd have a strong opinion for or against one, but I don't, with a few exceptions:

-It is important to keep a good and safe bus transit option through this corridor as it is a key transit corridor in the District. I think that all three options do that, but of course the details will matter. It's not totally clear what happens to bus at the Market Square area of the Linear Green option

-I am not a fan of tunneling Constitution under PA in the Civic Stage option. I think that is unnecessary and creates dead space at the ramp points and really is not what we should be doing in a vibrant downtown area.

Name: Alex Hendel
Location: Washington DC
Date: March 19, 2022

I'm writing in support of the Linear Green or Civic Stage concepts. Each of these make Pennsylvania Ave what it should be: a central civic and pedestrian space, as opposed to another wide and uninviting street.

The location of the Avenue makes the Urban Capital concept the worst option. There are plenty of nearby roads that take cars from the vicinity of the White House to the area around the Capitol. This option is still too focused on cars, and does not account for the fully imaginative use of space that this area could become.

The Linear Green and Civic Stage concepts are much more aligned with the location of the space. The Linear Green alternative brings welcome shade and tree-focused park space to downtown, in an area that can strongly use it. The Civic Stage option emphasizes the history of this space, including its use for demonstrations and public gatherings.

Name: Ford Middendorf
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 19, 2022

While allocating more civic and green space in the urban terrain of DC is not inherently negative, I feel it is of utmost importance that we conserve and protect the spaces that foster community in DC. One of these spaces is Freedom Plaza which serves as a symbol for the ideals held by MLK, acts as a safe space of protest, and a monumental site for DC's skateboarding community. Instead of destroying the spaces that already successfully allow DC's community to gather, I would suggest that the NCPC uplifts these communities, creating spaces with their

needs in mind.

Name: Bernard Berne

Location: Arlington, VA

Date: March 20, 2022

I greatly prefer the linear green. Vegetated greenscape is much better for the environment and for people than is paved impermeable hardscape that increases stormwater run-off and is not biophilic.

The linear green should be filled with trees, shrubs and smaller plants that support pollinators. The green should not contain any mowed lawns, which are neither biophilic nor friendly to the environment. Lawns support little wildlife. The nearby National Mall, Ellipse and Lafayette Park have more than enough mowed grass than anybody reasonably needs.

The "Civic Stage" is by far the worst of the alternatives. There is no need for a yet another hardscaped "civic stage". Civic stages are already available nearby in Freedom Plaza and within the Ronald Reagan Building's circle.

The "Urban Capital" has too much pavement. It's not as bad as the "Civic Stage", but is not much better.

Name: Julie Rhoad

Location: Atlanta, GA

Date: March 20, 2022

This is fantastic- great work. All three approaches reduce stress on the National Mall and provide opportunities. My bias leans toward civic stage for reasons that link to the ongoing need to ease that pressure and "create" an opportunity for exploration and/or animating democracy, exploring culture(s) and providing new space for existing festivals, etc. However, the linear green concept also points to the "how" we must begin to think about our urban landscapes places that can heal our souls and our planet by providing/restoring green to our city spaces. I think that the sweet spot in this design will end up with elements of both. I'd love to see if/how you are thinking about any permanent "commemorative" installations and/or the narrative thread that any permanent installations would take. There is, I believe an opportunity to consider a story/truth telling opportunity here to consider. Any concerns I might have about either of these options, I believe you are already considering -- but happy to see the progress.

Name: Amy Hecker and Howard Decker

Location: Rochester

Date: March 20, 2022

The idea that Pennsylvania Avenue, one of our nation's most archetypal roadways and a true center of national life, could become a city route without cars and with lush greenery is a perfect hope, a high and perfect purpose. As the age of the car wanes at last, and as we question how cities can grow and flourish in their wake, the Linear Green concept offers us a glimpse of a better urban future.

Thank you.

Name: Cal Strzepek

Location: Tacoma Park, MD

Date: March 20, 2022

Freedom plaza has been utilized as a public space for events, political movements, and as the hub of east coast skateboarding since well before I was born. To tear down freedom plaza would destroy a space utilized to push public voices as well as destroying history in quite possibly the most important city in the world. Remember what happened to Love park in PA, the city rebuilt it and now no one visits. "Redoing" freedom plaza would be a waste of funding and a disservice to the many communities that have utilized the space for decades as well as disrespectful to the history that is contained within the plaza. For the sake of everyone involved, save Pulaski!!

Name: Ben Keith

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Date: March 20, 2022

Comments upon the Urban Rooms: At the Western End, Urban Capital creates a bad intersection with 15th Street which will require additional signage. Linear Green or Civic Stage are preferable. At the Market Square, the mid-block pedestrian crossing on a six-lane street seems fraught with risk in the Urban Capital design if not signalized. Linear Green or Civic Stage seem preferable, just because they reduce the number of lanes that must be crossed in one go. At the Eastern End, closing 4th Street makes sense, leaving Civic Stage and Linear Green as my preferences. A new tunnel as in the Civic Stage model will be more expensive, but will help to separate modes of traffic. At the Capitol Transition, Civic Stage again seems like the best option, preserving some parking while facilitating ceremonial processions.

In total, the expanded sidewalks of the Urban Capital design are strictly an improvement, but if you're going to pour this much effort into planning a change, why not do something revolutionary? The transitway of Linear Green facilitates ceremonial processions, while still reserving significant space for pedestrians and bicyclists. The Civic Stage concept maintains existing urban traffic while providing grade separation for bicycles and transit, and is probably the best option, all things considered.

In conclusion: Please make sure that the bike lanes are at least 10' wide, and ensure that there is excess bike parking all along the route. You're going to get commuters using these bike lanes; they'll need a place to lock up at work.

Name: Andrej Radoja

Location: Washington D.C.

Date: March 20, 2022

Save the cultural relic that is freedom plaza. Its potential destruction is not only a direct offense to Martin Luther King Jr.'s time capsule initiative but also to the cultural hub of D.C. skateboarding that attracts many tourists, worldwide, every year.

Name: Payson

Location: Portland, Oregon

Date: March 20, 2022

I grew up in Maryland and coming to DC to see freedom plaza was always the most exciting thing. It's truly a one of a kind place. People come to protest, there's all sorts of events, it's a culture hub, and people travel from all over the world to skateboard there. Many countries are embracing "skateable architecture" and recognizing it as art similar to music or dance. Doing this would make freedom plaza more safe and welcoming for everyone while saving tax dollars for more important issues.

Name: James Harnett

Location: Washington, D.C. (Foggy Bottom)

Date: March 20, 2022

I love the Linear Green proposal, especially the dedicated bus lanes! I take the 32/36 from Foggy Bottom to Capitol Hill each morning — this would be fantastic. Maintaining the view corridor, while limiting vehicle lanes, is also a huge step in the right direction. Linear Green seems to do that best.

Name: J. Ford Huffman

Location: Washington, D.C.

Date: March 20, 2022

Civic or Urban.

Either permits car traffic. (Really: Ya oughtta be able to drive on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Otherwise, how else does a driver cross town?)

No need for "Linear Green"; one National Mall suffices.

J.Ford Huffman
909 Hughes Mews NW, DC 20037
202 965 1202

Name: John Karnuth
Location: Chicago
Date: March 20, 2022

We need more pedestrian and bike friendly spaces that will inspire and serve as proof of concept for further future development opportunities as we address climate change and the need for livable communities

Name: Marlene Parker
Location: Washington
Date: March 21, 2022

Trying to manipulate people into coming downtown and spend money. How is the president suppose to get from the White House to the Capitol?

Name: Marina Myhre
Location: Washington, DC
Date: March 21, 2022

Thank you for all of the thoughtful ideas and planning. One thing that I think is missing from your plans is that there are a large number of residential units on Pennsylvania Ave. While I enjoy having activity downtown, I definitely do NOT enjoy all of the crowds, preparation, collateral noise, and garbage (and sometimes very rude people)that events bring. Those of us who live here, especially those that pay high real estate taxes or those who pay very high rents for the prime locations of our homes, and cannot sleep the nights that events are being set up or broken down, cannot enjoy our balconies and rooftops when there are loud concerts -- I am always happy when they happen down by Freedom Plaza or up closer to the Capitol where there truly are no residential units. There are 210 residential units on the top 4 floors of each of the Market Square buildings, and significant residential units on D St, NW and 7 and 8th St, NW, and at 601 Pennsylvania. PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THAT WE LIVE HERE, which was a main feature of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan's vision of the redevelopment of Pennsylvania Ave NW. Please make sure that any and all of your plans include an accurate and complete assessment of all of the impacted residents quality of life, (including the ability to leave the area by car and get deliveries and visitors).

Thank you,

Marina

Name: Hannah Town

Location: Alexandria, VA

Date: March 21, 2022

I'm so glad the NCPC is reevaluating how much space is given over to automobiles in and around the National Mall. I hope someday the downtown core of DC will be fully accessible by public transit and active transportation with no need for cars other than work vehicles, and I hope the Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative will be a bold step towards that vision. My preferred concept for Penn Ave is the Linear Green--not only would it return the most space currently reserved for automobiles to use by human beings, but the cooling effect of green space will make it more popular during our hot and humid summers than the other alternatives would be.

Name: Nathan Zencey

Location: Washington

Date: March 21, 2022

I am very pleased to see the Capital Planning Commission consider a transformation of Pennsylvania Avenue. Any of the concepts presented would be a significant improvement over the status quo, which dedicates entirely too much right of way to black asphalt and private vehicle travel.

However, of the three options presented, Linear Green is clearly superior. The other two have two major flaws:

"Urban Capital" would not attract as much public usage, because it is not pleasant to sit in the middle of two lanes of traffic. This would preserve too much private automobile throughput.

"Civic Stage" does not have enough shade and greenery in its public spaces. It would not be comfortable on a hot summer day, of which there are many in DC.

The Linear Green option is thus far superior. It would attract an enormous volume of foot traffic in all four seasons, and would help support/activate private business along the corridor. Any necessary transportation along this route could be accomplished by bicycle and public transit. As Pennsylvania Ave NW along this stretch is bounded by the Capitol Building and the White House, it is just not a major vehicle thoroughfare (or does not need to be).

The "Linear Green" option would transform Pennsylvania Ave NW into a world-class boulevard befitting DC's status as a world-class city.

Thank you.

Name: Christine Zencey
Location: Washington,DC
Date: March 21, 2022

Love the idea of a car free Pennsylvania Ave! The Linear Green is my favorite option. I already like the bike path there, and this would improve things even more. I don't think it's necessary for cars to drive on this road.

Name: Andrew DeFrank
Location: Washington DC
Date: March 21, 2022

I'm a lifelong Washingtonian. I grew up not far from Penn Ave SE. I use this part of Penn Ave NW to commute to work and visit my parents to this day. I also work in transportation planning. Imagining a Penn Ave that supports a vibrant, densely populated, and civic celebrating downtown is incredibly exciting. There are aspects of each of the three options that I think work best, and in tandem can achieve the goals of this project without sacrificing major components. Above all, the final plan MUST prioritize walking, transit, and biking while deprioritizing private cars AND encourage as much new residential and commercial density as possible.

On the overall concept -- Linear Green's removal of any space for private cars is very good. All three concepts should include this feature. Transit and bike lanes only. No private cars are needed on Penn Ave NW. The removal of private cars from the other two options, Civic Stage in particular, would help those options actually achieve their goals. If private cars are allowed, the center pedestrian space in Civic Stage will not be well utilized because people will not naturally want to visit the center of the street due to the safety and noise that separates them from it. New green space would be wonderful, but we should focus on making the Mall feel more like what "Linear Green" tries to do (weave thru linear park) instead of adding a second half-attempt to Penn Ave.

A perfect concept would combine the kiosk/vendor focus on Urban Capital, the transit-only focus on Linear Green, and the center-running grandeur of Civic Stage.

On the Western End - There must remain a relatively large area for skateboarding. To remove the only active, vibrant, and lively part of the current Penn Ave NW to make room for something new would be a grave mistake. NCPC must respect local Washingtonians and celebrate their ability to make something beautiful and useful out of very little (Freedom Plaza). That being said, it can be smaller than it currently is. Linear Green's emphasis on transit and walking is incredible. Combining this with Urban Capital's focus on the Wilson Building Plaza and entirely curbless elements is key.

On Market Square - I cannot see the Linear Green concept, but the description implies the continued restriction on private vehicles. Good. Keep it. Combine that with Civic Stage's massive midblock crossing (the most obvious decision I can think of, considering the way the Archives is built) and event space, and you'll support new residential and commercial development in all directions, especially up toward 8th Street.

On the Eastern End, the redevelopment of the Department of Labor and nearby office buildings into mixed use should be considered. And that consideration should lead NCPC to NOT include any new car tunneling. It's a terrible idea that would lock in autocentric transportation downtown for decades. Instead, Linear Green's closure of 4th Street and restoration of the grid are great ideas that should be carried out. Constitution Avenue should be road dieted in this area as part of any Penn Ave project. As we've seen with events like the Nats parade, Constitution Avenue can be a civic space too. But seriously, drop that tunnel idea. It would be a disaster.

on the US Capitol Transition - I like the inclusion of a building in the Civic Stage idea. But as there is zero place for car traffic to go here, there's no need for any parking. Combine the Linear Green's focus on walking and biking with Civic Stage's emphasis on ceremony and bringing more people to the space for things to do.

Overall, I think the vibes of Urban Capital and Linear Green are incredibly commendable, and if combined with some minor deference to Civic Stage, can achieve the goals of NCPC. Linear Green reminds me of Rothschild Street in Tel Aviv, a linear park that feels like a safe, calm, people-centric version of a highway for bikes and a park for people. Urban Capital rightfully recognizes Washington's status and aspiration as a major US city filled with lots of people who live, work, and visit here all at the same time in the same place, overlapping and sharing the city. It would be perfect if it deprioritized cars, which would actually help it get closer to being a true "Urban Capital" concept. Civic Stage does some useful things I want to crib for Urban Capital, but the overall vibe misses the mark.

If I was in the room, I would have tried to cobble together a fourth option - Green Urban Capital. A curbside car-free street with spacious sidewalks AND a central pedestrian promenade, with some linear park features, AND dedicated central transit, cycletracks, and no private car use.

Name: Max Greenberg

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 21, 2022

Please make this an all-pedestrian walkway. It would be the most glorious public Avenue in the country. If you can't, please decrease the number of lanes available to cars and install dedicated bus lanes. Please also add raised crosswalks - I feel so nervous crossing all the time.

Please also install curbs on the bike lanes - they're far too vulnerable now. Thank you for your great work protecting pedestrians!

Name: Phil Suttle

Location: 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, Apt 1101

Date: March 22, 2022

I love all these plans and look forward to the sprucing up ahead. It is badly needed. A few thoughts. Much of what is needed in the short-term is beyond NCPC control, but needs to be acknowledged:

1) The low occupancy rate at Federal buildings is a depression for downtown businesses, which have dropped by flies in increasing numbers through 2022 (i.e. through the recovery from COVID). Without this return, or the use of Federal property for alternative purposes, the downtown (including PA Ave) will continue to fall apart.

2) The FBI building is a major blight on the area and needs to be replaced with a new development. Depending on how this goes, this will make or break all other activity, in my view.

3) I love the combination of linear green and civic stage. The use of PA Ave as East-West route is limited from what I can see, but cars need to cross it at key intersections (i.e. 9th St).

4) The use of well-maintained grass and trees (rather than concrete as per Freedom Plaza, which is ugly and attracts only skateboarders (why not build them a dedicated park?) would be a major plus. One observation, however. Many apartment owners have dogs and take their dogs out to go to the "bathroom" on limited patches of land (such as the grass between 701 and 801 PA Ave). This means that the grass quickly deteriorates and becomes ugly bare mud. Care (and budget) thus needs to be given to both garden maintenance and (most importantly) the creation of dog parks (also well maintained) which give residents the option of not destroying "human" areas (banning dogs is neither viable nor a good option).

Name: Kristofer L Zimmerman

Location: Springfield, VA

Date: March 22, 2022

Great ideas! However, while I am all for removal of as much impervious surface as possible and implementation of alternative transit options, I am concerned that in a heavily traffic congested environment like this, I wonder if reducing the available normal traffic transit lanes is conducive to the holistic good for the local populace and commuting workers. Unless DC implements a Congestion Charging fee (ala London) to further reduce traffic in our nation's capital, I see these new concepts creating major congestion on the side and parallel streets

leading to increased disruption and a disheartened population.

What security concerns have been explored regarding the federal government executive branch and members of Congress who transit Pennsylvania Avenue? If they are forced to circumnavigate these new areas, can their security details ensure their security or will this require additional personnel and use of more assets that would increase costs to the American public?

As with every such project, many more stakeholders need to be consulted to better understand the impact a "great idea" can have. Thank you.

Name: Caron Whitaker

Location: Washington

Date: March 22, 2022

Linear green is my favorite, then urban capitol and civic stage last (but I like them all.

Name: Sally

Location: Richmond

Date: March 23, 2022

SAVE FREEDOM PLAZA

MLK time capsule is in it and also this is the place for skaters and people of MANY different walks of life to come together and enjoy the day. skating is a very positive thing especially for the youth and really helps a lot of people stay out of trouble AND prepare them for other future endeavors in life in many ways as well. This has been the spot for DECADES! It's ICONIC in skateboarding history. This is a POSITIVE thing. SAVE PULASKI SAVE 13TH AND E

Name: Guillaume Atanga

Location: Washington

Date: March 23, 2022

An idea that I have to innovate the Pennsylvania Avenue is creating a representation of culture along the avenue. We all know how cultural-mixed DC is, it will only be fit to have an avenue that tries to represent that culture. It will be like walking and seeing a different kind of cultural representation, like seeing some kind of statue or art street from a group of people then walking a couple of feet and seeing another one and so on. It will really be like seeing DC on a smaller scale.

Name: Miriam Gusevich

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 23, 2022

Civic Stage is the best solution. The central pedestrian promenade runs the length of the Avenue, flanked by bike and travel lanes.

(Except for the underground link, we have many of them, and they are all dreadful).

Urban Capital is not much of an improvement.

Linear Green introduces winding paths; these are out of character with the formal design.

The

Name: Joshua McCutcheon

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 23, 2022

I am fond of the Urban Capital and the Linear Green concepts. If so, I would mix and match those ideas. Also, an idea to maybe further develop the design could be to make the Avenue a physical learning environment, cultural wise; cultures domestically and/or internationally included. For example, from time to time include content that can visually represent all 50 states and what they're each known for and include it throughout the area, having a concept of unity included in the space. I'm also wondering how these concepts are taking into account how they will be designed with sustainability in mind. Thank you.

Name: Gabreleul Yacob

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 23, 2022

Good afternoon, the ArcGIS storymap is amazing and the Linnear Green is my favorite design concept. I Have two questions regarding this project.

1. Has there been dialogue with the WMATA about how theses proposed changes would affect the number of people taking public transportation, and if so, are there any changes they plan on making to accomodate more people? With the metro station Archives is at the Western End of the 1.2 mile stretch, Judiciary Square metro a few blocks north, and additional metro bus routes in the vicinity of Pennsylvania Ave, does the WMATA have the capacity to handle the amount of pedestrians in the peak of summer.

2. With Market Square and the eastern end having considerable spaces for large events, has there been any discussions on having temporary barricades that extend on Pennsylvania Ave beyond those plazas? And if so, which of the three concepts would be the easiest to transform into a temporary car-free zone?

Name: Kamille Dixon

Location: Washington

Date: March 23, 2022

Of the three design concepts, I like the Linear Green concept the best, because there is

potential to do so much more with it. At the beginning of the presentation, inclusivity was mentioned a few times, and with the two concepts of Linear Green and even the Urban Capital, there is an opportunity to include more. The United States is so diverse and the avenue could show this by placing cultural and social (like the LGBT flag or) pieces within the avenue and along the path. As well as including progress we've made throughout the years.

Name: Ruth

Location: DC

Date: March 24, 2022

All the designs are lovely, but whichever you choose or however you mix them. please retain Freedom Plaza as a place for mingling, eating, talking politics, and, especially, skateboarding. Let's not lose it!

Name: Zaira Suarez

Location: Alexandria

Date: March 24, 2022

I am a licensed D.C. architect and urban design and would like to start off by stating it is exciting to learn that the City is taking steps to improve streets and create a safer, more memorable spaces. This effort is overdue. There is so much potential for Pennsylvania Avenue that is currently not being taken advantage of, affecting economic development along the corridor as well as the quality of the experience of the many people who drive by, work, and visit these areas.

The three concepts are distinctive and a vast improvements over what exists. However, I disqualify the "Urban Capital" concept at it is too close to what is currently there and would do too insignificant a difference for pedestrians, businesses and street activation to quantify the commitment by the City for in economic terms, not to mention the disturbance by construction to everyday activities. This concept also reminds me of other capital cities and does not create a different, memorable experience for our capital city.

The "Linear Green" concept is very attractive. The thought of modern green areas that businesses can open to and people can enjoy is refreshing and would be a memorable experience. It is important to note Washington, D.C. driving and traffic is unfortunately a problem. Creating areas people can enjoy while being safe from unruly drivers and the noise of traffic is very appealing. However, from the standpoint of businesses, workers, and commuters, closing off or reducing some avenues for traffic flow will create anxiety. The "Civic Stage" concept looks like the middle ground in many aspects, it creates areas for activity and does not seem to impact traffic as much. Its big flaw is assuming people would want to cross traffic and lounge between busy travel lanes. This simple does not seem to be the best way to activate the Avenue during normal days. Instead, it may create a vast emptiness all the way to the capitol.

The safety of pedestrians would be a concern. Heat island effect would also be something to consider. How comfortable will people be lounging and having lunch outside, and where will they purchase food, or any items to enjoy there? Businesses will not be able to open their doors directly to the users, instead they will be separated by busy car travel lanes with speeding vehicles.

The "Linear Green" concept will potentially encourage more commercial uses along the corridors, attracting pedestrians to sit outside. However, will these parks be illuminated and safe at nighttime; will these areas be safe for users at any time of day? This may require further investment to make sure all areas are well lit, have proper safety measures via technology or people, and remain well kept. D.C., as many cities do, has seen an increase in homelessness. Will benches become a good location for people to rest or sleep and is throwing people down on their luck out the right thing to do? These concerns apply to the "Civic Stage" concept, but possibly not as much as with the "Linear Green."

After careful consideration of the activity nodes and the three concepts, it looks like an amalgam of the "Linear Green" and the "Civic Stage" designs would provide the best solutions. Looking at each "Urban Room" separately, the "West End" and "Market Square" nodes are better served by the "Civic Stage" concept and the "Eastern End" and "Capitol ends" by the "Linear Green" concept. Reducing vehicle traffic and allowing pedestrians to take over areas closer to the Capitol surrounded by greenery is the best solution. Creating plazas and safe crossings for pedestrians with shaded areas along western nodes is a more sensible use of those spaces and intersections.

Name: Theresa Power del Ninno, AIA

Location: Alexandria

Date: March 24, 2022

The linear green seems to provide the most pedestrian space. Is it possible to offset or develop a serpentine vehicle space instead of right down the center, to emphasize the pedestrian and green space? Not too unlike the photo on this site -

Name: Judy Kay Floy (ANC 1B06)

Location: Washington DC

Date: March 24, 2022

Linear Green please

I love the idea of a pedestrian mall that is car free. Leaving space for transit and bikes makes this the clear winner!

Name: Evan Weisman
Location: Bethesda, MD
Date: March 24, 2022

Assuming the width would be similar, I like the linear green concept as it works well in Boston along the Rose Kennedy Greenway - <https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/>

It also makes it easier to cross the street since it's only one way on either side of the greenway, vs. having car and bike and transit travel lanes all in the middle.

Name: Sokol Aliaj
Location: Arlington
Date: March 24, 2022

It seems like the Linear Green is the most optimal design concept even though I would have preferred a few design changes if the budget allows for it. The first would be to relocate the car travel lanes from the proposed above ground location to underground by constructing tunnel structures. The parking as well could be located underground. This would eliminate pedestrian crosswalks, signals, and pedestrian safety barriers. Second, the extra space which would be gained by relocating vehicular traffic and parking to underground could be used for kid's playground, skate park, fitness area, volleyball court, etc. To increase the foot traffic and attract more people besides tourists and office workers after the standard working hours, cafes, and small bars/restaurants would be considered necessary rather than just kiosks.

Name: Kleio Agali
Location: Washington DC
Date: March 24, 2022

No one concept is the best solution for each of the four urban rooms (Western End, Market Square, Eastern End, and U.S. Capitol Transition) or the stroll vision of the streets.

For the roadway concepts and the stroll I think the Linear Green is the strongest concept. The more shade and green space downtown the better for residents and tourists alike. The Mall is currently the only viable green space downtown, where tourists from round the country stay in hotels and visit the monuments and museums. Yet the Mall still does not have enough shade in the summer, and it gets boiling hot when people visit for the summer. Any way to get more green space and shade on the routes that tourists and regular people walk or bike in the city would be a good idea. I also like that Linear Green has less car lanes than the current road. Limiting the center/cross town lanes to buses will be safer for pedestrians and bikers. Even with Uber and lyft, most of the people that visit DC get around on foot and stay close to the

downtown. A safe, and clear path between sights is important.

For the urban rooms there are various highlights. For West End, I like that Urban Capital restores the historical alignment of Penn Ave, but I think there is a strong case to be made for Linear Green and Civic Stage's plan of keeping the Freedom Plaza space for pedestrians. There are so many people walking around the White House area that the sidewalks on 15th street often overflow and have people walking on the street. The park space will attract the tourists to walk down Penn Ave and the residents, who don't drive down to this area anyway will be unbothered by less lanes.

The Market Square area desperately needs redevelopment. There is no concept for Linear Green in the story map for Market Square, which needs to be corrected. I prefer the Civic Stage concept for this urban room, as it better addresses the spatial relationship between the National Archives and the the Navy Memorial. Eighth Street is poorly connected to both the front of the Portrait Gallery and the Navy Memorial/Archives and the Civic Stage concept looks to fix that.

For the East End, I like that all three concepts will reconnect Judiciary Square and John Marshall Park with Penn Ave. Even though this mini park system is in perfect view of the roof deck for the National Gallery East, few people engage with it or notice the Meade statue. There is little sense that the Building Museum and the Judiciary Square complex are even connected to the eastern Mall and National Gallery corner. The best choice for this urban room would be the Civic Stage concept. The idea of cars going under Constitution Ave is genius. As DC has excellent weather most of the year, it is always a better idea to have more outdoor space for events, people, and permeant exhibits. I also like that Fourth St between the East and West National Gallery building is closed off to cars, it does not make sense that way it is now. Tourists come out surprised by the road in between the museums.

For the Capitol Transition, while I like that all concepts got rid of the unnecessary angled parking (which makes the area around the reflecting pool look like a mall parking lot, especially when the pool is empty), the Civic Stage is best again, as the ceremonial entrance to the Capitol grounds and the welcome building is well needed in this section. If there is to be a long promenade from the White House to the Capitol there needs to be bathrooms and information about where people have come to. The grounds of the Capitol are a crucial part of the Capitol/Mall complex and hold a special place in the hearts and mind of residents who rely on the green space and visitors who understand the grandeur of the Capitol build only because of the perfect frame of the surrounding grounds. For Urban Capital, there is simply too many lanes going to the Capitol. there is nowhere for these cars to go or come. This is not a well travelled area for cars, and there should be a serious reduction in lanes and parking spaces, simply because they are not used 99% of the time in this area.

Name: Garrett Doyle

Location: DC & NY

Date: March 25, 2022

Freedom Plaza is a cultural and historical landmark in American history. Removing it you are removing something that has brought Washingtonians and world citizens together for endless years.

Name: Gavin Hilgemeier

Location: Arlington, CA

Date: March 30, 2022

Urban capital on the area west of Market square. East of Market Square, civic stage makes the most sense to me.

Name: Martin Murray

Location: Washington

Date: March 30, 2022

I like the Civic Stage best. It seems to accommodate the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists public transit and private transit without penalizing any one user group.

Name: Ana Karimi

Location: Washington

Date: March 31, 2022

I strongly prefer the linear green plan, especially if it can incorporate awesome bus & bike transit options.

Name: Brian Cipperly

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 31, 2022

I work on this section of Pennsylvania Avenue NW, bike on it for commuting, and walk sections of it recreationally almost every day at lunch. I totally agree with "right-sizing" the road and eliminating vehicle lanes and the Capitol parking lot, but believe that a more major overhaul of the road would be a waste of time and money. Most of the proposed uses are already possible when the road is shut down to traffic for specific events, and the fact that it is a "blank slate" is more of an asset than a hindrance.

This street will never be activated the same way the Mall is, and that's OK. The Mall is a large open area with grand views, large gathering spaces and places to set up speakers/screens, and no residential neighbors to bother with sound and crowds. The Mall is also more convenient to the Smithsonian museums, which are responsible for a lot of the programming that occurs there. Pennsylvania Avenue is more suitable for mobile demonstrations, parades, etc., taking

the symbolic route from the White House to the Capitol, a function that would be hindered by some of the proposed design changes (imagine trying to weave a huge banner or puppet through a slalom of trees and benches). There are very few restaurants and other private businesses on this street to use the sidewalk when it is not being used for events; it is still a place that most tourists would cross to get to more restaurant-dense areas such as Penn Quarter rather than linger on with few public destinations to speak of. In any design, I think it is important to maintain a safe place in the middle of the street for people to take pictures with the Capitol in the background; currently people use the bike lanes/pedestrian islands for this, and I think it's a valuable part of the experience. For this reason I like the "Civic Stage" proposal the most, but do not support closing any blocks permanently to vehicle traffic or re-doing Freedom Plaza, which I discuss more below.

One item I did not see specifically addressed in these proposals is the need for more public restrooms along this entire route. Much of the street frontage along this corridor is either government buildings open only to employees; museums that require a ticket, magnetometer scan, or a wait in line; or private businesses with facilities only for customers/employees. Even when there are not large-scale events, there is more demand for public restrooms than is currently being served, leading to people relieving themselves in the bushes by federal buildings or the Metro.

I also oppose completely redesigning and splitting Freedom Plaza. This proposal seems to serve little purpose other than "restoring" a "historic" roadway, when the current configuration seems to be working. Having one contiguous park is better than two separate ones with a road down the middle, especially when the adjacent buildings aren't really open to the public, and there is already a plaza to the South that doesn't get much use. Freedom Plaza has also become a landmark for the skateboarding community, and although I'm not a skater I appreciate the history and adaptive reuse of the space. I would definitely support some improvements and revisions to the existing park, such as adding restrooms, seating, and tree cover, and removing the defunct fountains. ADA/bike/stroller accessibility could also be improved.

If any area roadways could use some improvement to make them more inviting and activate adjacent spaces, Independence Avenue would be a better use of resources. The area South of the Mall is one of the fastest-growing in DC, with the Wharf constantly adding retail and residential, the Eisenhower Memorial recently opening, and the Spy Museum relocating to L'Enfant Plaza a few years ago. Even removing one lane and adding a pedestrian median with trees would improve it immensely. L'Enfant Plaza itself, stretching from the Smithsonian Castle to Banneker Park, is a cautionary tale when looking at these design plans--it closely resembles the "Civic Stage" proposed here but is a dull, empty space virtually 24/7 due to a lack of other attractions or scheduled events along it.

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Name: James Lee

Location: Riverdale Park, MD

Date: March 31, 2022

I support improvements to Pennsylvania Ave but oppose changes to Freedom Plaza. I am an avid roller skater and skate twice a week with the Washington Area Roadskaters always starting at Freedom Plaza. The plaza has been a great place to practice roller skating in an otherwise hostile city, and skate parks are not a substitute for its large, smooth, open space. We skaters have used the space to protest the lack of roller skating venues in DC, and the closest indoor rink in Temple Hills, MD, is closing in April, making this space more important than ever.

Freedom Plaza is already the organic, community melting pot that commissioners are claiming to want to build. It routinely hosts more patrons than other parks of its size. Every other park in the city, including the two others proposed in the Pennsylvania Ave improvements, are for non-skaters. It would be a shame to take away or change this one park where a vibrant subculture thrives. Skating at Freedom Plaza is as much a part of DC as go-go and half-smokes, and it must be maintained.

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Name: Abigail Reid

Location: NE DC

Date: March 31, 2022

More funding should be put into fixing the actual streets in DC, specifically around the nations caption and national mall. Is not the National mall [field space], tidal basin, and Warf enough entertainment and event friendly venues? This change has some nice blue prints but continues to effect and displace native artists and extreme sport enthusiasts.

Name: Adam

Location: Silver Spring

Date: March 31, 2022

I agree that shade is needed. Please keep the map of the city! Such a cool feature. Also, maybe a skate park can be built somewhere nearby? But the skateboarding here destroys the marble and doesn't mix well with pedestrians using the plaza; I'm always afraid someone is going to get hurt. I'm sympathetic to the need for more spaces for sport and recreation, but they should be dedicated spaces for safety.

Name: Jenny Thomas
Location: Washington
Date: March 31, 2022

Dear NCPC,

Thank you for your tremendous effort in beautifying the District and creating community spaces.

As you create a "new vision for Pennsylvania Avenue", it is of utmost importance that you preserve the existing community and cultural spaces. Much of Freedom Plaza has become an important space over the last few decades for the skate culture of DC. It has become a destination for skateboarders and a refuge for so many who otherwise have none. Do not forsake one culture for another.

Additionally, I hope Freedom Plaza remains an important public square for free speech, as it was during the Black Lives Matter and countless other protests.

Thank you.

Jenny Thomas
500 M St NW
Washington, DC

Name: Gwen Cofield
Location: Washington
Date: March 31, 2022

I gravitate toward the Linear Green because it seems to be more of a park like setting in an area full of buildings, and is more unstructured than the rows of trees in the urban capital version I like the idea of the two way cycle track abutting the park, as long as pedestrians are not obstructed in walking due to bicycle traffic. I like the idea in the other part of the presentation about dedicated public space areas that can be activated for events (musical performances, etc.) To the extent there is concern about the impact of skateboarding, I suggest creating a small skateboard "park" somewhere along the route where they can congregate.

Name: Donovan Stubbs
Location: Arlington, VA
Date: March 31, 2022

Freedom Plaza as it is means so much to me and everyone who frequents the location. From learning it was dedicated to Dr. King via a friend in high school, to having some of my best

memories, and witnessing different communities stand and come together there to make their voices heard, makes Freedom Plaza more than a Mecca of skateboarding. Those events that have taken place there throughout history makes that a cultural landmark for justice and democracy. It is a symbol of hope. Changing it, in my eyes, looks more like destroying history than giving Pennsylvania Avenue a "face lift."

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Name: MOSHE NELSON

Location: SILVER SPRING

Date: March 31, 2022

I believe this is a much needed and important update for a mostly underused part of the city. However, an effort should be taken to protect Freedom Plaza and incorporate its inherent historical use as a world renowned skateboarding location. Freedom Plaza has inspired generations of skateboarders and offered a refuge where the expression of the Olympically recognized sport can be done safely and effectively. The current use of Freedom Plaza by skateboarders illustrates the best of what the United States of America has to offer. Individuals from every race, religion and gender come together freely to partake in an American past time which offers an equal place for all. Protect this ethos of Freedom Plaza as you consider its revitalization please.

Name: Donovan Stubbs

Location: Arlington,VA

Date: March 31, 2022

Freedom Plaza is a symbol of hope. From it being dedicated to Dr. King, to being a place that hold precious memories for many, and finally being a place of congregation for movements citizens care about and want to spotlight, Freedom Plaza is much more that a "waste of space." Freedom Plaza is a cultural landmark dealing with fights for equality. Remodeling Freedom, in my eyes, seems more like destroying history instead giving Pennsylvania Avenue a "face lift."

Name: edward rodrigue (pete)

Location:

Date: March 31, 2022

[Direct email comment - Sat 3/12/22]

Hi there,

Writing as (1) a car-free DC resident and (2) someone who works off of Pennsylvania Avenue to say that I really really hope y'all go with the "linear green" or "civic stage" ideas for the Pennsylvania Avenue redesign! I especially liked the idea of turning much of PA Ave into park space, as in "linear green." I have been hit by drivers multiple times in DC in the last 8 years and am extremely tired of how car-centric most of DC is. I don't blame drivers--this is a problem of urban design and lack of dedicated bike- & pedestrian-only space. It is frustrating and embarrassing that while European cities are creating superblocks and closing streets to cars, DC seems stuck thinking so mind-blowingly small (e.g. distributing yard signs beseeching drivers not to kill children). This PA Ave redesign seems like it would be a big step towards creating more pedestrian, bike, & transit friendly commuting space, and it was super exciting to see a positive vision for how to make a big section of the city more livable! Hope y'all go with "linear green" or "civic stage." Thanks for reading my comment!

Sincerely,

Pete Rodrigue

Name: Andrew Pribulka

Location: NA

Date: March 31, 2022

[Direct email comment - Mon 3/14/22]

Good afternoon,

I would like to provide feedback on the Penn Ave vision and concept plan. The website references a comment period – has that begun? If so, is there an online feedback form or something along those lines?

Thanks for your help,

Andrew

Name: Rashad Murray

Location: NA

Date: March 31, 2022

[Direct email comment - Fri 3/18/22]

Hello, I would like to register to speak at the next public Zoom regarding the new Pennsylvania Avenue project.

Thank you

Name: Donald M. Clark

Location: DC

Date: March 31, 2022

[Direct email comment - Wed 3/16/22]

I went through the very informative links, but could not find the citizen input mechanism.

My thought is, as a daily bike commuter and long-time resident, do not take away the large bike paths: they're needed. Too, the sidewalks now are plenty adequate, and I've seen large movements of people during protests, etc.

More Green space, gathering space is fine/desirable. A few more eatery options but not low-grade/visually distracting ones- this is an iconic view! Take away the cars, perhaps.

Donald M. Clark
2000 F St.

Sent from my iPhone

Name: Susan Scott

Location: Fredericksburg, VA

Date: March 31, 2022

I like aspects of all three. It could be a major attraction for all ages. Take a look at the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston to see a very successful, interactive space, providing an urban oasis for all ages!

Name: Christopher Mark Labas

Location: Washington

Date: March 31, 2022

The avenue itself is fine. Changing it is not going to bring people down there. What needs to change is removal of the FBI building to another location and remap the amputated part of D Street. Then, in the FBI's vacated space, creat a mixed use development with open spaces, and restaurants etc. similar to Market Square and the Navy Memorial. And please do someting about Freedom Plaza. Make it more welcoming and have the skaters move to a new skate park.

Name: Abby W.

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 31, 2022

Each plan's proposal for Freedom Plaza and Pershing Park should include usable space for skateboarders. Freedom Plaza has been a gathering spot for skaters for decades - their history and use of the space should be respected.

Name: Janet Beck

Location: Winchester, VA

Date: March 31, 2022

DC Capitol Planning Commission:

Chattanooga TN has a "Nightfall Chattanooga" concert series every summer in a square pit for stage and audience, with trees and shrubs, and an upper level around the square, of 3 ft. high brick walls for folks to sit on in order to listen, and fountains behind flowers and shrubs that lend the cool water to the breezes, when it's too hot out for concert goers. Freedom Square should reflect our freedom as an Oasis! I am an Avid Gardener want to see trees, shrubs, flowering plants in my Capitol. Look at the success your Cherry Trees are! I wrote articles for Fine Gardening and did photography for them in the past.

P.S. If you could duplicate the gardens that used to be at the back of First Mason's Temple, that would be lovely. I never got to see them when I was young in 1963. My father said they were a sight to behold!

I'm from generations of German, Czech, Croatian, Dutch gardeners...

JBeck

Name: Abby

Location: Washington, DC

Date: March 31, 2022

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Name: Jon Meade
Location: NA
Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/16/22]

How do i comment on the project and the status of freedom plaza

Name: Reese Baldwin
Location: NA
Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/21/22]

Dear NCPC,

I would like to un-register for this meeting. I want to attend the commission meeting that relates to the Pennsylvania Avenue project, which this one does not. Please tell me how to register for that meeting, so I can speak at it, and submit a written statement. Thank you,

From,
Reese Baldwin

Name: John Fondersmith
Location: NA
Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/22/22]

Dear Elizabeth,

Hope you are doing OK. I am sure you are glad to get the "New Vision for Pennsylvania Avenue" underway.

However, there seems to be a problem.

When I attempt to look at or print out the "Vision" there is overlapping of pages. I hope you can have this problem corrected as soon as possible.

I am coordinating the review of the "New Vision" for the Committee of 100 on the Federal City. However, before I contact the various Subcommittee Chairs, and ask them to start their Subcommittee reviews, I want to be sure the problem is fixed.

I look forward to reading and looking at this information for the "New Vision for Pennsylvania Avenue". Please let me know when the problem is fixed.

John

John Fondersmith

Name: Tsiky Raharinaivo

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

Hello,

I was looking at the upcoming meetings, and it seems that there are no link to register for the zoom call. How can we make sure that we can attend the meetings?

Thanks,

Tsiky

Name: Tsiky Raharinaivo

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/22/22]

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Thanks,

Tsiky

Name: Meghan Hottel-Cox (Goulston & Storrs)

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/24/22]

Good morning!

I am an attorney at Goulston & Storrs and the practice group I am with represents some private property owners who have buildings along Pennsylvania Avenue. We really appreciate the information and the public meetings that are coming up. Would it be possible to have a direct contact with someone at NCPC who is working on this and to potentially meet with NCPC regarding the Plan and specific areas that could potentially impact client properties? Is that something you all are open to at this time? Any information or opportunity to connect on this would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks!

Meghan Hottel-Cox, Goulston & Storrs
mhottel-cox@goulstonstorrs.com
(202) 721-1138

Name: Maen Hammad

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/14/22]

My name is Maen Hammad, I am a DC resident who is deeply concerned with the decision to uproot Freedom Plaza to develop a park.

Freedom Plaza is a cultural nexus and community space for hundreds of skaters in the DC area. The plaza currently serves as a safe space and community space for skaters and non-skaters alike. For decades the plaza has encouraged young residents, and mostly black and brown residents, to share a tiny piece of public space to meet up, skate, build a community, and sustain their community's development.

The fact that the very minimal public space that black and brown residents can nurture is currently being slotted for uprooting is deeply problematic. One does not need to be a rocket scientist to see the deeply racist and biased lens to forcibly remove a cherished cultural heritage site for residents in DC to be replaced with a park, which by no means offers any sort of nuance compared to the hundreds of other parks and green zones in DC.

I am a human rights campaigner for Amnesty International and I am extremely worried that plans to move forward with the Freedom Plaza uprooting would have devastating consequences to residents of your community. I hope the DC council can zoom out a bit and connect the dots on this plan and see how problematic it is and how even in a matter of days

hundreds of comments were left on the plans posts online to highlight the disapproval by residents of DC.

DC does not need more gentrification, it needs policy makers and city planners with compassion and eyes and ears to hear the voice of those constituents it is mandated to work for.

Let me know if you have any questions and please feel free to reach out to hear from more skaters and residents like myself.

Name: Neal M Wood

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

Dear NCPC Member,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read through this note. With the recent news about upcoming changes to Freedom Plaza, I wanted to share some anecdotes to illustrate the importance of this public space and how integral it is to the personality of Washington DC. With design changes threatening the future use of this public space, I and many other skateboarders in the community want to make sure our voices are heard so that Freedom Plaza can continue to be enjoyed by the many who spend time there.

Freedom Plaza, or Pulaski Park, is and has been fertile ground for Washington DC skateboarding since its inception. Any day of the week, and especially on weekends, people come from all over to enjoy this landmark. Some of the most well-known regulars wake up early each Saturday in Richmond, Virginia and make the two-hour trip to spend the day on their boards. Professional teams on tour throughout the country stop specifically in Washington DC to get a feel of the marble that makes up the plaza infrastructure. Parents bring their children learning to skate and videotape them as they learn to navigate the tiles, stairs, and ledges.

Freedom Plaza has also been a gathering place for other community events. In the warmer months, Wednesday evening dance classes take place near the fountains adjacent to 14th Street. During the twilight hours over the summer, cinema fans enjoy films shown up top with a white screen positioned in front of the statue of General Pulaski. Community and national gatherings congregate 13th St and E St NW to share thoughts and information on social, economic, and political issues. It is not uncommon to see a collage of yoga mats near the stairs across from the mayor's office next to a group of teenagers playing S.K.A.T.E. (the skateboarding equivalent of H.O.R.S.E.), the groups being mindful and respectful of each other's space. This collection of different types of people opens doors for those who come to

Freedom Plaza and helps to bring communities together.

With all this in mind, I worry that the absence of Freedom Plaza as it stands today will have a severe negative impact to the Washington DC area, especially for residents, citizens, artists, and small businesses within a half mile radius of the plaza that rely on skateboarders and attendees for their customer base.

Please consider alternatives to redesigning Freedom Plaza. There are many points of pride within the district boundaries and Pulaski Park is that beacon of inspiration to many that live here.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this note. I hope that some of the information in here resonates with you and the rest of the members as decisions are made surrounding the future of Freedom Plaza.

Respectfully,
Neal M Wood

Name: Matty Hilzenrath

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

Dear Mrs Schuyler,

I urge you and your entire team to reconsider the current plan for renovating Freedom Plaza. For decades skateboarders have called this place home. It is the heart and soul of the DC skateboarding community as well as one of the most important landmarks and destinations in the world for all skateboarders alike. I urge you to look at the results of what has happened to Philadelphia's love park as well as the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Freedom plaza holds more cultural significance than any other park along Pennsylvania Avenue ever could and is Irreplaceable.

Name: Ed Pulaski

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

Do not touch Freedom Plaza. Nobody wants another attempt of making the city feel more "welcoming" by taking away a place that holds so much history and means so much to an entire local and global community. Do some research before you guys take any sort of action that will affect many.

Name: Hannah Ziegler

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/12/22]

Hello!

My name is Hannah Ziegler and I am a reporter for The Diamondback at the University of Maryland. Our paper is working on a special edition right now about all things biking, scooting and skating around the DMV. In this issue, I am covering the push among thousands of skateboarders to preserve Freedom Plaza after it was announced the NCPC would eliminate and replace it.

I would love to interview someone connected to this NCPC initiative to learn more about the plan for Freedom Plaza and reactions to the pushback that the plan has received from skaters around D.C.

I am available all day this Monday, Wednesday or Friday for a phone or Zoom interview. I am also available Tuesday from 2:15-5 pm. Please just let me know if there is a person I can speak to from NCPC about the future of Freedom Plaza. I'm looking forward to understanding more about this plan.

Best,

Hannah Ziegler (she/her/hers)

University of Maryland Class of 2024

Journalism and Information Sciences Dual Degree Candidate The Diamondback State Politics

Reporter WMUC News Weekly Roundup Producer GCSA Director of Global Ambassadors

Email: hziegler@terpmail.umd.edu

Cell: (248)-709-8904

Name: Mike Smith

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

I understand you probably have lots of self confidence from that bougie ass harvard degree but getting rid of plaza is sticking your hands where they don't belong. You clearly have little to no understanding of how spaces in DC are used and would rather appease your yuppie friends and supporters than help people who are actually from the city...The language you and your

commission buddies use in the original tweet that mentions Freedom Plaza's demonstrates to me even further than you have no real interest in helping the people of DC. You use 'comfort' as a reason for why Freedom should be changed - If we're focusing on comfort how about you get rid of any and all anti-homeless architecture in the city...how about you repave roads in neighborhoods and not just downtown...how about you actually support public transportation instead of passing it off to a privately owned corp. Its fucking tiring having officials who do NOTHING to help or support people of DC and yet still have power to take away things like the plaza, which, assuming you are completely oblivious to what happens there, is a internationally recognized bastion of skateboarding on the east coast. They already took love park, don't make that mistake again.

Name: Robin S Kent
Location: Great Falls
Date: April 1, 2022

I'm sorry, but this is a really bad trio of concepts. From a traditionalist point of view, all three essentially trash the L'Enfant concept of broad avenues with long vistas of the city. All three eliminate the power conferred by the Avenue upon ceremonial processions, parades and, most importantly, political protest marches. The last thing this part of the city needs is more space for manufactured events, which tend to bring noise, clutter, and commercialism. And it smacks of arrogant inequity by the fact that Freedom Plaza is removed without any concern for the fact that it has become a mecca for the skateboarding community. This latter is not an idle accusation. I listened to the radio report when one of the spokeswoman for the planners dismissed the plaza as a spot that "isn't being used by anyone." It's obvious she had no idea of the significance of the Plaza to that group of people. I am not a skateboarder, never have been, don't know anyone who is. But I've seen them out there as I walk the city photographing the architecture.

If you must do something, eliminate passenger cars from the Avenue, retain the long views to the Capitol, maybe add some trees along the sidewalks, and leave Freedom Plaza as it is.

In other words, fire the consultants who came up with these ideas and start over.

Name: Joshua Carr
Location: NA
Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/14/22]

Thank you for your voice message Stephen

This is Josh, 207 266 5455,

If you are able to, please reply to this e-mail [jmcreations93@gmail.com] with the "link" related to the public comment period starting March 16 2022.

Thanks!

Name: Nick Mobbille

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

Do not change anything at freedom plaza!! Everyday you guys take away something Dc natives once loved. You have no idea what freedom plaza means to us.

Name: Ari Kurtz

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

Freedom plaza has served as a haven for skateboarders for longer than you know and this Mecca cannot be taken from the community.

Name: Nick Gerasimchuk

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

To whom this may concern, my name is Nick Gerasimchuk i'm from Springfield Missouri and i'm emailing you regarding the city of DC's plan to destroy and remodel Freedom Plaza. I along with many others know that it's a terrible idea because it has served as a skateboarding Mecca for over 3 decades. Many people including myself travel across the country to get a chance to skate it and enjoy the architectural beauty that DC has to offer. Please listen to our voices, it's not broke, don't fix it. It's a waste of tax payer dollars and there are plenty of other things the city can fix.

Thank you and have a good day.

Name: Diego Patrick

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

Please Save Freedom Plaza

<https://chnng.it/JvLj92W5mV>

Name: Brendan Terry

Location: NA

Date: April 1, 2022

[Direct email comment - 3/11/22]

SAVE PULASKI PARK! This place could be a safe haven for skateboarders and people who enjoy watching!

Name: Edward Cheney

Location: Easton, PA

Date: April 4, 2022

I used to live in CA and now I live in PA, and have visited Freedom Plaza to skate there, as it's a historic skate area. I know many others feel the same as I do when I say it would be a shame to get rid of it.

Name: Elijah Minicozzi

Location: Takoma Park, MD

Date: April 4, 2022

I have been fascinated by the proposals for a new Pennsylvania Avenue, and I look forward to an implementation of one of them. In the Franklin Park renovation, 50 trees were removed to make way for a young, new canopy. Some of those trees were dead, and it was great that those trees were replaced by new, young trees, but many massive, healthy trees were taken down in the renovation. The result is a desolate space in the eastern half of the park, where the young trees will take decades to form a canopy. I ask that the NCPC not take down the many existing healthy large trees (mostly pin oaks) that form a canopy over Pennsylvania Avenue, and I would like to request that the NCPC use the area reclaimed from the roads to plant additional large-growing canopy trees such as oaks to provide shade and fresh air to pedestrians.

Name: Will Fenwick
Location: Washington DC
Date: April 4, 2022

Civic Stage concept showcases the potential of where automobile primacy ends and pedestrian & public use needs and safety are prioritized. DC, as the nation's capital, should strive to demonstrate the art of the possible for our country's urban spaces. More green space, less asphalt, less cars.

Name: Steven Johnson
Location: Kensington
Date: April 5, 2022

I feel as if this will completely mess with the flow of traffic from northwest dc into southeast dc, as well as taking away and destroying a national monument while in the process.

Name: Ashton Rohmer
Location: Washington, DC
Date: April 5, 2022

I'm most excited about the Linear Green - we need to remove cars from that stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue and make it a safe space for convenient, accessible alternative modes of transportation, including walking, biking, rolling, and busing. By incorporating green infrastructure, hopefully the design can better address flooding and urban heat issues as well.

Name: Sam Heird
Location: NA
Date: April 5, 2022

[Direct email comment - Fri 3/18/22]

Have you received anywhere near the amount of input about other locations as you have about Pulaski plaza? Please consider the profound impact that place has on DC youth as a safe haven, As well as the cultural impact it has both locally and worldwide. Pulaski isn't just a hang out and It can't be replaced with some ramps at another park.

Name: Matt McMahon
Location: NA
Date: April 5, 2022

[Direct email comment - Wed 3/16/22]

How does this proposal interface with the displacement of marginalized groups from the city?

Name: William Polly

Location: NA

Date: April 5, 2022

[Direct email comment - Wed 3/16/22]

Good morning,

To hear about the elimination for a new freedom plaza is offensive to say the least. Freedom plaza in its current state is most definitely “livable”, “people-friendly”, and it’s most certainly not a “dead zone” in the local DC community. So much of the culture that DC carries has been torn apart and replaced with something else, and the city is losing its character. This city means nothing to so many people now with plans like this. If you care about DC culture, take a look at the petition created to save freedom plaza.

Please take the time to read through the comments on petition, all of these comments are coming from real people who value this space more than most people could comprehend. It is far too important to keep freedom plaza as it is, as there is too much DC culture being eliminated.

Thank you for your time and consideration, here is a link to the petition that I highly recommend you read.

https://www.change.org/p/council-of-the-district-of-columbia-help-us-save-freedom-plaza-in-washington-dc?utm_content=cl_sharecopy_32648501_en-US%3A4&recruiter=1091865963&recruited_by_id=1b360740-9ac2-11ea-b0ec-97c29ac2c9d7&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=psf_combo_share_initial&share_bandit_exp=initial-32648501-en-US

Thank you,
~William Polly

Name: Christian Miller

Location: NA

Date: April 5, 2022

[Direct email comment - Mon 3/14/22]

Dear NCPC Member,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read through this note. With the recent news about upcoming changes to Freedom Plaza, I wanted to share some anecdotes to illustrate the importance of this public space and how integral it is to the personality of Washington DC. With design changes threatening the future use of this public space, I and many other skateboarders in the community want to make sure our voices are heard so that Freedom Plaza can continue to be enjoyed by the many who spend time there.

Freedom Plaza, or Pulaski Park, is and has been fertile ground for Washington DC skateboarding since its inception. Any day of the week, and especially on weekends, people come from all over to enjoy this landmark. Some of the most well-known regulars wake up early each Saturday in Richmond, Virginia and make the two-hour trip to spend the day on their boards. Professional teams on tour throughout the country stop specifically in Washington DC to get a feel of the marble that makes up the plaza infrastructure. Parents bring their children learning to skate and videotape them as they learn to navigate the tiles, stairs, and ledges.

Freedom Plaza has also been a gathering place for other community events. In the warmer months, Wednesday evening dance classes take place near the fountains adjacent to 14th Street. During the twilight hours over the summer, cinema fans enjoy films shown up top with a white screen positioned in front of the statue of General Pulaski. Community and national gatherings congregate 13th St and E St NW to share thoughts and information on social, economic, and political issues. It is not uncommon to see a collage of yoga mats near the stairs across from the mayor's office next to a group of teenagers playing S.K.A.T.E. (the skateboarding equivalent of H.O.R.S.E.), the groups being mindful and respectful of each other's space. This collection of different types of people opens doors for those who come to Freedom Plaza and helps to bring communities together.

With all this in mind, I worry that the absence of Freedom Plaza as it stands today will have a severe negative impact to the Washington DC area, especially for residents, citizens, artists, and small businesses within a half mile radius of the plaza that rely on skateboarders and attendees for their customer base.

Please consider alternatives to redesigning Freedom Plaza. There are many points of pride within the district boundaries and Pulaski Park is that beacon of inspiration to many that live here.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this note. I hope that some of the information in here resonates with you and the rest of the members as decisions are made surrounding the future of Freedom Plaza.

Sincerely,

Christian Miller
Product Manager
FA/HOCKEY
christian@faworldentertainment.com
240-224-2004

Name: Carrie
Location: Falls Church, VA
Date: April 5, 2022

The plans seem well thought out and are forward thinking. I think any of these plans could work and would offer huge improvements. It's important that you ensure specific things are included and they do not get overshadowed by other competing priorities.

1. Public gathering spaces that allow a continual flow of large crowds of people to march / protest / demonstrate, including all the way to the Capitol.
2. Skateboard park features - to preserve the uniqueness and history of DC's skateboarding scene, ensure there are unique features for skateboarders of all levels. And that the spaces for skateboarding remain free, and accessible to those from underprivileged communities. Thanks for reading my input.

Name: Carrie
Location: Falls Church, VA
Date: April 6, 2022

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Name: ROBERT D PAULUS
Location: Chester, VA
Date: April 6, 2022

I favor the Urban Capital concept. I think it is important to maintain the historic integrity of

Pennsylvania Avenue as a traditional boulevard with traffic and with sufficient width to accommodate major processions. This concept also eliminates Freedom Plaza, which seems to have little purpose, and restores the avenue's uninterrupted alignment from 15th Street to the Capitol. While the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue needs improvement, this concept avoids what I think would be the mistake of tunneling Constitution under Pennsylvania. The proposals for the Urban Rooms are very attractive and would relieve pressure on the Mall to accommodate special events. I especially like the idea of expanding event space south into Wilson Plaza. However, I do think use of the Western End will have to be managed carefully to preserve the dignity of the World War I Memorial.

Name: James Roberts

Location: Washington, DC

Date: April 7, 2022

Please remove all vehicular traffic on this road, with the exception of dedicated bus lanes. Pedestrians and cyclists must be prioritized. More opportunities for bars, restaurants, shops, pop-ups and event space is also welcome. No cars!

Name: Kevin W Burke

Location: Atlanta

Date: April 7, 2022

For me, the Civic Stage concept is clearly the best option in regards to urban design and creating public spaces.

Thank you for engaging in this design effort to reimagine this iconic street.

Kevin W. Burke, FASLA

Name: Julia

Location: San Antonio, TX

Date: April 7, 2022

As someone born and raised in the DC area, I love both the linear green and civic stage concepts!! The green space with the Capitol in the background would be so beautiful, but I also love the availability of the area as a venue for entertainment or other events! Very excited to see where this goes!

Name: Brian Dofflemyer

Location: Washington, DC

Date: April 8, 2022

I like a combination of the Civic Stage closer to the eastern end to facilitate more functions and events in the streets that celebrate the views of the Capitol while the linear green towards the western end to allow for beautiful, green spaces to enjoy.

Name: Christopher Chang

Location: Washington, DC

Date: April 11, 2022

Thank you for pursuing a new vision for Pennsylvania Ave. As someone who has used Pennsylvania Ave for years to commute regularly by bicycle, the current design has been transformative in getting across town. The reality is that there is still much to do to improve the space.

After reviewing the concepts, I wholeheartedly support a decrease in space for private automobiles and an increase for transit, pedestrians, and bike commuters. Each of the concepts have excellent elements and I hope the final product should incorporate parts from all three. Nevertheless, I believe the final design should be centered on the Civic Stage concept.

We already know there can be huge demand for the space, with the REDEYE Night Market last fall or the recent Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival serving as examples. It would require semi-permanent structures that could be used for dining and retail during the week and weekends. Such structures should be able to be removed for parades or reused for festivals or events. Pennsylvania Ave under the Civic Stage design could serve as DC's Las Ramblas and be a unique destination for tourists and residents alike, all while revitalizing an area of downtown that lacks much in the way of interesting retail and liveliness outside of specific events.

While the other two concepts have their merits, the Urban Capital concept needs dense residential and varied retail to be successful, neither of which is currently present. Given the current use of many of the buildings, it is not likely to change significantly in the near future. The Linear Green concept replicates the urban and linear National Mall, just blocks away. It also suffers from the lack of residences and varied retail which would keep people using the park, not just as a park, but as a way to get points of interest. Both of these concepts would inevitably lead to a beautifully redesigned streets that are lacking in things to do and ultimately empty.

Given the importance of activating the space and giving tourists and residents a reason to return to Pennsylvania Ave regularly, the best concept is the Civic Stage.

Thank you for reading my comments,
Chris

Name: Django Szilagi
Location: Washington, DC
Date: April 11, 2022

I fully support the total removal of private automobiles along Pennsylvania Avenue (other than public buses & emergency vehicles). I support the installation of green infrastructure and infrastructure that encourages active transportation.

Thank You!

Name: Max Ewart
Location: Washington, DC
Date: April 11, 2022

I am really excited for this project to evolve. The linear green is far and away the best concept, it is pedestrian friendly, environmentally friendly, and prioritizes transit. After that, the Civic stage is okay and the urban capital is bad.

The one thing I am most concerned about is that one of the primary user groups of plazas in this area is being cut out of the conversation completely: skateboarders. Whether Freedom Plaza can be considered a quality public space or not is irrelevant. A group has taken a bad space, one that is not often used, and made it beloved by their community. Skateboarding amenities should be included and skateboarding should be encouraged throughout the site. It is even more important that this space is designed with skateboarders.

Thanks,

Max

Name: Xavier
Location: Arlington, Virginia
Date: April 11, 2022

Civic stage feels like the most appropriate of the three as it puts pedestrians in the center, cars are off to the side in order to highlight the importance of civilians. It will allow for a non-obstructed view of the Capitol building, and provide a memorable experience for locals and tourists alike. I think replacing the shared-use lane with a bus-only lane (maybe even a streetcar extension!) will be even better as it truly will serve as a significant roadway that could serve as a center-piece for future tours.

Name: Robert Narvaez
Location: Washington, DC (Brookland but work downtown)
Date: April 12, 2022

NCPC,

I appreciate all the work and thought that went into the designs for this project. The return to more human scale and focus on multi modal transit is a great!

I do have a few comments however.

While I appreciate all the different ideas for the Western End, removing the Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plan for the city to make it at grade would be a loss. We should find a way to incorporate the artists design in to the transformation of Western End. This is also a place for skaters to practice and learn how to skate. I do loving watching them perform and it is fun people watching activity. There are not many skate facilities in the city or ones that are accepting of these park users. We must find a way to incorporate all users into the design. I think is area would be good as a linear green to help create more shade and pedestrian space since this focus area is so close to the White House, WH Visitor Center and Mall.

For Market Square, I think the Civic Stage option is the best fit. As stated, you create a new square that can be a great place for festivals and other open are events. Also the sight lines would be spectacular for the Capitol and users would have to worry about getting hit!

For the Eastern End, I love the bold move proposed in the Civic Stage option and would be be my preferred option but if that was not feasible, the linear green would be the alternative.

Parking is tight near the Capital (also all over Downtown) so alternatives should be made. Making this area more open and pedestrian scale could address some safety issues but on the other hand create spaces for people to congregate closer to The Capitol. Again the Civic Stage then Linear Green are my preferred options.

To close, some general comments. Penn Ave is a major bicyclist thoroughfare. Understood this is just a concept, consideration should be to make this cycletrack wider. The plan should consider to accommodate cyclists of all levels, the commuter, the tourist, families, etc. The wider track could also accommodate scooters.

The softscape and hardscape elements should be able to be replaced or moved easily. It is great you gave thought to the inauguration parade but there could be instances where a wider width could be needed.

Though not this stage yet, provide diverse tree species that are native to the area. This helps with mass die off due to disease/pests and less likely to die being used to the area.

More than happy to discuss further or help out.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,
Robert Narvaez, AICP

Name: Mia Dana

Location: Washington, DC

Date: April 12, 2022

I love the Linear Green concept. I think getting rid of car traffic entirely is a great idea. The fewer cars, the more pleasant and safe the new pedestrian areas will be.

Fewer cars, more places to hang out -- that's my vote.

I also like that Linear Green does the most to increase the city's resilience to climate change, e.g. adding more permeable land and trees/vegetation to prevent floods, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and so on.

Name: Prince Coulibaly

Location: Gaithersburg, MD

Date: April 12, 2022

I really love the concepts presented by the NPCC committee. I think that Urban Capital and the Civic Stage proposals are the best one for the organization to implement for the redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue. There are elements that can be taken from both the Urban Capital and the Civic Stage to better maximize the vibrancy of the corridor. While the Linear Green concept is great and exemplifies the country's commitment to environmental conservation, it does lessen the vibrancy needed for the Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor. The corridor is at its best when it is being given the best elements of urban activation needed to succeed. This will not just be a gathering place for only District residents but possibly the entire DC-Baltimore metropolitan CSA and tourists across the country as well as internationally. Of course if possible, there are examples of billboard art that could be activated along the corridor in the Parisian example attached below. I could send more examples via email if permitted on the NPCC's end.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Andrew

Location: Culpeper, VA

Date: April 13, 2022

I like the civic stage the best, but would like to suggest a few changes.

First, use one of the travel lanes as a dedicated lane for transit, preferably light rail. The reason for light rail is that bus rapid transit does not generate the ridership that everyone says it will. There is also a certain coolness factor inherent to trains that buses do not have. This route should run from the peace monument to to end of the project area, with a potential

future extension into the pedestrian only space in front of the White House and eventually to Georgetown. As there is already discussion of a potential new metro line to Georgetown, this might be an easier sell than most would think and would also be significantly cheaper. The stops of this route should have decent spacing to allow high operation speed with an average distance of 1,500 feet between stops and a maximum of 10 minutes between trains and any traffic signals required should be equipped with transit priority overrides. In addition with light rail, it is possible to have green space next to the tracks which would help with bio retention and stormwater runoff.

Second, the bike lanes should be made of a permeable pavement material, again for bio retention. This material also minimizes the risk of ice slicks in the winter. The colorant in permeable materials may also last longer as it is not just paint.

Third, with the pedestrian areas the implementation of a snow melt system would be really nice to see. And for added efficiency maybe it could use the geothermal method devised in Japan using special outdoor heat pump cabinets to significantly lower energy costs.

Fourth, the planted areas should use as many native plants as possible. One thing that should be considered with the planted areas is an automatic sprinkler fertilization dosage system. The common brand of this is E-Z flo. What this does is put the fertilizer into the sprinkler water, which minimizes runoff and eliminates the need for regular fertilizer applications. With the plants maybe local volunteers could help with the planting to both save money and let locals have a hand in remaking the corridor for the next 100 years.

Name: Andrew

Location: Culpeper, VA

Date: April 13, 2022

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Name: Valerie Nannery

Location: Washington, DC

Date: April 13, 2022

I strongly support revitalizing Pennsylvania Avenue NW to be a space for people, not a traffic sewer. The amount of asphalt dedicated to vehicular traffic in the heart of our city is inequitable, dangerous, and poisons the District and the Earth. I have a strong preference for transforming the street into a car-free urban center, much like those that exist in the great cities of the World. Even Times Square in NYC has become largely car-free. If NYC can do that, so can DC. Linear Green is the best of the three concepts, and the Civic Stage concept is second best. The Urban Capital concept is incremental change that assumes that streets are for cars, not people. We need a bolder vision than that. However, I support moving the two-way cycle track from the center of the street, which never made sense, has always been dangerous, and simply invites pedestrians to stand in the middle of the bike lanes.

Name: Commissioner Travis R. Swanson

Location: Washington, D.C. (Ward 7)

Date: April 13, 2022

I appreciate the time that went into thinking through these initial designs, and the presentations to give the public the opportunity to weigh in. I wholeheartedly agree that the current design on Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. between the U.S. Capitol and the White House no longer meets the needs of the community, and a revamp of the avenue is long overdue.

Of the options presented I strongly believe the best use of the space would be to implement the Linear Green plan. This plan best meets the needs of commuters, visitors, first amendment activity, and most notably brings substantial green space downtown to truly turn the avenue into a destination for Washingtonians and visitors alike.

While this section of Pennsylvania Avenue is no longer heavily used by private cars, it's a very important stretch of road for bus commuters on both WMATA buses and MTA commuter buses alike. Because of this I believe the final design must include dedicated transit lanes so bus commuters can increase the reliability of their commute while reducing commute times. Additionally, if the dedicated lanes will also be allowed to be used by commuter (MTA) buses the final design should consider that loading and offloading large commuter buses is often a longer process than WMATA bus and perhaps it would be a good idea to consider commuter

bus stops with a shoulder pull-off area, so WMATA buses are not delayed as a result of this process.

Of the many bus routes that use this stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue, the 30s routes are among the longest and most heavily used. These routes are relied upon by residents of Wards 7 and 8 to commute downtown from neighborhoods which have historically been underserved by reliable transportation options. Due to traffic issues these commutes are often unreliable and have a wide range of variations for how long they take. Dedicated bus lanes on this stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue would introduce some stability to these major bus routes using the avenue and would help shorten commute times and increase bus reliability for residents commuting from our most underserved wards.

According to data from WMATA, prior to the pandemic - from 2010 to 2019 - the 30s bus lines which use this section of Pennsylvania Avenue - which includes routes 30N, 30S, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 39 - had a weekday average ridership of around 16,000 per day, a Saturday average ridership of more than 9,000 riders, and a Sunday average ridership of just over 7,000 riders. With ridership numbers this high it's crucial that riders can reliably get to their destination without being stuck in traffic or behind commuter buses.

Lastly, DDOT is currently working to install rush hour bus lanes on Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. between the Library of Congress and the Anacostia River. As planning moves forward I hope NCPC will work with NPS and DDOT to identify a lower numbered street that crosses the National Mall (such as 3rd Street or 4th Street) to also convert to bus & bike only, or add dedicated bus lanes to so eventually the Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. bus lanes can seamlessly connect to the Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. bus lanes to further increase bus reliability for commuters, particularly those coming from historically underserved parts of the city such as Ward 7 and Ward 8.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and please feel free to reach out if you would like me to clarify or expand on anything.

[Attachment](#)

Name: Nick Webb

Location: College Park, MD

Date: April 13, 2022

Linear Green is by far my favorite. Having a nice, long linear park in DC would add valuable green space. Limiting car access also reduces noise pollution significantly which would be great for a pedestrian and bicycle friendly promenade.

Name: Sabah Rana

Location: Bowie, Maryland

Date: April 14, 2022

I love the overall push to prioritize people and the planet. My favorite option is "Linear Green" due to its emphasis on green space, exclusion of cars, and biking infrastructure. These qualities make for very livable, inviting, and healthy communities but are features that unfortunately lacking in U.S. cities so as an emerging planning professional, it's exciting to see that the capital may be going in that direction. I would love to see an urban park that pushes what it can do with its green space. I would love to see the inclusion of fruits trees within a dedicated section of the urban park - this could serve as a point of interest and be community led (i.e. like examples of successful urban gardens). I would also love to see the inclusion of flowers that attract a range of pollinators. It would also be nice to see public art from local dc artists, potentially sculptures or landscape art or any other form of public art. Thank you for your work and for engaging with public feedback.

Name: Sabah Rana

Location: Bowie, Maryland

Date: April 14, 2022

I love the overall push to prioritize people and the planet. My favorite option is "Linear Green" due to its emphasis on green space, exclusion of cars, and biking infrastructure. These qualities make for very livable, inviting, and healthy communities but are features that unfortunately lacking in U.S. cities so as an emerging planning professional, it's exciting to see that the capital may be going in that direction. I would love to see an urban park that pushes what it can do with its green space. I would love to see the inclusion of fruits trees within a dedicated section of the urban park - this could serve as a point of interest and be community led (i.e. like examples of successful urban gardens). I would also love to see the inclusion of flowers that attract a range of pollinators. It would also be nice to see public art from local dc artists, potentially sculptures or landscape art or any other form of public art. Thank you for your work and for engaging with public feedback.

Name: Caitlin Rogger

Location: Washington

Date: April 14, 2022

Linear Green looks great. It presents the most opportunity to both improve downtown's quality of life and increase our permeable surfaces, while allowing more efficient transit and cycling which will get more folks out of cars. I'm excited

Name: Alexia Stefanovich

Location: Washington DC

Date: April 14, 2022

Linear green is the best option! It prioritizes civilian health, both mental and physical: green space is shown to positively impact mental health, and walking and biking is extremely beneficial for physical health. Second, having a pedestrian only space would bolster community: it would create a safe gathering space, serve as a place to host cultural, music, and art events for citizens and their families, and be a place to make new connections whilst spending time outside. Linear green is the only option that prioritizes DC's most important facet: its people.

Name: Alexia

Location: Washington DC

Date: April 14, 2022

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Name: Daniel Rogger

Location: WASHINGTON

Date: April 14, 2022

Dear NCPC,

What an amazing vision for the future of DC! I love what these designs say about who we want to be as a city. Congratulations on taking us to this point.

I personally like Linear Green the most, but all have their merits. I do think the less exposure

to cars, the more of a special, unique, walkway it would be.

Very best wishes,

Dan

Name: Callum Wayman

Location: DC

Date: April 15, 2022

Firstly, I'd like to say that I personally am in favor of Linear Green. Similar to the K St. project, I feel a dedicated transitway will only improve bus transport along this major corridor. I also feel that cycling lanes should be isolated from car traffic, so linear green offers a lot of elements that I'm excited about. I also think removing cars entirely from this road will show people within DC how quiet and serene city life can be when cars are removed from the equation.

My additional comment is that I hope that further studies are done on Pennsylvania Ave SE beyond the capitol building. I was heading down that way today on my bike and I noticed that it suffers from a similar car-centered design. There are 6 lanes for cars on this major road, making the many wonderful shops and eateries along that road vulnerable to everything that comes with cars: noise, smell, and potential for car collisions. I hope the excitement behind the current Pennsylvania Ave initiative will be expanded to these other major roadways throughout our city.

As an aside, I hope there is also similar discussion about making Madison and Jefferson Drives along the mall car free. I don't mean to mention these things to say that I'm unhappy with our progress, only that I think there are some locales within this city that deserve to be free from all of the detriments that cars bring (I also say this as an owner of a car registered and often driven in DC).

Thank you for all of your hard work, it is greatly appreciated.

Best,
Callum

Name: Phil S.

Location: Elkridge MD

Date: April 16, 2022

I really like the linear Green proposal, specifically two parts: First, the narrow roadway just for transit and bicycles is great! It gives space to pedestrian and civic activities. Second is the

nature and greenery. The 900 block on the south side of the road (DOJ side) is the best area of the street due to all of the dense treecover. Expanding that for the entire length would be amazing. Cities should be designed for people first and this feels like the ultimate realization of that. Private cars and buses can use nearby Constitution Avenue. Really like removing the roadway and angled parking lot near the Capitol. That thing is an absolute eyesore and detracts from the rest of the (very attractive) grounds.

I also support the realignment of Constitution and closure of 4th street in the Linear Green proposal.

The one area of "Civic Stage" proposal that I do find interesting is the plaza near the Wilson Building.

Name: Nicole Mogul
Location: Washington
Date: April 16, 2022

Your work is amazing!! I so enjoy scrolling through the pictures and the thoughtful framing that went into this visioning.

I favor an option that has the most green spaces and accommodates the throughput of marchers as appropriate. I lean towards the linear green but worry that doesn't allow for marchers. Civic stage seems to lack the shade that would be so appealing in the Linear Green.

What is so important is access to safe pedestrian and cycling, resilient, climate friendly infrastructure and sense of place.

Thank you for this work and for accepting comments!!

Name: Miriam Chappelka
Location: Washington
Date: April 16, 2022

All three concepts would be a lovely improvement on the current road, and I think the Linear Green would be the best. A car free park would make the park safer, and more environmentally friendly. As an added bonus it would be quieter and more relaxing. The dedicated central transit way and cycle tracks would ensure that residents and tourists are able to easily traverse the park.

NCPC Pennsylvania Avenue Vision and Concepts Public Meeting #1 Q&A Report

Actual Start Time: 4/13/2022 11:41:00 AM

Actual Duration (minutes): 110

Report Generated: 4/13/2022 2:18:00 PM

Question Number	Asker Name	Question	Answer
1	Garrett Wolf	Can you provide the links to the website?	https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/pennave/
1	Garrett Wolf	Can you provide the links to the website?	A New Vision for the Avenue StoryMap: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e9729ec86bef49ef96164d1253ae472e
2	Kumu Gupta	can I get recording of session...Kumu, President's Challenge program (under President Obama)	The public meeting will be recorded and posted on NCPC's website.
3	Santiago L	Do any plans include areas for skaters? i.e. a skate park or some replacement area for Freedom Plaza. They are a part of the cultural makeup of the area and should be considered	live answered
4	Kumu Gupta	is white house involved or have say in new plans.	live answered
5	Kumu Gupta	at what point is this plan at.	live answered
6	Reese Baldwin	The goal is to revitalize the culture on the avenue, right? I agree that this should happen. I disagree with how you plan to do it. Destroying historical landmarks like freedom plaza works directly against this goal. Freedom plaza is the cultural heart of D.C., and destroying it would kill the downtown lifestyle and economy permanently. Freedom plaza and all that it attracts is the one part of downtown that is working to stimulate the economy. From Nike SB sponsored events to gogo shows to outdoor movie nights, freedom plaza provides the most stimulation to the downtown economy. Being above street level makes freedom plaza best space for someone to be heard. In a world filled with so much injustice and racism, the people of D.C. deserve freedom plaza, please don't take it away from us. We need it.	live answered
7	Santiago L	Linear green seems to be the best use of the space, there are multiple metro stations and bus lines on the corridor so there is no need to drive there anyway. Better to make it a unique park that visitors/residents can enjoy	live answered
8	Reese Baldwin	any multi linear day event would work better on the plaza how it is currently than on the remodeled version. A flower market for example would be unseen and unheard of on the proposed remodeled plaza. Lowering /altering the plaza will leave any events silenced and forgotten. this may not seem important for something like a flower market, but when it comes to ideas such as sex and race, it is really unfair to silence those voices.	live answered
9	Garrett Hennigan	Can you share a little more detail about the traffic analysis and "20% less space for cars"? What is the average daily vehicle trip count? Do you have Bus usage counts and bike counts?	live answered

Question Number	Asker Name	Question	Answer
10	Reese Baldwin	I just want you to know how much freedom plaza means to me. It represents the pure dream of Dr.Martin Luther King Jr, which inspires me to live the life I do. It also provides the perfect space for the public to let their voices be heard, which is really valuable these days. It is a world renowned plaza that acts as a lifeline for the culture of the city. Altering or destroying freedom plaza would corrupt all of this, including that dream Dr. King blessed us with. I, along many other lifelong DC residents, would not know what do do with myself without freedom plaza and all that it represents. Freedom plaza is my safe space on this planet, please don't take it from me.	live answered
11	Ashton Rohmer	It seems like larger, infrequent civic events will be accommodated in any of the design scenarios but that smaller, daily transportation options (i.e., safe pedestrian, cycling, and public transit access) will be drastically different depending on the design scenarios...is that an accurate representation of the trade-offs?	live answered
12	Andrew White	I would really like to see the transit done as a light rail line rather than a generic bus lane.	live answered
13	Mike Bonds	What would be the actual development timeframe?	live answered
14	Mike Bonds	I would like to see a people mover electric bus traveling the area.	
15	Reese Baldwin	I agree the avenue as a whole is not meeting the cultural needs of today, however the answer to this problem should not start with ripping out the cultural heart of the avenue-Freedom Plaza. Freedom plaza is the one part of the avenue that still attracts economic stimulation every single day. Other parts of this plan implemented with the plaza as it is will result in a lively and successful downtown scene.	live answered
16	Tsiky Raharinaivo	How long would the design development for the pilot projects take?	live answered
17	Garrett Hennigan	Will the content and topics of the future public meetings be the same as today?	Yes, upcoming public meetings will cover the same presentation as today.
18	Ashton Rohmer	I wasn't able to access the poll so am putting my preferences here - strongly support removing cars from Pennsylvania Avenue, love making it a BRT corridor with robust bike/ped infrastructure and civic event spaces strategically placed throughout - we need to prioritize daily use (bike/ped/bus) while making it usable for larger events.	live answered
19	Mike Bonds	Thank you for sharing this information!	live answered
20	Michael Sanchez	To what extent are you in dialogue with other similar projects around the country, such as the Texas Facilities Commission's Capitol Complex Project? (heard about this here: https://medium.com/essential-texans/texas-sized-urbanism-b6985eee229f)	live answered
21	Tsiky Raharinaivo	What are the metrics used success of the pilot projects?	live answered
22	Antonio De Vido	Thank you so much for this presentation! I'm the vice president of a tenants association for one of the residential buildings on PA Ave NW, and the city needs these updates! From what i've heard from my neighbors, Linear green/civic stage are the most popular. One concern is the constitution avenue tunnel.. We support it, but the federal triangle intersection has a long history of 100 year floods (a growing concern with climate change). What sort of flooding prevention measures have you guys looked at?	live answered

Question Number	Asker Name	Question	Answer
23	Reese Baldwin	You are mistaking the failure of the entire avenue for the failure of freedom plaza. I am at freedom plaza every single day, and can tell you first hand that it is still a immense attraction. This power of the plaza combined with some of these other ideas mentioned would yeild ideal results.	live answered
24	Michael Kemp	Great presentation, thanks so much! Regarding the plans, it appears that all will be drawing more visitors to Penn Ave. and the surrounding area. As a resident who lives along Penn Ave., I was curious if the commission has a plan to address safety, security, restrooms, trash, etc. Thank you!	live answered
25	Santiago L	Will funding for the project be dependent on Congressional appropriation or would DC pay for the changes?	live answered
26	Commissioner Travis	Many bus lines use the ave & I like that 2 options prioritize transit whereas the status quo does not. Among the bus lines using the ave are rts 32 & 36 which many residents of Wards 7 & 8 rely on to get downtown. DDOT is currently working towards adding bus lanes on Penn Ave SE between the Library of Congress & Anacostia River. Bus lanes on Penn Ave NW in conjunction with bus lanes on Penn Ave SE would be great for commuters. Are there talks of using a N/S Street to connect these two bus lanes?	live answered
27	Antonio De Vido	We miss trolleys!	
28	Des Shaw	May be out of your control but getting rid of all surface parking on the PA Ave extension towards the Capitol would be huge. Ditto for all parking to the north side of the US capitol	
29	Prince Coulibaly	How will bike lanes be incorporated in this plan? Are there plans to add any artistic structures to the corridor?	live answered
30	Kumu Gupta	who is point person for this project.	Elizabeth Miller and Karin Schierhold are the main POCs for this project.
31	Andrew White	has the use of permeable surfaces been considered along with bio retention to minimize the stormwater runoff issues?	live answered
32	Reese Baldwin	https://chnng.it/FkxKjknCfr	
33	RONALD EICHNER	NPS has failed to maintain the Avenue public spaces in the past. Are there plans to maintain the Avenue as venue, which sonds like it would be even more maintenance-intensive?	live answered
34	Christine Mayeur	As you go through this planning process, please don't forget that DC is a Vision Zero City committed to ending traffic deaths and serious injuries on all DC streets. Multimodal safety for people will be paramount.	live answered
35	Andrew White	maybe the implementation of a pneumatic waste collection system could be considered?	live answered
36	Spenser Balog	Will this potentially tie into plans to convert portions of Downtown into an Ecodistrict?	live answered
37	Reese Baldwin	Thank you all for your time, I truly appricate it. See you in the next meeting. Save freedom plaza - long live Dr.King...	live answered
38	Antonio De Vido	Thank you so much for your presentation! I have been excited about this project since I first reviewed the proposals on your website, and now I am even more confident that "America's Mainstreet" is in good hands. I'm glad to see the emphasis on environmental consciousness, public transit, and reclaiming downtown for the local economy. I look forward to leaving an official comment!	Thank you for your time. We look forward to reading your comment.

Question Number	Asker Name	Question	Answer
39	Garrett Wolf	Can you provide the links to the website?	Penn Ave website: https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/pennave/ StoryMap link: https://go.ncpc.gov/avevision
40	RONALD EICHNER	Maybe the NCPC should send Beth and Karen on the same Grand Tour of precedents that Daniel Burnham took the designers of the 1901 MacMillan Plan	Good history and good idea.
41	Prince Coulibaly	Has there been consideration as to who will run the upkeep of the corridor? Will it be the Downtown DC bid, the Federal government or will both organizations be involved?	live answered
42	Julia Stevenson	Thank you for this presentation- very exciting. Look forward to how this will shape up over time. Appreciate your own enthusiasm and openness. Lots of wonderful ideas.	live answered
43	Prince Coulibaly	Thank you for this presentation. I am really excited by the plans put forth by the NPCC for this corridor! I look forward to submitting an official comment soon.	Thank you for attending.