

**Council of the District of Columbia
Committee of the Whole
Report**

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington DC 20004

To: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia

From: Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, Committee of the Whole 

Date: July 15, 2008

Subject: PR 17-782, the "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008"

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 17-782, the "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008," was referred, reports favorably on the resolution and recommends its adoption by the Council of the District of Columbia.

Statement of Purpose and Effect

PR 17-782 provides Council approval of the Mayor's submission of a small area plan to revitalize the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor and adjacent residential neighborhoods in Wards 6, 7 and 8. The planning area is identified as the properties fronting Pennsylvania Avenue SE between Second and Independence Avenues to the west and the District-Maryland border at Southern Avenue to the east. The 3-mile corridor includes the neighborhoods of Capitol Hill, Barney Circle, Fairlawn, Twining, Randle Highlands, Dupont Park, Penn Branch, Hillcrest, Fort Davis, and Fairfax Village.

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan was initiated in September 2006 by the Office of Planning, in partnership with the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and the District Department of Transportation, as the land use component of the Great Streets initiative for Pennsylvania Avenue SE. As the product of over 18 months of collaboration with more than 200 individual residents, community stakeholders and District government agencies, the revitalization strategy for the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor seeks to concentrate development at underutilized sites where there is an opportunity to enhance residential and retail choices. A key element of the strategy is to promote a consistent, high-quality architecture throughout the corridor and to draw development eastward across the Anacostia River.

Seven opportunity sites along the corridor are identified in the plan for strategic redevelopment due to their potential to act as catalytic anchors that can leverage expanded transit and mobility options, diversified housing choices, new highly desirable retail, and improved pedestrian and vehicular safety. Three of these sites are in Ward 6, three are in Ward 7, and one is in Ward 8:

- 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (current use: pizza restaurant) - .56 acre)
- 1539-1557 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (current use: fast food restaurant) and 1550 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (current use: used car lot) - .45 acre
- L'Enfant Square - 2300 block (south side) - .41 acre
- L'Enfant Square - 2500 and 2600 blocks (south side) -.69 acre
- Penn Branch shopping center - 1.72 acres
- Fort Davis Shopping center - 1.57 acres

The plan emphasizes that the existing C-2-A zoning along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor is sufficient to accommodate the development potential of the opportunity sites, and that a change from C-1/R-1-B zoning to C-2-A zoning at the Penn Branch shopping center would be necessary to facilitate redevelopment of that underutilized retail site.

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan is among 5 small area plans which have been submitted by the Mayor and are currently pending in the Committee. The other pending plans include Upper Georgia Avenue and Kennedy Street in Ward 4, and Deanwood and Benning Road in Ward 7. These 5 pending small area plans are in addition to 7 small area plans previously approved by the Council during the last 4 years of the Williams administration: Takoma Central Area, Reservation 13 (or Hill East Waterfront), Southwest Waterfront, H Street NE, Shaw/U Street Cultural Destination District, Georgia Avenue-Petworth, and Anacostia Transit Area. In each case, the Committee held a public hearing and made recommendations to the executive on how to implement the plan in ways that addressed concerns raised by the public.

Once approved by the Council, the Pennsylvania Ave SE plan, along with the recommendations contained in this Committee Report, will provide guidance to the Zoning Commission and other District government agencies in carrying out the policies of the Comprehensive Plan and this small area plan for the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor.

While recommending Council approval of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE plan, the Committee also makes the following recommendations to address community concerns expressed in the Committee's public hearing record:

1) OP should clarify that the intent of the proposed land use recommendations for the Penn Branch Shopping Center opportunity site is to support additional low density retail and residential development along Pennsylvania Avenue SE that is consistent with other low-moderate density opportunity sites along the corridor east of the Anacostia River. In this regard, OP should delete or clarify the erroneous statement in the January 2008 draft plan that reads: "This plan will serve as an amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan, which currently calls for continued low density commercial and residential uses at the Penn Branch Shopping Center site."

2) OP should clarify that any proposed zoning changes to the Penn Branch Shopping Center opportunity site in the plan are discretionary and require approval by Zoning Commission after giving great weight to the views of the affected Advisory Neighborhood Commissions ("ANCs"). The Committee notes that some community members and ANC commissioners have already expressed a preference that development not exceed 50 feet in height and be classified as low density.

3) OP should reinforce that the height of development at the Penn Branch Shopping Center opportunity site should be measured from the lowest point of the existing grade.

Legislative History

May 7, 2008	PR 17-782 introduced by Chairman Gray at the request of the Mayor and referred to the Committee of the Whole
May 16, 2008	Notice of intent to act on PR 17-782 published in <i>D.C. Register</i>
May 23, 2008	Notice of hearing on PR 17-782 published in <i>D.C. Register</i>
June 10, 2008	Public hearing on PR 17-782
July 15, 2008	Committee consideration of PR 17-782

Committee Reasoning and Impact on Existing Law

Small area plans represent the third tier of the District of Columbia's planning structure, building on the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan and the Area Plans Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Pursuant to the District's Comprehensive Plan law (D.C. Official Code §

1-301.64(c)(4)), small area plans are required to be submitted by the Mayor to the Council for selected geographical areas, and, once approved by the Council, shall provide supplemental guidance to the Zoning Commission and other District agencies (e.g., the District Department of Transportation) in carrying out the land use policies of the enacted Comprehensive Plan for those areas. The Council has previously approved small area plans for Takoma Central Area, Hill East Waterfront (Reservation 13), the Southwest Waterfront, H Street NE, the Shaw/U Street Cultural Destination District, Georgia Avenue/Petworth, and Anacostia Transit Area. The Council also has previously approved the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Framework Plan.

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan is the product of an 18-month public planning process initiated in September 2006 by the Office of Planning (“OP”), in collaboration with residents, community stakeholders, and District government agencies, to develop a coordinated and comprehensive revitalization strategy for the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor and adjacent residential neighborhoods in Wards 6, 7 and 8. The planning area includes the properties fronting Pennsylvania Avenue SE between Second and Independence Avenues on the east to the District-Maryland border at Southern Avenue on the east. The adjacent neighborhoods include Capitol Hill, Barney Circle, Fairlawn, Twining, Randle Highlands, Dupont Park, Penn Branch, Hillcrest, Fort Davis, and Fairfax Village.

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE plan is part of the Great Streets Initiative, which is a collaboration among the Office of Planning, the District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”), and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development to leverage public and private investment to spur economic development along seven major corridors in the District, while making critical transportation and public realm investments that facilitate multiple modes of transportation. The revitalization strategy for the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor seeks to concentrate development at underutilized sites where there is an opportunity to enhance residential and retail choices. A key element of the strategy is to promote a consistent, high-quality architecture throughout the corridor and to draw development eastward across the Anacostia River.

The plan’s market study of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor indicated that there is the potential demand for a total of 1,700-3,000 net new residential units, 425,000- 560,000 square feet of new neighborhood-serving retail space, and 90,000-155,000 square feet of new office space in six neighborhood subareas along the corridor, as follows:

Capitol Hill

- Residential: Infill development opportunities, but site availability a significant constraint
- Retail: Continued strengthening of existing retail, but limited net new opportunities
- Office: 50-75,000 square feet of net new office, but limited by site availability

Potomac Avenue

Residential: 800-1,200 net new multifamily units
Retail: 200-250,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail
Office: Limited

L'Enfant Square

Residential: 400-800 net new multifamily units
Retail: 50-75,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving and boutique retail and restaurant
Office: 20-40,000 square feet of local-serving, boutique office space

Randle Highlands

Residential: Limited, given lack of infill sites
Retail: Limited
Office: Limited

Penn Branch

Residential: 400-800 net new multifamily units
Retail: 150-200,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail and restaurants
Office: 20-40,000 square feet of local-serving, boutique office space

Fairfax Village

Residential: 100-200 net new units, but site availability is a constraint
Retail: 25-35,000 square feet of local-serving retail
Office: Limited

Seven opportunity sites along the corridor are identified in the Pennsylvania Avenue SE plan for strategic redevelopment due to their potential to act as catalytic anchors that can leverage expanded transit and mobility options, diversified housing choices, new highly desirable retail, and improved pedestrian and vehicular safety. Three of these sites are in Ward 6, three are in Ward 7, and one is in Ward 8. The plan identifies the following opportunities and recommendations for each redevelopment site:

1401 Pennsylvania Avenue

- Optimum utilization of the property under current zoning by containing a mix of residential and commercial use.

- 4 to 6 stories is appropriate for this site, and developers are encouraged to build no taller than the Jenkins' Row project in order to form a consistent frame for the Potomac and Pennsylvania Avenues intersection.
- Commercial uses may include accommodating existing small businesses in the area like the pizza restaurant on the site.
- Explore the potential to leverage funds from development to create a public plaza at corner of site facing the Park Square at traffic intersection.
- Completes a “neighborhood center” formed by the Potomac Plaza Metro Plaza, grocery store, neighborhood-serving retail, and transit.

Barney Circle Sites: 1550 Pennsylvania Avenue and 1539-1557 Pennsylvania Avenue

- The two sites flanking Barney Circle should be treated in a unified manner in architecture and massing as the Eastern Gateway to the Capitol Hill area and the Anacostia River.
- Explore allowable mix of uses under the current C-2-A zoning on these two sites.
- Tap potential view of the Anacostia River and Park which can be offered to condo occupants residing above ground level.
- Provision of a mixed scale and type of housing including condominiums, townhouses, and stacked townhouses to complement the existing residential fabric.
- Increased public presence encouraged by convenience retail stores and small scale dining destinations may result in decreased automobile dominance around Barney Circle and a more pedestrian-friendly character.

L'Enfant Square Sites: South Side of 2300-2500 and 2500-2700 Pennsylvania Avenue

- 2300-2500 block: Maximum of 5 to 6 stories with 65-foot maximum height and 5-foot bonus for ground floor non-residential uses. Any upzoning will occur in design review process such as PUD.
- 2500-2700 block: Maximum of 5 to 6 stories with 65-foot maximum height and 5-foot bonus for ground floor non-residential uses.
- Create opportunities for an enhanced pedestrian environment that provides connectivity at L'Enfant Square.

- Expand development area at 2300 block to north side of the street to create a major redevelopment node.
- Pursue alternate uses for some gas station sites (particularly the site on the south side of the 2300 block) to provide pedestrian friendly and neighborhood-serving activities (recognizing that maintaining some gas stations along the corridor is a positive thing for the community). In the near term, encourage improved landscaping and screening.

Penn Branch Shopping Center

- Change in zoning (from C-1/R-1-B to C-2-A) to support a mix of low-moderate density commercial and residential development.
- Development of this site will be 5 stories from the lowest point of the site with 65-foot maximum height, 5 stories with 65-foot maximum height on south side of Pennsylvania Avenue as well. New development and redevelopment within Neighborhood Commercial Areas must be managed to conserve the economic viability of these areas while allowing additional development that complements existing uses.
- New retail to respond to requirement of neighborhood serving convenience stores like a coffee shop, a small restaurant, possibly a small grocer or pharmacy.
- Underground parking garage to cater to requirements of property occupants as well as provide spill-over public parking spaces.
- Improve access and circulation edging the property to encourage pedestrian connection from surrounding areas and bus transit stop.

Fort Davis Shopping Center

- Explore potential under current zoning classification on the site and promote higher density mixed use residential and retail development.
- DC Department of Human Services and the US Post office may be re-housed in the project, thus maintaining a mix of uses offered in the present scenario.
- New retail to be oriented towards neighborhood serving establishments like a small coffee shop, dining place, barber shop, deli, etc.

In summary, the Committee recommends Council approval of the Mayor's small area plan to revitalize the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor, which includes a development program as well as zoning and design guidelines. This plan includes a total new development program of up to 3,000 new mixed income housing units, up to 560,000 square feet of reconfigured or new neighborhood-serving retail space, and up to 155,000 square feet of new office space. The plan also includes strategies to substantially improve the streetscape and public realm.

The Committee believes that approval of the goals, policies and implementation strategies identified in this plan will help facilitate the revitalization of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor and the creation of vibrant mixed use neighborhoods. The plan preserves and strengthens the existing community assets, while increasing the housing stock on vacant and underutilized land with both market rate and mixed-income housing, thereby supporting higher quality neighborhood-serving retail and services that meet the needs of the community, all of which will contribute to the necessary growth and development of the District of Columbia as a whole. The Committee agrees that implementation of the plan would result in: (1) substantially increased mixed-income housing opportunities; (2) enhanced employment opportunities for District residents near significant transit resources; (3) consolidate existing create new, more diverse entrepreneurship and higher quality local shopping opportunities; and (4) a improved urban design and streetscape.

The Committee finds that the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development is consistent with and builds upon many of the policies for this area set forth in the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan and in the Far Northeast and Southeast Area Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The plan is a framework to guide future growth and revitalization in a unique development opportunity area in the District. The Committee shares the view expressed in the plan that zoning, streetscape, and transportation changes will be necessary to implement some aspects of this plan, all of which will involve further opportunities for community input and public review and approval.

In recommending Council approval of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor revitalization plan, the Committee reiterates the recommendation previously articulated in this Report regarding the clarifications and corrections that the Office of Planning should make regarding the redevelopment of the Penn Branch Shopping Center site.

Section-by-Section Analysis

Section 1 provides a short title, the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008.

Section 2 states that the Mayor submitted the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan to the Council, pursuant to the small area plan provisions of the

Comprehensive Plan.

Section 3 sets forth the Council's findings with regard to the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan and the general purposes and effects of the small area plan that has been prepared for the area, which are discussed in more detail in the previous section of this Report.

Section 4 provides the Council's approval of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan, dated January 2008. The plan, along with the Committee's recommendations in this Report, provide supplemental guidance to the Zoning Commission, the Office of Planning, the District Department of Transportation, the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and other District agencies in carrying out the Comprehensive Plan policies for the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor in Wards 6, 7 and 8.

Section 5 references the fiscal impact statement in this Report.

Section 6 provides the effective date of the resolution.

Fiscal Impact

The Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), in the attached memorandum dated March 13, 2008, states that there is no fiscal impact at this time with the provisions of the proposed resolution, because adoption of this plan does not create any type of expenditure commitment from the District government. The CFO states that any activities related to the plan would be approved separately and need to be budgeted at that time.

The recommendations contained in the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan and this Report provide guidance to District agencies in implementing the plan. Several of the process-related activities assigned to implementing District agencies, including transportation studies and zoning actions, would be conducted in the normal course of operations and absorbed into each agency's operating budget.

The Committee notes that significant private and public investments have been and will continue to be required to accomplish the plan's goal of creating an active and vibrant mixed use Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor that includes substantial new mixed income housing, as well as new or reconfigured and better concentrated, higher quality retail space, and commercial office development, along with significant transit and streetscape improvements. To the extent that public investments are necessary, the implementation of this resolution is subject to the availability of appropriations and the inclusion of funds within an approved budget and financial plan.

These and other possible public costs do not take into account offsetting projected

significant revenue that the District will realize as a result of substantial redevelopment of existing vacant or underutilized property along the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor, including an undetermined amount of new income, sales and property tax revenue.

Position of the Executive Branch

PR 17-782 was introduced at the request of the Mayor, who, in a May 6, 2008 transmittal letter, urged the Council's prompt and favorable action on the proposed resolution. The Director of the Office of Planning, and representatives from the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development and the District Department of Transportation, each testified or submitted comments on behalf of the executive at the Committee's public hearing in favor of PR 17-782 and the attached small area plan.

Committee Action

On June 10, 2008, the Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 17-782 and received testimony from the following persons or organizations regarding the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan: James Bunn, Ward 8 Business Council; Richard Wolf, Capitol Hill Restoration Society; Stylianos Christofides, ICG Pennsylvania Branch Associates; Christopher Collins, Holland & Knight, attorney for ICG Pennsylvania Branch Associates; Christopher Lampkin, representing Fred and Gwen Rose; Laura Richards, Penn Branch Citizens/Civic Association; Robert Richards, resident; and Harriet Tregoning, D.C. Office of Planning.

Attached is a copy of all written testimony and comments received by the Committee regarding PR 17-782.

The Committee notes that additional opportunities will be available to the public to participate in the implementation of this plan. For example, applications will likely be filed with the Zoning Commission for Planned Unit Developments or zoning changes associated with various development projects, and certain financing mechanisms or budgetary actions may be needed to support particular development, capital transportation projects, and streetscape improvements in the plan. Each of these actions would provide opportunity for further public hearings or input.

On July 15, 2008, the Committee of the Whole met in a regular meeting to consider PR 17-782. Chairman Gray moved approval of a draft Committee Print of PR 17-782 and this Report, which were approved by voice votes (Chairman Gray and Councilmembers Alexander, Barry, Bowser, Brown, Catania, Cheh, Evans, Graham, Mendelson, Schwartz, Thomas and Wells present).

Attachments

- (1) PR 17-782 as introduced
- (2) Public hearing record on PR 17-782
- (3) Committee Print of PR 17-782

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To: Members of the Council
From: *Cynthia Brock-Smith*
Cynthia Brock-Smith, Secretary to the Council
Date: May 8, 2008
Subject: Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Wednesday, May 07, 2008. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008", PR17-0782

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Gray at the request of the Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

2008 MAY -7 PM 2



CHAIRMAN GRAY
2008 MAY -7 AM 11:30

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

ADRIAN M. FENTY
MAYOR

May 6, 2008

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Gray:

Today, I am transmitting to the Council of the District of Columbia legislation entitled the "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008."

The purpose of this legislation is to approve the "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan," which was initiated by the Office of Planning. This plan provides a strategic framework for revitalization of the Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor and the adjacent residential neighborhoods in Wards 6, 7 and 8. The Plan provides guidance on land use, zoning, transportation, and other issues.

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan is the product of over 18 months of intense collaboration with community stakeholders and District government agencies, which concluded in January 2008 with a Mayor's hearing. Over 200 individual residents and stakeholders participated in crafting, reviewing, and committing to implement the plan. The revitalization plan outlines strategies that will:

1. Provide clear direction concerning land use and zoning policy for the commercial corridor;
2. Create opportunities for mixed use development, including enhanced retail amenities, and workforce and market rate housing; and
3. Support important streetscape and infrastructure investments that will aid in revitalizing one of the District's major corridors.

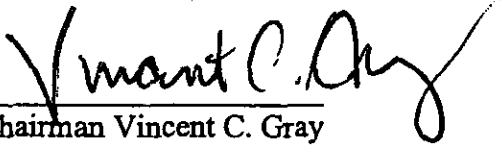
I urge the Council's prompt and favorable enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian M. Fenty".

Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor

Enclosures


Chairman Vincent C. Gray
at the request of the Mayor

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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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10
11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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13

14 Chairman Vincent C. Gray introduced the following resolution, which was referred to the
15 Committee of the Whole.
16

17 To approve the proposed Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor small area action plan.
18

19 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
20 resolution may be cited as the "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan
21 Approval Resolution of 2008".

22 Sec. 2. Pursuant to § 4(c)(4) of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan Act
23 of the 1984 Land Use Element Amendment Act of 184 (Act), effective March 16, 1985
24 (D.C. Law 5-187; D.C. Official Code § 1-306.03(c)(4), the Mayor transmitted to the
25 Council the proposed Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan (Plan).

26 Sec. 3. The Council finds that:

27 (1) The Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor is located in Ward 6, 7 and 8
28 and includes the neighborhoods of Capitol Hill, Barney Circle, Fairlawn, Twining,
29 Randle Highlands, Dupont Park, Penn Branch, Hillcrest, Fort Davis, and Fairfax Village.
30 The planning area is defined by the following boundaries: the properties fronting
31 Pennsylvania Avenue SE starting at Second and Independence Avenues S.E. to the west
32 and the District-Maryland border at Southern Avenue S.E. to the east.

1 (2) The Plan was initiated in September 2006 by the Office of Planning as
2 part of its efforts to support the Great Streets Initiative, a multi-agency, multi-discipline
3 program designed to aid in the revitalization of major commercial corridors in the
4 District.

5 (3) The proposed Plan was published and made available to the public on
6 December 17, 2007, and the Mayor's public hearing was held January 17, 2007.

7
8 (4) The purpose of the Plan is to provide development framework that
9 guides the revitalization of the Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor through land use,
10 urban design, economic analysis and public investment strategies in support of the Great
11 Streets Initiative.

12 (5) The Plan uses specific land use analysis and incorporates the broadest
13 range of planning techniques and practical solutions to achieve the District's goals and
14 objectives.

15 (6) The Plan seeks to identify critical issues that impact revitalization for
16 the Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor. The Plan outlines strategies to:

17
18 A. Provide clear direction concerning land use and zoning policy for
19 the commercial corridor;

20 B. Unify and transform Pennsylvania Avenue SE into a world-class
21 boulevard;

22 C. Create opportunities for mixed use development, including
23 enhanced retail amenities, and workforce and market rate housing; and

24 D. Support important streetscape and infrastructure investments that
25 will aid in revitalizing one of the District's major corridors.

1 (7) The Plan defines near and mid-term strategies for revitalization and
2 articulates broad development goals, urban design and definitive priority actions deemed
3 critical to the revitalization of Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor.

4 (8) Once approved, the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development
5 Plan will provide supplemental guidance to the Zoning Commission and other District
6 agencies in carrying out the policies of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan.

7 Sec. 4. The Plan is approved as submitted

8 Sec. 5. The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as
9 the fiscal impact statement required by section 443(c) of the Rules for the Council of the
10 District of Columbia, Council Period 17 Resolution of 2007, effective January 3, 2007
11 (Res.17-1; 54 DCR 156).

12 Sec. 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.


**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General**

Commercial Division
Land Use and Public Works Section



MEMORANDUM

TO: Harriet Tregoning, Director
Office of Planning

FROM: Alan Bergstein, Section Chief 
Land Use and Public Works Section

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution
of 2008

DATE: March 25, 2008

This is in response to your request for a review of a proposed resolution entitled the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008. The resolution would approve a small area action plan for the Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. corridor an areas that front on Pennsylvania Avenue from Independence Avenue S.E. and 2nd Street S.E. east to Southern Avenue, S.E. We have made a few revisions to the attached resolution. The resolution, as revised, is legally sufficient. If you have questions concerning this matter, please contact Janice Skipper at 442-9771.

Enclosures

cc: Renee McPhatter, Deputy Director
Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs

Geraldine Gardner, Associate Director
Office of Planning

Wayne Witkowski, Deputy
Office of Legal Counsel

AHB/jns
(223127)

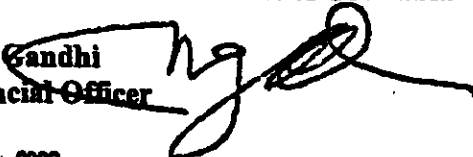
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi 
Chief Financial Officer

DATE: MAR 13 2008

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement: "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor
Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008"

REFERENCE: Draft - No Resolution Number Available

Conclusion

There is no fiscal impact at this time from the provisions of the proposed resolution. Any activities related to the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Draft Land Development Plan, dated January 2008, would need to be budgeted and appropriated in future years.

Background

The proposed resolution would approve the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor Development Plan (the Plan), which was initiated by the Office of Planning (OP). The Plan is intended to provide a strategic framework for revitalization of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor and the adjacent residential neighborhoods in Wards 6, 7, and 8. The Plan provides guidance on land use, zoning, transportation, and other issues.

Specifically, the Plan is intended to provide clear direction concerning land use and zoning policy for the commercial corridor; create opportunities for mixed use development, including enhanced retail amenities, and workforce and market housing; and support streetscape and infrastructure investments that are intended to aid in revitalizing the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor.

Once approved, the Plan is intended to provide supplemental guidance to the Zoning Commission and other District agencies in carrying out the policies of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan.

Full implementation of the various recommendations proposed in the Plan is generally intended to happen in the next seven to ten years.

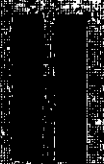
Financial Plan Impact

There is no fiscal impact at this time from the provisions of the proposed resolution, as enactment of the resolution does not create any type of expenditure commitment from the District Government. Any activities related to the Plan would need to be budgeted and appropriated in future years.

The Plan does not identify a specific funding source that would be used for the implementation of the activities identified in the Plan. However, the Plan does identify some public investment strategies that *could* be utilized, including predevelopment and site acquisition funds, façade improvement funds, and project-level financial assistance--such as tax increment financing (TIF)--which is intended to cover economic feasibility gaps.

The implementation of any of the public investment strategies identified in the Plan would require separate authorization at a future point. Any activities related to the plan and undertaken by District entities, and any others, will need to be funded with existing resources and/or budgeted in future years. Activities not documented in this fiscal impact statement but related to the Plan and undertaken by District agencies will need to be budgeted in future years.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535



MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FROM: SAC, [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The following information was obtained from a review of the files of the [REDACTED] Office. It is being furnished to you for your information. All information is being furnished to you on a confidential basis. It is requested that you do not disseminate this information to any other person without the express written consent of the [REDACTED] Office.

Very truly yours,
[REDACTED]

Special Agent in Charge, [REDACTED]

Walter M. [REDACTED], Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

AMF/lms
(2)

Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor

Land Development Plan
FINAL DRAFT
January 2008

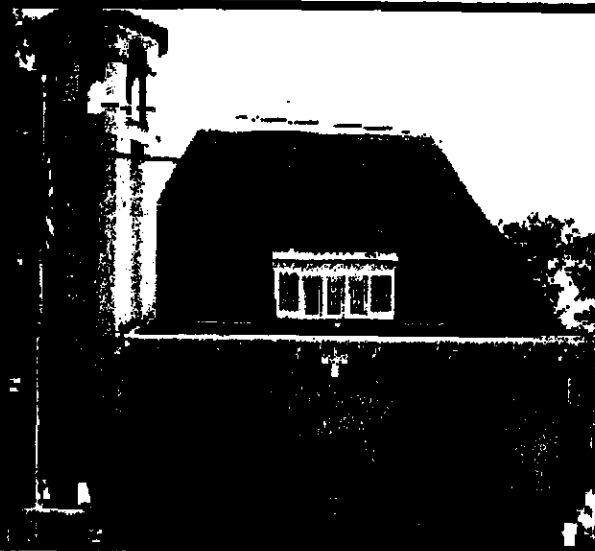


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EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

As one of the city's most important thoroughfares, Pennsylvania Avenue both deserves and requires special attention and consideration to retain its stature and vitality. The communities along this corridor are very active and passionate about their neighborhoods. While there are differences in the characters and needs of these neighborhoods, everyone agrees that Pennsylvania Avenue deserves sensitive redevelopment, special public realm treatment and better retail opportunities. Community leaders have been striving to achieve these goals for many years.

Vision

The guiding vision for the project is a revitalized urban corridor lined with the types of uses and services needed by the surrounding neighborhoods: housing, employment, and retail opportunities for all residents, long-time and new. This study has been undertaken with the understanding that solutions must balance neighborhood goals and city-wide objectives with market realities, and that redevelopment activities must complement the established character of the communities bordering on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. The portion of the corridor west of the Anacostia River has seen an increase in development in recent years, and communities there seek to successfully manage this growth, some of which is occurring within an established historic district. There is also a need to balance issues of scale with proximity to two Metrorail stations and the city's desire for having denser land uses near transit. East of the river has seen very little activity to date, and the communities there are hungry for investment. Attraction of good quality development and retail is the focus here, with sensitive design. The lack of Metrorail

stations here demands increased attention to bus service and walkability.

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE Land Development Plan provides the framework and foundation to guide redevelopment of key sites along the corridor. The elements of the plan are based on extensive research, professional analysis and substantial public input that helped guide the conclusions. This information was factored into the final recommendations contained in this report.

Findings

Initial findings concluded that, in large part, the core physical fabric along the corridor remains reasonably strong and intact. However, it was obvious that certain portions, particularly those east of the river, remain underutilized and do not fully support the needs of the surrounding community. The study also found that the current range of uses along the corridor does not mesh with the expressed needs of the community, nor does it provide the range of goods and services specified by the residents during this and earlier public input processes.

As a result, it is imperative that redevelopment activities be undertaken and promoted that complement the nature of the different neighborhoods and satisfy the needs of their residents. As the community, the District and the private sector implement the plan, it is critical that all stakeholders remain actively engaged in the process and committed to its success. Patience and perseverance will be required to maintain perspective and protect the established vision, recognizing that progress will be incremental over time.

Recommendations

Recommendations and approaches have been developed for seven redevelopment sites along the corridor. These sites represent the greatest potential for generating a positive impact, and are designed to guide the redevelopment process and focus resources. On top of these specific site examples, general design guidelines and other recommendations serve to guide any development within the various sub-areas along the corridor.

West of the River Sites

This area has a number of redevelopment opportunities given its smattering of stand-alone fast food restaurants and other uses inconsistent with the original urban design of the street. The area will retain and expand its neighborhood-serving retail base, while preserving the existing architectural fabric and character. New development will occur in existing commercially zoned parcels, within the parameters of existing zoning. New buildings will be of high-quality architecture and designs compatible with the historic nature of the street. Specific sites include:

- 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
- 1539-1557 and 1550 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

East of the River Sites

This area has a greater number of redevelopment opportunities, as well as significant unmet retail demand. The area will retain and significantly expand its neighborhood-serving retail base. Existing retail architecture is largely of inconsistent quality, and does not reflect the importance of Pennsylvania Avenue, the vitality of the surrounding residential neighborhoods, or today's retail standards. New development

will better front the street, making ground floor retail more accessible to pedestrians and leaving most parking in the rear or underground. With the exception of the Penn Branch Shopping Center parking lot, currently zoned for residential use, new development will occur only in existing commercially zoned nodes. Existing buildings in residentially zoned areas are not considered for redevelopment. New buildings will be of high-quality architecture, and provide modern retail space attractive to a wide range of quality tenants. Any development in these nodes will likely include a mix of uses, much in the same way recommended for the area west of the river, with opportunities for new housing and office to better support new retail establishments.

- L'Enfant Square – 2300 block (south side)
- L'Enfant Square – 2500-2600 block (south side)
- Penn Branch Shopping Center
- Fort Davis Shopping Center

Density, Transportation and Retail Links

At every public meeting held for this plan, the public called out for more and better retail opportunities along the corridor. At the same time, most people also expressed a strong interest in maintaining low density at area commercial nodes. Currently, most of the existing retail space is not of high quality (because the spaces are too small, poorly maintained, etc.), and will likely need to be redeveloped to attract the types of retailers desired by the community. In order to finance the redevelopment of aging retail spaces, developers very often must cross-subsidize with office and residential development.

The proposed land use recommendations made in this document along with planned transportation improvements all work together to create an environment that can sustain the type of retail development desired by the communities along Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. The corridor cannot support continuous retail frontage,

and therefore this plan recommends concentrating clusters of commercial, residential and limited office uses along the corridor at strategic distances from one another. New residents and office workers combine with existing residents to support new and existing retail establishments morning, afternoon and evening. These clusters of residents and workers also justify future investments in rapid bus or other transit services that reduce dependencies on automobiles. Better pedestrian access also means that more people can choose to walk rather than drive when they are able, with increasingly convenient nearby retail destinations. Slower traffic means that drivers are better able to see what retail options are available, and are more likely to stop on their way home to shop. Coming full circle, having a variety of local retail options means that fewer people have to get in their cars and drive to other areas for their shopping needs.

Will targeted commercial and housing development along Pennsylvania Avenue, SE add more people onto an already crowded corridor? Yes. But it will not make traffic appreciably worse, and growth can be leveraged to increase local transit and mobility options, expand housing choices, attract the kind of new retail the community has been seeking for years, and improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. For these reasons, this study suggests that the benefits to the community of targeted redevelopment far outweigh any potential negative impacts on traffic, and will ultimately increase quality of life for everyone.

Zoning

What does the above discussion mean for zoning? Actually, only one zoning modification. With one exception, the density and mix of uses needed to redevelop these key sites can be achieved within the existing zoning of commercial areas along the corridor. Most commercial sites are zoned C2A,

which allows for low to moderate density commercial development with 3-4 story (50 feet) buildings as a matter of right, and 5-6 stories (65 feet) if developed through the Planned Unit Development (PUD) process. The one exception is the Penn Branch Shopping Center, which is zoned C1, or low-density commercial, and R-1-B in the rear (currently a parking lot), or low-density residential. Penn Branch actually has the greatest potential of any site along the corridor to help meet pent up retail demand, but its current zoning makes it a serious challenge for viable redevelopment to occur. This Plan recommends altering the zoning at this one site, including the residentially zoned area currently used for surface parking, to allow for moderate density commercial and residential development, consistent with the other commercial nodes along the corridor. This would be achieved through a Planned Unit Development (PUD) application submitted by a developer before redevelopment.

This plan will serve as an amendment to the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan, which currently calls for continued low density commercial and residential uses at the Penn Branch Shopping Center site. Given the community's desire for retail, and the position of Penn Branch Shopping Center as the best opportunity for providing that retail, we feel it is a necessary change that will result in a short and long term win for current and future residents.

It is also worth reiterating here that this plan does NOT recommend changing any existing residentially zoned land along the corridor other than the current site of the Penn Branch Shopping Center parking lot.

Office of Planning's Development Review division will be embarking on a review and update of zoning regulations for the entire city in late 2007. This 2-3 year process will ensure that all future zoning is consistent with this plan, small area plans for other neighborhoods, and the Comprehensive Plan.



Major Implementation Items

In addition to the development opportunity sites, this plan lays out several sub-area and corridor-wide implementation items that will be the responsibility of various DC government agencies and other groups. These items fall under five basic categories: Transportation & Infrastructure, Economic Development, Clean & Safe, Land Use and Housing. Some of the major items under each category include . . .

Transportation & Infrastructure

- Implement Great Streets roadwork and streetscaping east of the river
- Encourage community groups west of the river to request from DDOT similar streetscape improvements
- Explore rapid bus service along the corridor

Economic Development

- Create a marketing strategy to attract new retailers to vacant spaces
- Conduct analysis of technical assistance needs of existing businesses
- Use commercial façade improvement grant program to create more attractive storefronts where buildings are not expected to be redeveloped

Clean & Safe

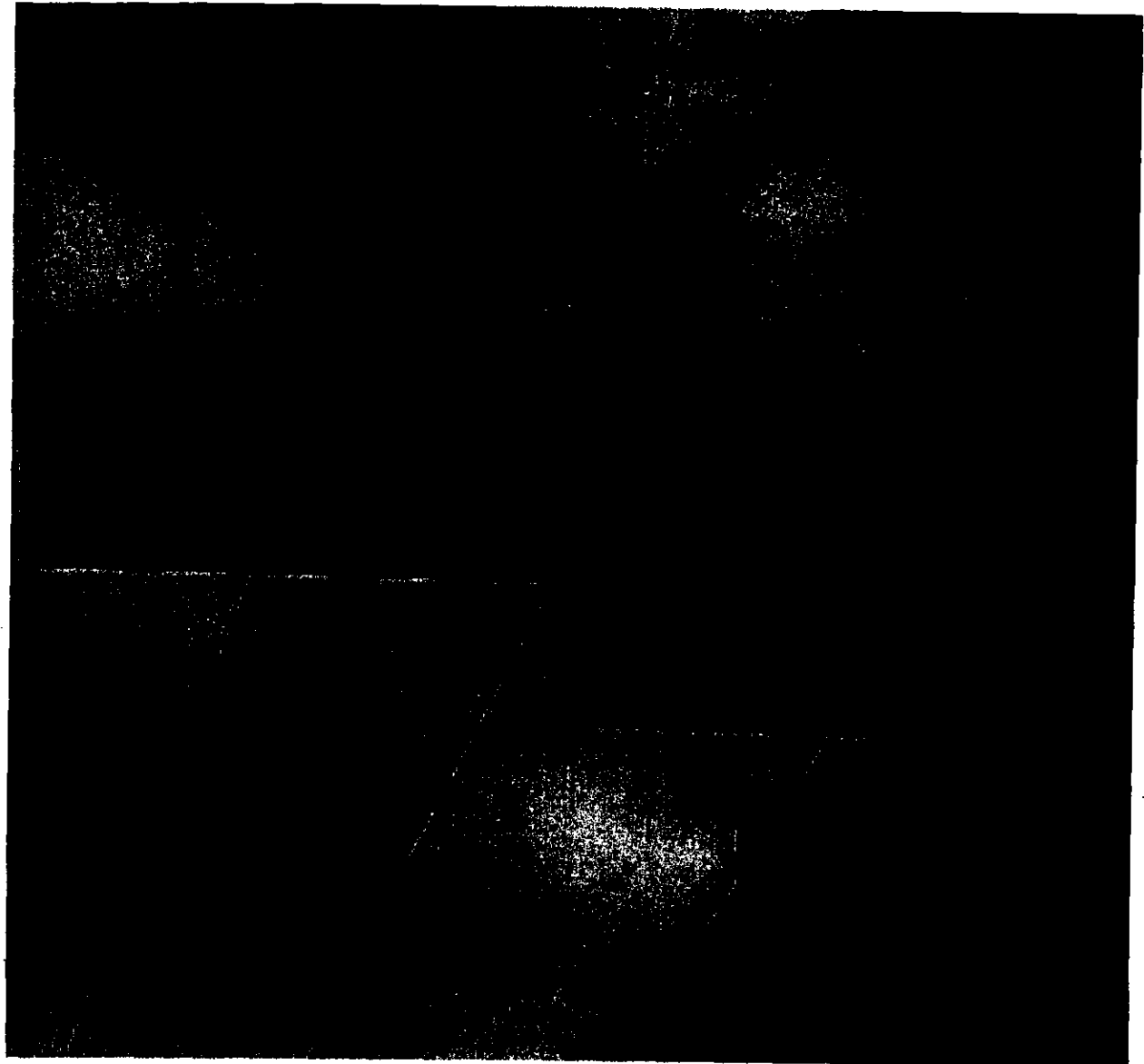
- Explore creation of a "Clean & Safe" team
- Conduct "Operation Fix It" at all commercial sites along the corridor

Land Use

- Ensure that Zoning Review & Updates create zoning for the corridor that supports the type of recommended redevelopment

Housing

- Utilize District and Federal resources to support a variety of mixed-income housing opportunities near key redevelopment sites east of the river





CHAPTER 1

study background



STUDY BACKGROUND

introduction &
project context



Figure 1.1: Pennsylvania Avenue SE in the District of Columbia

The District of Columbia Office of Planning conducted the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan ("the Plan") to identify development options for key sites that reflect community goals, market analysis and site features. These development options will be used to guide future decisions for these key sites which have the potential to serve as catalysts for corridor-wide revitalization. The study area includes all properties fronting on Pennsylvania Avenue SE from Independence Avenue SE/2nd Street SE eastward to Southern Avenue. The study area is more than three miles long and runs through parts of Wards 6, 7, and 8 in the District of Columbia.

Serving as a gateway to the nation's capital, Pennsylvania Avenue SE in Washington, DC is often referred to as "America's Main Street." In addition to its historic and symbolic importance to the District of Columbia and to the nation, it serves a vital role as a busy arterial road, a vibrant commercial hub, and a focal point for surrounding neighborhoods.

The District of Columbia designated Pennsylvania Avenue SE as one of seven major corridors as part of its Great Streets Initiative, a multi-disciplinary corridor-based program to spur redevelopment and increase neighborhood livability. The program uses strategic public investments to improve local quality of life and to attract private investment. The Great Streets Initiative is a partnership of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (ODMPED), the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT), and the District of Columbia Office of Planning (OP).

The Plan includes the following four distinct but interrelated components:

1. Land-use and zoning analysis - A detailed examination of existing land-use and zoning along the corridor and evaluation of potential land-use strategies to further the community's vision for the future.
2. Urban design - Recommendations for functionality, form of development, and preservation and enhancement of neighborhood character.
3. Market and real estate analysis - Evaluation of the corridor's capacity for development and potential market support for different goods and services and identification of strategies for retail and commercial investment.
4. Public participation - Active and ongoing community participation through a broad range of outreach activities.

Through the study process, seven sites were identified that held the highest potential for redevelopment and revitalization:

- 1401 Pennsylvania Ave
- 1539-1557 Pennsylvania Ave
- 1550 Pennsylvania Ave
- L'Enfant Square - 2300 block (south side)
- L'Enfant Square - 2500 & 2600 blocks (south side)
- Penn Branch shopping center
- Fort Davis shopping center

Community Involvement

A very important component of the study was ongoing community involvement through a variety of means including an Advisory Committee, multiple community meetings including a multi-day design charrette in December 2006, a project website (www.pennavese.com), email blasts to stakeholders and also door-to-door canvassing by OP staff. During the course of the study, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) conducted a concurrent streetscape study for the corridor east of the Anacostia River. The two study efforts, including public participation activities, were closely coordinated.

Pennsylvania Avenue SE Advisory Committee

The Office of Planning, in coordination with the Offices of Councilmembers Vincent Gray, Marion Barry and Sharon Ambrose¹, formed the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee included representatives from the many stakeholders in the study area, including government agencies and Councilmembers, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC's), neighborhood and civic organizations, business associations, business and property owners and investors, and faith-based and non-profit organizations. The Advisory Committee worked closely with the Office of Planning, the consultant team, and other government agencies in guiding and developing the Corridor Land Development Plan. The Committee met five times during the study in April, July and October of 2006,

¹ Councilmember Sharon Ambrose retired from office at the end of her term. The Honorable Tommy Wells was elected to succeed her as the Ward 6 Councilmember. Councilmember Vincent Gray was elected as Council Chair, vacating his Ward 7 seat in January. The Honorable Yvette Alexander was elected to succeed him as the Ward 7 Councilmember on May 1, 2007.

and in April and December 2007.

Advisory Committee Members

Marge Francese
Councilmember Sharon Ambrose's Office
Will Hill
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6B-06
Antonette Russell
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6B-09
Reuben Hameed
Barney Circle Neighborhood Watch
Association
Elizabeth Haverkamp
Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and
Professionals
Susan Perry
Capitol Hill Business Improvement District
(BID)
Dick Wolf
Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)
Jill Downing
Penn East, Inc.
John Begert
JPI
Ed Copenhaver
Frager's Hardware
Dawn Slonneger
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray's Office
Gilbert Bussy
Penn Branch Citizens/Civic Association
Vincent M. Spaulding
Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Barbara Morgan
Dupont Park Civic Association
Akil Cooper
Fort Davis Civic Association
Cornelius Bailey
Randle Highlands Civic Association
Barbara Morgan
Pennsylvania Avenue Task Force Committee

Villareal Johnson
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7A-07
Lillian Moore
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7B-03
Raymond Keith
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7B-06
Robin Marlin
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7B-05
Thelma Jones
Fairlawn Civic Association
Anthony Muhammad
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 8A-01
Christopher Jerry
Fairlawn Civic Association
Brad Chesevoir
Brooks Properties
Stylianios Christofides
Infrastructure Capital Group
Gayle Hazelwood
National Park Service-US Department of the
Interior
Brenda Richardson
Councilmember Marion Barry's Office

STUDY BACKGROUND

introduction &
project context

STUDY BACKGROUND

introduction &
project context

Community Meetings

Seven community meetings were held throughout the study process, including the following (see Table 1.1):

- A presentation on the study by OP staff at the Jun 29, 2006 kick-off meeting for the DDOT Pennsylvania Avenue Streetscape
- Participation by OP staff and the Consultant team in DDOT's multi-day charrette – Jul 26 – 29, 2006
- A Community kick-off meeting held Sep 25, 2006 at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
- A joint OP/DDOT meeting on Nov 9, 2006 held to allow citizens to gain information and provide comments on both study efforts

Charrette

The public charrette organized in December 2006 was an important component of the study and provided valuable public input for redevelopment of catalyst sites on the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor. Efforts were focused on bringing about a positive interaction between all stakeholders, including community residents, design consultant teams, municipal officials and developer groups.

The charrette opened with an overview of the project, charrette goals and schedule presented by the consultant team which tied together the economic and urban design aspects for establishing corridor wide planning principles and vision. While the objective of this session was to get a sense of what people want along the corridor, the following two full day workshops were targeted for gathering public input on type and character of development desired on specific sub-areas – Potomac Avenue, L'Enfant Square, Penn Branch, Fairfax Village and Fort Davis. Expression of need and desires by the community defined distribution of uses amongst study areas, for example – we can only support one grocery store, where

should it go? The discussions served as an initial reality check on general development scenarios for corridor revitalization, addressed identified conflicts and highlighted areas of agreement.

On the final day, the consultant team presented a summary and analysis of relevant information and conceptual sketches as an opportunity for open comment and review by the various public stakeholder groups involved.

Themes and Goals

Throughout the study, the project team heard consistent themes for the community's goals and desires for future revitalization and redevelopment:

Redevelopment

- Consistent design guidelines
- Diversity of housing types
- More affordable housing
- Increased mixed-use development

Streetscape Aesthetics/Mobility

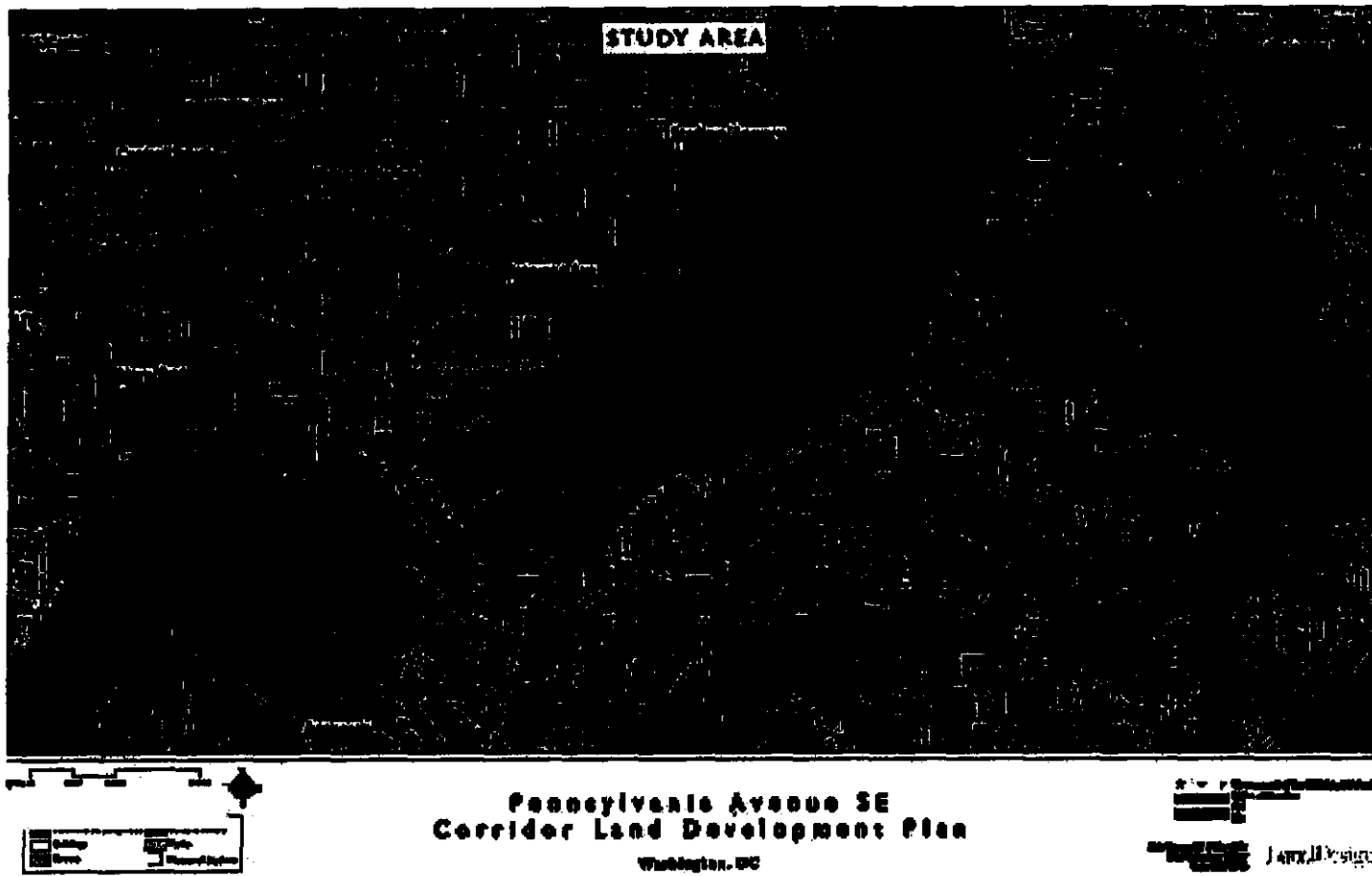
- Need a more attractive streetscape – landscaping, trees, street furniture (benches, planters, etc.)
- Define L'Enfant Square - possibly through gateway treatments
- Improve connections across the Anacostia River
- More trees and green space
- Mid-block pedestrian crossings
- New and better sidewalks
- Better access and connection to the Anacostia River

Retail Attraction

- Retail that has more of a "street presence"
- Large grocery store East of the River
- Marketing campaign to attract people East of the River
- Increase neighborhood-oriented commercial uses
- More sit-down restaurants
- Redevelopment has to address parking issues
- More cultural opportunities

Table 1.1: Meetings

6/29/2006	Community Meeting
7/20/2006	Advisory Committee Meeting
7/26/2006 - 7/29/2006	District Department of Transportation Multi-Day Charrette
8/25/2006	Community Meeting PROJECT KICKOFF
10/23/2006	Advisory Committee Meeting
11/9/2006	Joint OP and DDOT Meeting
12/7/2006 - 12/11/2006	Multi-day Charrette
2/20/2007	Ward 6 Capitol Hill Restoration Society Corridor Study Briefings
2/26/2007	Ward 6 Barney Circle Neighborhood Association Corridor Study Briefings
3/5/2007	Ward 7 Fort Dupont Civic Association Corridor Study Briefings
3/5/2007	Ward 8 ANC 8A Corridor Study Briefings
3/13/2007	Ward 6 ANC 6B Corridor Study Briefings
3/13/2007	Ward 7 Penn Branch Citizens/Civic Association Corridor Study Briefings
3/17/2007	Ward 7 Fort Davis Civic Association Corridor Study Briefings
3/20/2007	Ward 7 Dupont Park Civic Association Corridor Study Briefings
3/22/2007	Ward 7 Randall Highlands Citizens Civic Association Corridor Study Briefings



STUDY
BACKGROUND
study area

Figure 1.2: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Study Area

STUDY
BACKGROUND
project sub-areas

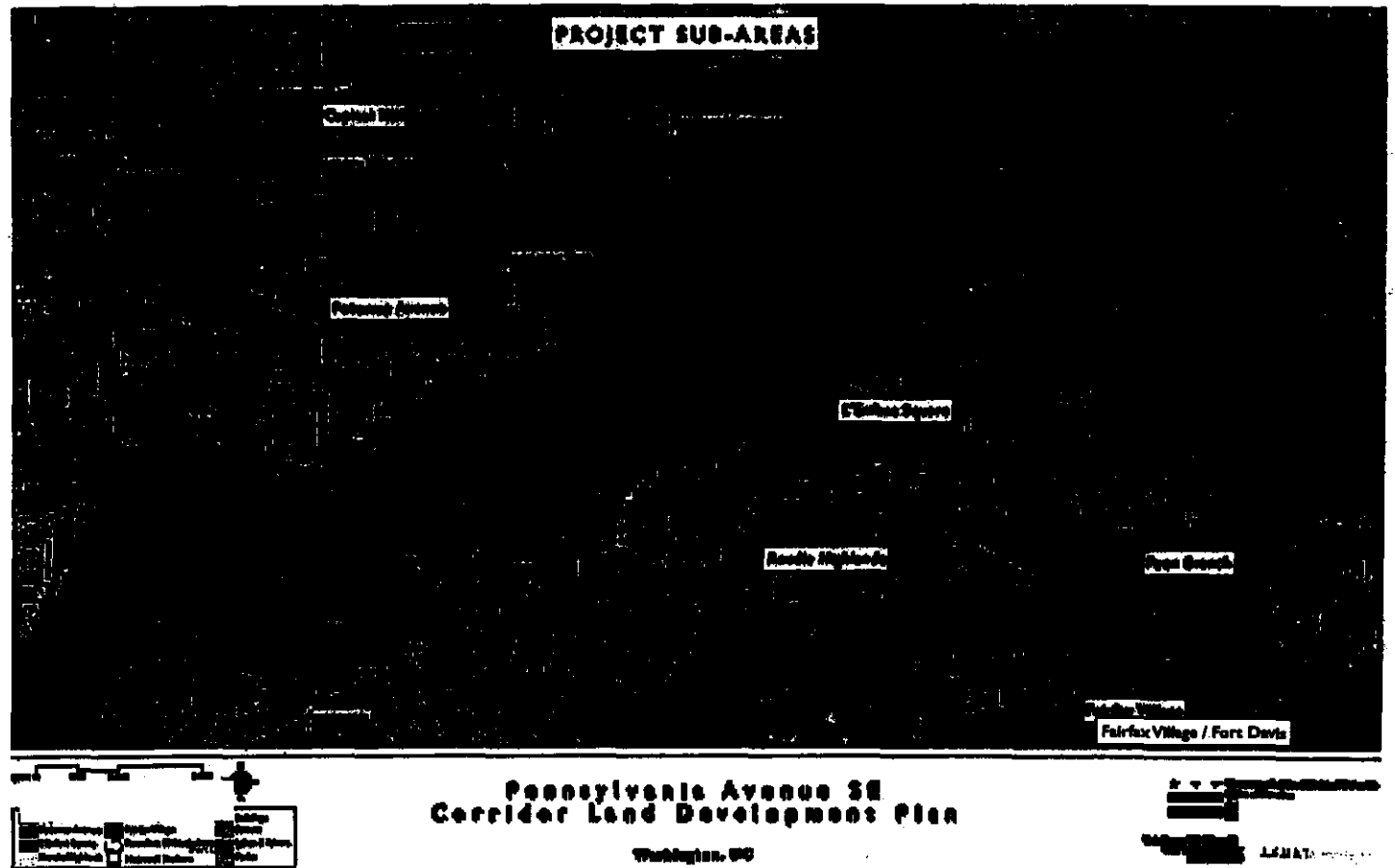


Figure 1.3: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Project Sub Areas

Coordination with Other Planning Efforts

This plan strives to reflect and incorporate, wherever possible, major recommendations of the multiple planning and project development activities in the corridor. DDOT is responsible for several planning efforts in the study area that have impacted the study process. The following list identifies DDOT Plans, Studies and Projects recently completed or currently underway. For further description see Page 21.

Previous DDOT Plans and Studies

- Pennsylvania Avenue SE Transportation Study
- Pennsylvania Avenue Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan
- District of Columbia Transit Improvements Alternatives Analysis
- Middle Anacostia River Crossings Transportation Study
- Capitol Hill Transportation Study
- Anacostia Waterfront Transportation Master Plan

Studies and Projects Currently Underway:

- 11th Street Bridges Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Middle Anacostia Near Term Improvements Design (including reconfiguration of Pennsylvania Avenue and Potomac Avenue Intersection)

- Pennsylvania Avenue SE Great Streets Design (East of Anacostia River)
- District of Columbia Rapid Bus Study - Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor

Other relevant past studies include the following:

- The Memorials and Museums Master Plan was developed by the National Capital Planning Commission. It identified one hundred potential sites for future memorials and museums in the District of Columbia and provided general guidelines for the placement of these facilities. It included inventories of existing memorials and museums, a projection of future requirements, an urban design framework for locating future sites, and policies to guide federal agencies in their review of future museums and memorials.
- Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans (SNAPs) were prepared by the DC Office of Planning, starting in 2000, for each of the District of Columbia's thirty-nine neighborhood clusters. The SNAPs outline the top priority issues in each neighborhood and inform decisions on the city budget.

Pennsylvania Avenue Task Force

For the last seven years, a group of citizens composed of representatives from local ANCs, civic associations, and other community groups have worked together to form a vision for the Pennsylvania Avenue, SE corridor east

of the river. Members of this group have been actively involved in this planning process. A market study was conducted in 2002 showing a demand and desire from the community for more sit down restaurants, cafes, drug stores, clothing stores, a hardware store, and other locally serving retail. Market strengths noted by this study included the area's stable population and high traffic volumes. Several weaknesses were also pointed out, including that the area is so close to other larger shopping areas such as Skyland Shopping Center, East River Shopping Center, and a variety of options in Prince George's County. This study suggested that the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor is most likely to attract very locally serving retailers, and others that can take advantage of the commuter traffic. Recommendations for attracting new retail included 1) Building a critical mass of new retail space large enough to overcome negative perceptions of the area, 2) Placing retail attractive to commuters on the south side of the street to attract people on their way home from work, 3) Making parking visible, ample and secure, 4) Improving pedestrian linkages across Pennsylvania Avenue, 5) Providing subsidies to developers and retailers to offset the high costs of construction and the need for reasonably priced leases, and 6) Marketing the area aggressively to new retailers and shoppers alike.

This plan takes the results of all of these previous studies into consideration, and incorporates them into its final recommendations.

STUDY BACKGROUND

coordination with
other planning efforts

CHAPTER 2

study area conditions

10

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor includes several historic resources, some of which are included on the National Register of Historic Resources and/or the DC Inventory of Historic Sites. The National Register of Historic Places is the official national list of historic properties considered worthy of preservation and is maintained by the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. Listing on the National Register does not automatically protect a building or district from demolition or other modification; however, it does require federal, state and local government agencies to take into consideration the effect of their plans or projects on the listed properties.

The DC Inventory of Historic Sites is a listing of properties designated by the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB). District of Columbia Historic Preservation Law protects all properties listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and provides the HPRB with the authority to approve or deny proposed changes to historic landmarks and historic districts.

Additional buildings or sites along the Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Corridor may be considered for historic designation. Future redevelopment suggested by this plan shall fully respect any historic resources designated after this plan is published. HPRB will guide sensitive preservation and incorporation of these buildings within the context of new development.

Table 2.1: Historic Resources

Name	Location	National Register of Historic Places	District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites
Capitol Hill Historic District	Roughly bounded by Virginia Avenue SE., S. Capitol Street, F Street NE., and 14th Streets SE & NE	Yes	Yes
Congressional Cemetery	1801 E Street SE	Yes	Yes
Old Naval Hospital	921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE	Yes	Yes
Fort Dupont	In proximity to intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue SE and Alabama Avenue SE	Yes (Civil War Fort Sites)	Yes (Fort Circle Parks)
Fort Davis	In proximity to intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue SE and Alabama Avenue SE	Yes (Civil War Fort Sites)	Yes (Fort Circle Parks)
Eastern Market	7th and C Streets SE	Yes	Yes
Seward Square	All Addresses	No	Yes
Engine Company #19	2813 Pennsylvania Avenue SE	No	Yes (Pending Landmark)
Friendship House	619 D Street SE	Yes	Yes

STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS
historic resources



STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS
historic resources

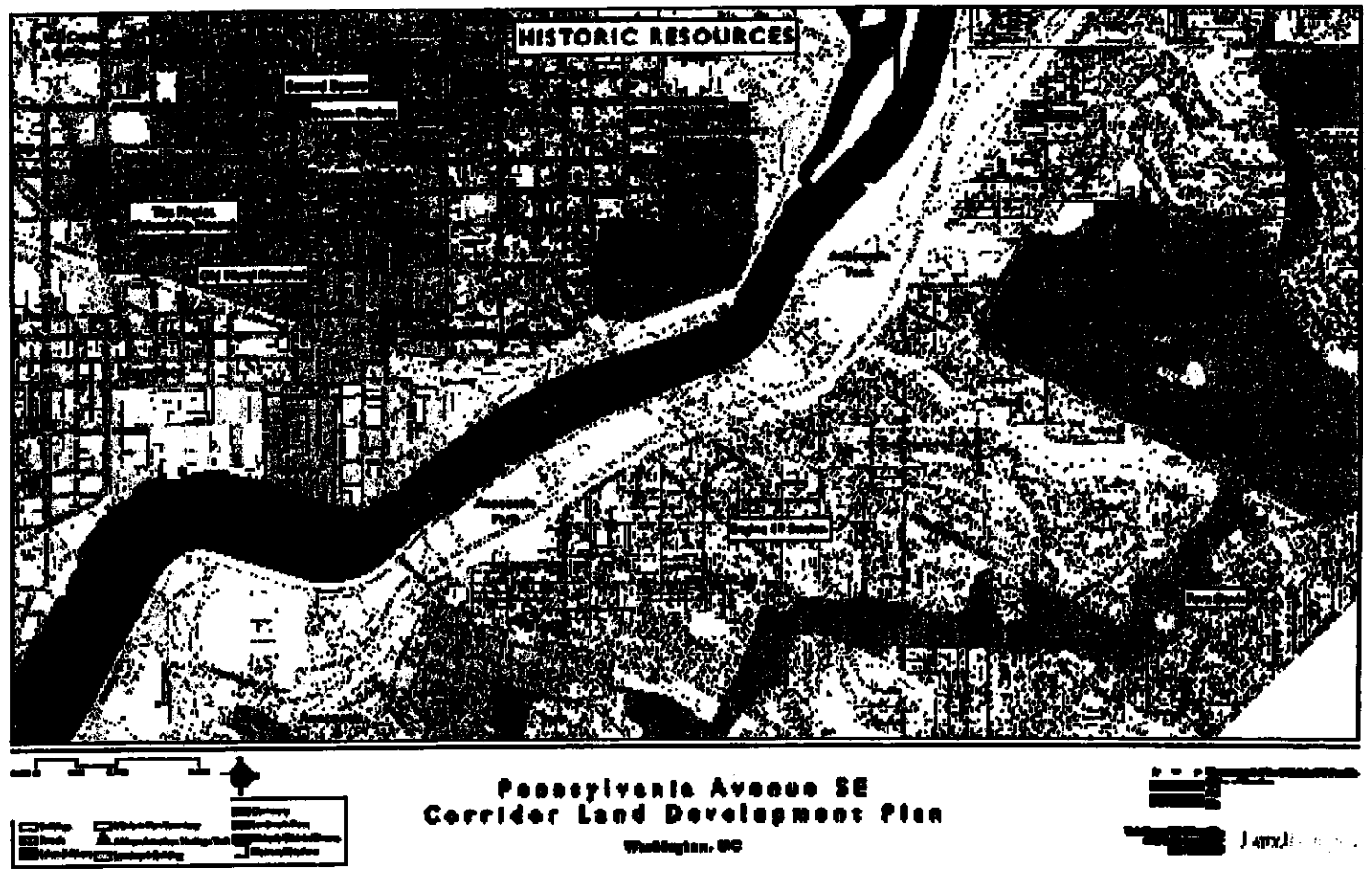


Figure 2.2: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Historic Resources

The study area includes significant government and institutional resources and facilities including Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department buildings, Metropolitan Police Department facilities, public and private schools, and a library. A list of these resources is included in Table 2.2 and their locations are noted in Figure 2.6 on page 18.

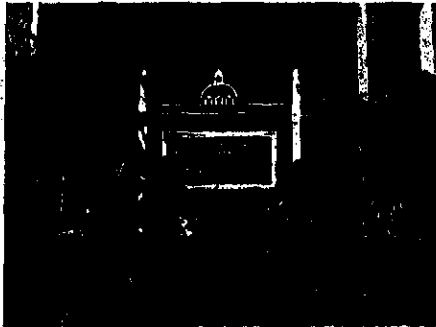


Figure 2.3: Capitol Hill Cluster School

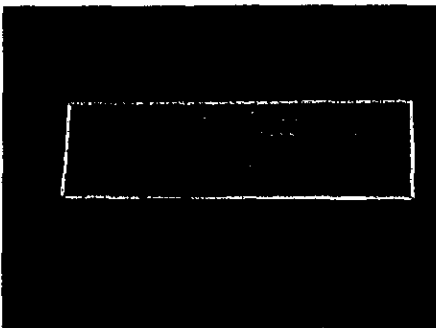


Figure 2.4: Metropolitan Police Department

Table 2.2: Government and Institutional Resources and Facilities

NAME	LOCATION
Fire And Emergency Medical Services Department	
Engine Company 18	414 8th Street, SE
Engine Company 19	2813 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Metropolitan Police Department Facilities	
Metropolitan Police Department Sixth District Substation	2701 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Metropolitan Police Department Regional Operations Command-East	3244 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Public Schools	
Hine Junior High School	335 8th Street, SE
C. Watkins Elementary School	420 12th Street, SE
Friendship-Edison PCS Chamberlain Campus (Public Charter School)	1345 Potomac Avenue SE
Randle Highlands Elementary School	1650 30th Street, SE
Private Schools	
Saint Francis Xavier School	2700 O Street, SE
Libraries	
Southeast Neighborhood Library	403 7th Street, SE
Other Resources	
University Legal Services	3220 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
District of Columbia Department of Human Services	3851 Alabama Avenue SE
Friendship House Association	619 D Street SE

STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

government &
institutional
resources & facilities



STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

government &
institutional resources



Figure 2.6: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Government & Institutional Resources



The study area for The Plan includes numerous parks and open space areas.

At 376 acres, Fort Dupont Park is one of the largest parks in Washington, DC. The fort was built in 1861 and is one of the forts that are collectively known as the Civil War Defenses of Washington, or the "Fort Circle Parks".

Anacostia Park encompasses over 1,200-acres and includes Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, Kenilworth Marsh, and the historic Langston Golf Course. The park has hundreds of acres of ballfields, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, picnic areas, a boat ramp, wetlands and other natural areas.

The eastern point of Fort Circle Parks (also known as Civil War Defenses of Washington) crosses the study area near the Alabama Avenue intersection. This forested corridor of parkland, situated prominently on a topographic ridge that flanks the eastern environs of the City, is an important urban design element that adds to the unique character of the nation's capital. It includes the earthen remains of Fort Davis and the Fort Davis Drive connects the study area with Fort Dupont Park to the north. The 376-acre Fort Dupont Park is one of the largest and most diverse parks in DC.



Figure 2.7: Fort Dupont Park

In addition to large public parks, the study area includes several urban open space areas including Seward Square, Eastern Market and L'Enfant Square.

Table 2.3: Parks and Open Space

NAME	SUB-AREA LOCATION
Seward Square	Capitol Hill
Eastern Market Metro Plaza	Capitol Hill
Potomac Avenue	Potomac Avenue
Barney Circle	Potomac Avenue
Congressional Cemetery	Potomac Avenue
Anacostia Park	Potomac Avenue and L'Enfant Square
L'Enfant Square	L'Enfant Square
Fort Circle Parks (Fort Davis Park & Fort Dupont Park)	Penn Branch

STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

parks & open space



STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS

parks & open spaces

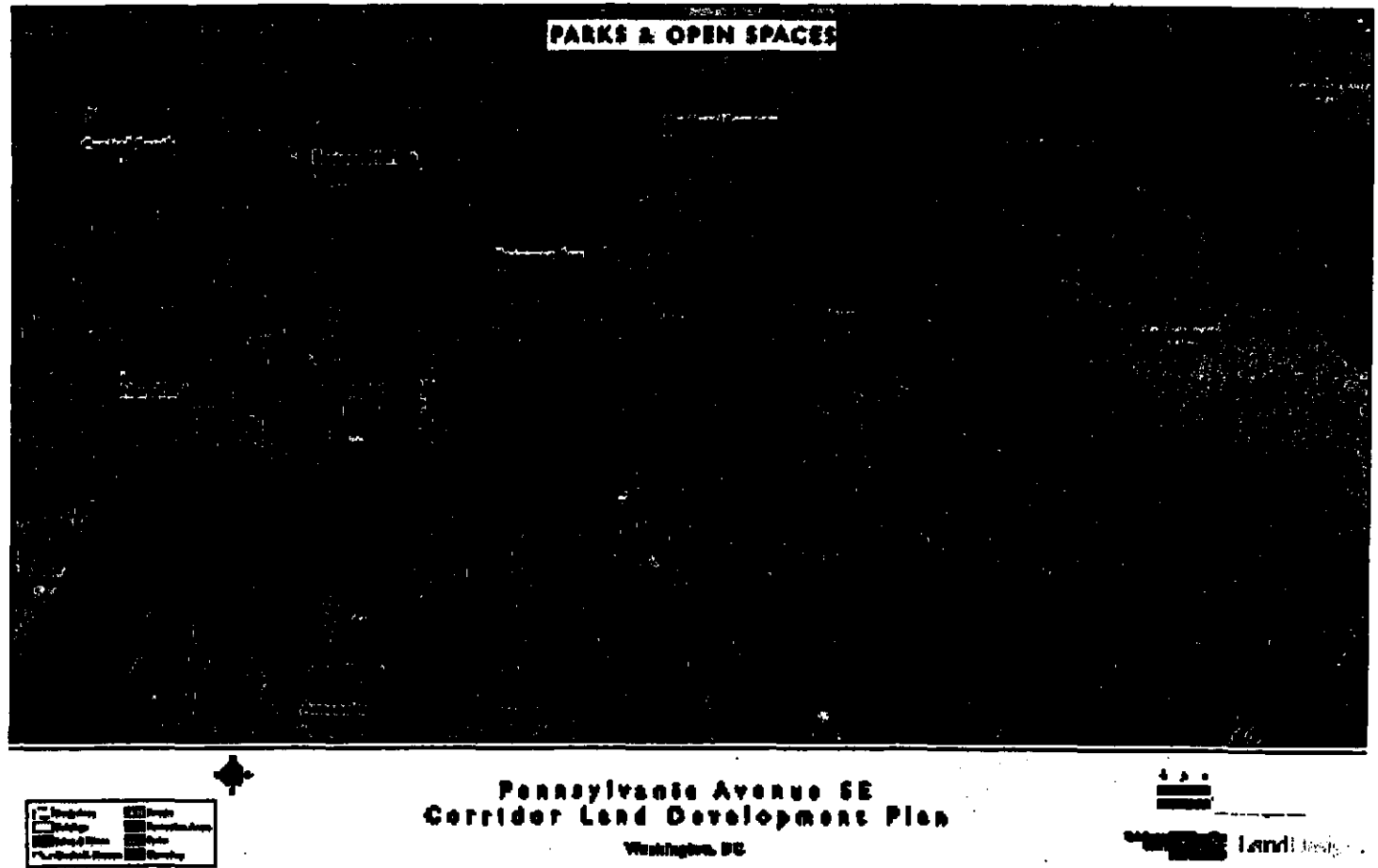


Figure 2.10: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Parks & Open Spaces

Transportation Introduction and Background

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor is an important transportation corridor in the District of Columbia. Pennsylvania Avenue SE is classified by the District Department of Transportation as a principal arterial road and is crossed by collector, local, and minor arterial roads and the Anacostia Freeway (I-295) on the east side of the Anacostia River and the Southeast Freeway on the west side of the Anacostia River.

Transportation Plans, Studies, and Projects

- Middle Anacostia River Crossings
 - 11th Street Bridges Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Middle Anacostia Near Term Improvements Design (Including reconfiguration of Pennsylvania Avenue and Potomac Avenue Intersection)
- Capitol Hill Transportation Study
- Pennsylvania Avenue Streetscape Design (East of Anacostia River)
- 11th Street Bridge Realignment
- Pennsylvania Ave SE Transportation Study
- The District of Columbia Transit Improvements Alternatives Analysis
- Pennsylvania Avenue Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan
- District of Columbia Rapid Bus Study - Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor

The Capitol Hill Transportation Study includes Pennsylvania Avenue SE from Independence Avenue SE and 2nd Avenue SE to Barney Circle. An important element of the Capitol Hill Transportation Plan study (originally contemplated in the Middle Anacostia River Crossings effort) is recommended improvements at the intersection of Potomac

Avenue SE and Pennsylvania Avenue SE. These recommendations include reconfiguring the intersection entirely and creating a fully functioning traffic circle as well as other recommendations with a key goal of mitigating vehicle and pedestrian conflicts. Other recommendations emphasized pedestrian safety at the Eastern Market Intersections with the goal of *providing safer connections* between bus, Metro, and pedestrian travel. These and other recommendations in the plan could potentially impact Pennsylvania Avenue as they would significantly alter the land-use and circulation patterns along the corridor.

A second DDOT initiative is a streetscape design process for Pennsylvania Avenue SE east of the Anacostia River. The project has recommendations for intersection improvements and operational solutions and is part of the Great Streets program. DDOT held a four-day community workshop to identify, discuss, and review potential streetscape design options for the corridor. An important element of this study is recommendations for the design and layout of the L'Enfant Square intersection at Pennsylvania Avenue SE and Minnesota Avenue SE and a landscaped median running along the Avenue from L'Enfant Square to Southern Avenue. Proposed changes to the design and layout of the road could have significant implications on land use and economic development for surrounding properties and thus could potentially impact the Plan. The Plan, however, is a living document, and can be amended to address any future transportation impacts.

A third important DDOT initiative is the proposed replacement of the twin 11th Street Bridges over the Anacostia River and improvements to the interchanges at either end. Based on the

recommendations from the Middle Anacostia River Crossings Transportation Study, the proposed improvements include constructing new ramps east of the Anacostia River to connect both directions of the Anacostia Freeway with the crossriver bridges. Local traffic would be separated from freeway traffic. Wide, shared-use paths for easy walking, jogging, and bicycling would tie into existing and planned trails on both sides of the river. The 11th Street Bridges project will provide additional connections between Interstate highways in the vicinity of the study area and potentially reduce cut-through traffic on local streets. The project is currently in the environmental documentation phase. The 11th Street Bridges Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in June 2006 and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was published in Fall 2007.

DDOT is also working to increase transit options in the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor. A comprehensive study of the WMATA metrobus 30's route, which operates in the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor, is currently underway. This study will examine the current service and recommend short range service improvements. The recommendations will complement the findings of the District of Columbia Rapid Bus Study - Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor.

The Pennsylvania Avenue SE Transportation Study documented the volume of automobiles traveling along the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor and presented recommendations for improvements to community cohesiveness and amenities, pedestrian accessibility, transit facilities, and overall circulation. DDOT is currently finalizing the District of Columbia Transit Alternatives Analysis (DCAA). The study outlines recommendations for increasing

surface transit options within the District and addresses service gaps in the existing Metro bus and rail system. The implementation timeframe extends over a thirty (30) year period and will include various premium transit technologies.

The Pennsylvania Avenue Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan was prepared by DDOT for the National Scenic Byways Program. The plan is meant to encourage the conservation and enhancement of Pennsylvania Avenue's historical and cultural qualities and to promote tourism and economic development.

How Land Use Informs Transportation Decisions:

To the average citizen, the link between land development and transportation is not always clear. The process begins with the Office of Planning's State Data Center (SDC). At least once a year, the SDC staff looks at population and development growth throughout the city, and makes predictions for growth in the coming year. The last update occurred in January 2007, and the next will be early in 2008. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) then takes this information to create travel demand models that show expected traffic increases and impacts on a regional level. DDOT takes this data and refines it to a more local level. In this way, future development is considered every time DDOT conducts a study.

More information on MWCOC's travel model can be found on line at:

<http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/activities/models/current.asp>



STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS

planned transportation
improvements

Planned & Recommended Transportation Improvements



Yellow lines: Proposed bicycle lanes
Orange circles: Proposed transportation improvements
Blue circles: OP-recommended Bus Rapid Transit stops
Red triangles: Metrorail station entrances

Figure 2.11: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Planned & Recommended Transportation Improvements



Land Use and Zoning

Cities use zoning regulations as part of a coordinated approach to implementing land use policies and community vision. At the most basic level, zoning regulations classify the city into different zoning districts. Each district has rules governing the character of the development allowed, such as permitted uses, building scale, parking, setbacks, and development intensity. These regulations are created to guide development, and prevent unwanted and incompatible land uses and construction. Zoning itself does not promote or foster development, rather it prevents projects not in compliance with the regulations.

As this is a land use plan, careful consideration and analysis of existing uses and zoning is essential. The land use maps here reflect data from the District of Columbia and site visits by the consultant team. The sub-area maps that follow provide a more detailed description of existing land use conditions and are also based on data from the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer and site visits.

Corridor Land Use and Character

The corridor began its rich history as an extension of the L'Enfant Plan, see Figure 2.1, and was built on an axis with the U.S. Capitol Building. It was designated as a National Scenic Byway by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor includes a variety of land uses as shown in Figure 2.12 on page 24. West of the Anacostia River, the corridor is predominantly commercial with adjacent residential development. There are significant parks and open space areas in this portion of the study area at Seward Square, Eastern Market, Potomac Avenue, and Barney Circle and along the median on Pennsylvania

Avenue SE. The portion of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor east of the Anacostia River from Fairlawn Avenue to 30th Street SE is more commercial in character. East of 30th Street, the corridor is more residential in character with commercial nodes at Branch Avenue SE and Alabama Avenue SE. This segment also includes significant Public/Institutional and Parks and Open Space land use designations.

The consultant team conducted several site visits to assess the overall condition and character of the corridor. These observations are described below for both east and west of the Anacostia River, and also later on for the individual sub-areas in Chapter 4.

Pennsylvania Avenue East of the River

- Use as a major river crossing severely impacts the corridor and divides the community
- Less ceremonial than the west side of the corridor
- Retail pockets are automobile oriented and offer limited services
- Large setbacks and a green boulevard
- Mostly fronted by single-family homes
- Several major parks and small pocket parks - poor pedestrian access to parks due to automobile orientation
- Lack of access to the Anacostia River because of I-295 and the interchange
- L'Enfant Square is a congested and dangerous intersection; roadways split the open space into traffic islands
- Vehicular Right-of-Way widens appreciably once in Maryland
- Defined by single-family and multi-family residential with clearly defined retail and employment zones
- L'Enfant Square is a prominent gateway

to the neighborhoods East of the River

Pennsylvania Avenue West of the River

- Prototypical DC historic architecture and land uses dominate
- Majority of the homes are row houses constructed around the turn of the 19th century and earlier
- Some of the District's earliest row houses are in the Capitol Hill community
- Scattered among the row houses are attractive small apartment buildings and corner stores
- Slow and steady transformation of the neighborhood's commercial areas
- Excellent public transportation including connections to Metrorail Stations
- Where 7th and 8th Streets SE cross Pennsylvania Avenue SE, they create a lively intersection of services
- The renowned Eastern Market farmers market anchors the 7th Street commercial area and provides a hub for weekend shopping
- 8th Street SE, south of Pennsylvania Avenue SE, is known as Barracks Row and is a growing neighborhood retail area
- Includes historic Old Naval Hospital, school buildings, community garden, and pocket parks
- Pennsylvania Avenue SE intersects Seward Square, which was one of the original L'Enfant Squares and was named after President Lincoln's Secretary of State
- New trees in the median

STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

land use & zoning



STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS
existing land use

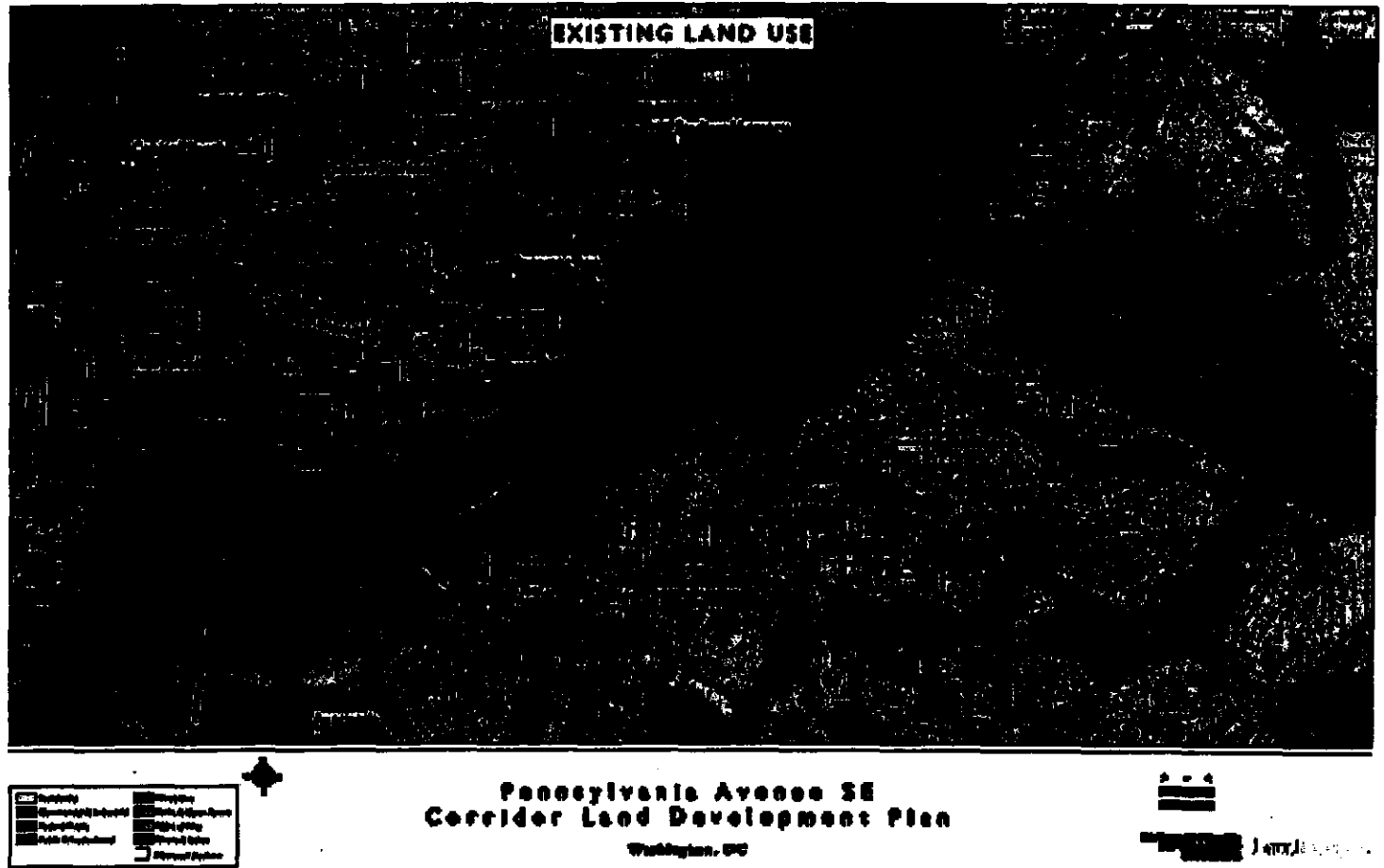


Figure 2.12: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Existing Land Use

The following zoning categories are all those that currently exist along the corridor, as shown in figure 2.13. Parcels fronting Pennsylvania Avenue, SE west of the river are predominantly zoned commercial, while east of the river the zoning consists of commercial nodes spaced between residential areas.

Table 2.4: Zoning Categories

R-1-B	Permits matter-of-right development of single-family residential uses for detached dwellings with a minimum lot width of 50 feet, a minimum lot area of 5,000 square feet, a maximum lot occupancy of 60% for a church or public school use and 40% for all other structures; and a maximum height of three (3) stories/forty (40) feet.	C-1	Permits matter-of-right neighborhood shopping and low density development to a maximum lot occupancy of 60% for residential use, a maximum FAR of 1.0, and a maximum height of three (3) stories/forty (40) feet.
R-2	Permits matter-of-right development of single-family residential uses for detached and semi-detached structures, with a minimum lot width of 40 feet and lot area of 4000 square feet for detached structures, and 30 feet and 3000 square feet for semi-detached structures; a maximum lot occupancy of 60% for church and public school use and 40% for all other structures, and a maximum height of three (3) stories/forty (40) feet.	C-2-A	Permits matter-of-right low density development, including office, retail, and all kinds of residential uses to a maximum lot occupancy of 60% for residential use, a maximum FAR of 2.5 for residential use and 1.5 FAR for other permitted uses, and a maximum height of fifty (50) feet.
R-4	Permits matter-of-right development of single-family residential uses (including detached, semi-detached, row dwellings, and flats), churches and public schools with a minimum lot width of 18 feet, a minimum lot area of 1,800 square feet and a maximum lot occupancy of 60% for row dwellings, churches and flats, a minimum lot width of 30 feet and a minimum lot area of 3000 square feet for semi-detached structures, a minimum lot width of 40 feet and a minimum lot area of 4000 square feet and 40% lot occupancy for all other structures; and a maximum height of three (3) stories/forty (40) feet. Conversions of existing buildings to apartments are permitted for lots with a minimum lot area of 900 square feet per dwelling unit.	C-2-B	Permits matter-of-right medium density development, including office, retail, housing, and mixed uses to a maximum lot occupancy of 60% for residential use, a maximum FAR of 3.5 for residential use and 1.5 FAR for other permitted uses, and a maximum height of sixty-five (65) feet.
R-5-A	Permits matter-of-right development of single-family residential uses for detached and semi-detached dwellings, and with the approval of the Board of Zoning Adjustment, new residential development of low density residential uses including row houses, flats, and apartments to a maximum lot occupancy of 40%, 60% for churches and public schools; a maximum floor area ratio (FAR) of 0.9, and a maximum height of three (3) stories/forty (40) feet. Conversion of existing buildings to Flat or Apartment use is permitted as a matter of right provided all other provisions of the zoning regulations are complied with.	C-M-1	Permits development of low bulk commercial and light manufacturing uses to a maximum FAR of 3.0, and a maximum height of three (3) stories/forty (40) feet with standards of external effects and new residential prohibited.
R-5-B	Permits matter-of-right moderate development of general residential uses, including single-family dwellings, flats, and apartment buildings, to a maximum lot occupancy of 60%, a maximum FAR of 1.8, and a maximum height of fifty (50) feet.	Capitol Hill Commercial (CHC)	Established along the principal commercial corridors in the Capitol Hill Historic District to provide incentives for small office and retail development for all permitted uses. Except in the CAP Overlay District, the CHC Overlay will increase the maximum permitted FAR to a maximum of 3.0 FAR for all permitted uses, allowing 100 percent (100%) commercial occupancy as a matter-of-right. In the CAP Overlay District, the CHC Overlay will increase the maximum permitted FAR to 2.5 FAR for all permitted uses. A planned unit development in the CHC Overlay District may not exceed the maximum FAR permitted in the CHC Overlay District. The CHC Overlay does not affect the underlying C-2-A or CAP Overlay height limitations or any other applicable area or use restriction.
		Capitol Interest District (CAP)	Permits development of uses that are consistent with the US Capitol Master Plan, to a maximum FAR of 1.8, and a maximum height of three (3) stories/forty (40) feet. This district is mapped in combination with other districts.

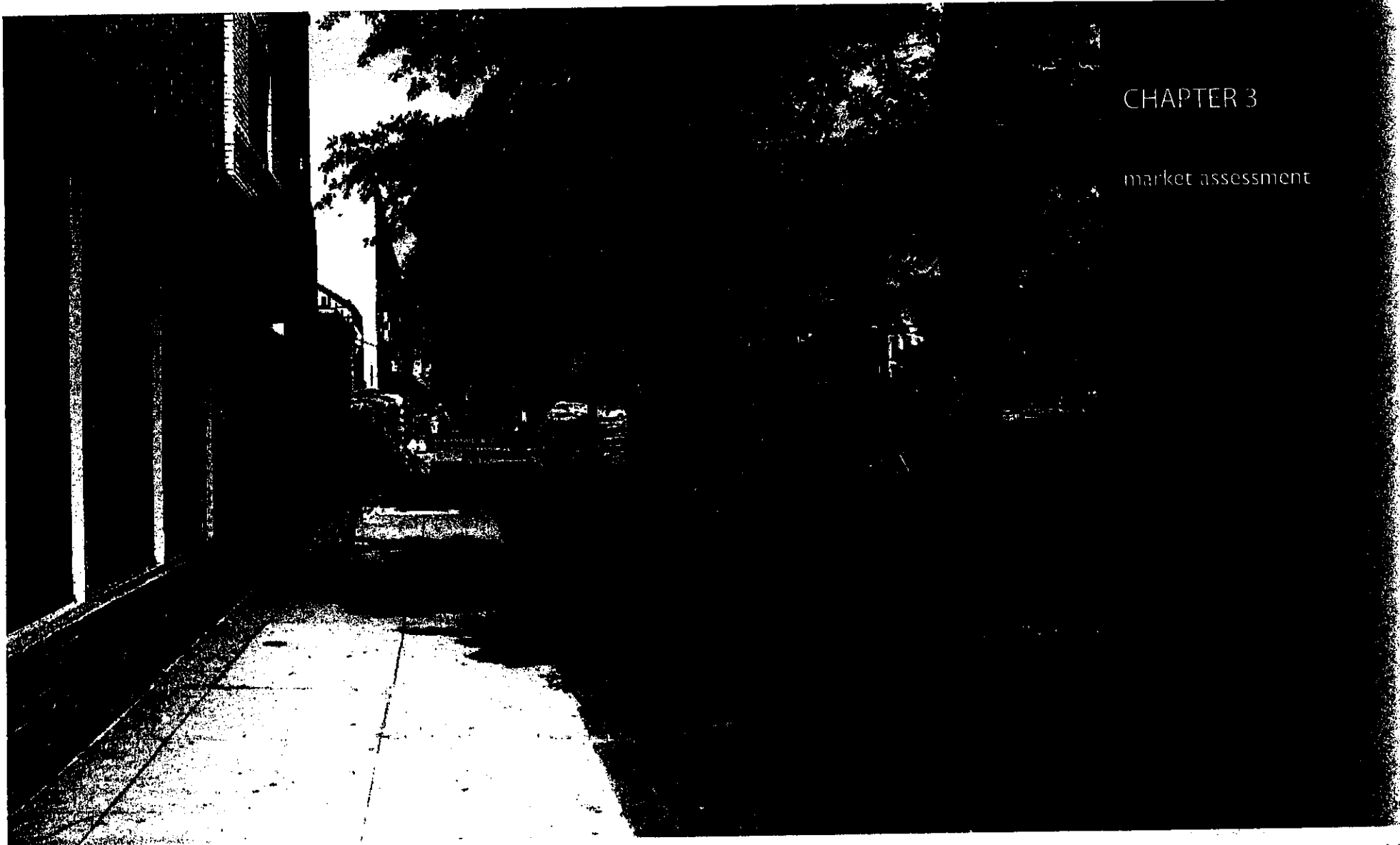
STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS
zoning categories

STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS

existing zoning



Figure 2.13: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Existing Zoning



CHAPTER 3

market assessment

MARKET ASSESSMENT

background &
methodology

The Pennsylvania Avenue corridor is incredibly diverse with regard to current market conditions and future market opportunities. The part of the corridor west of the Anacostia River ranges from established, mixed-use areas to emerging cores of activity; the market opportunities in this part of the corridor are near-term. The part of the corridor East of the River includes a mix of stable, middle-class neighborhoods and areas of physical blight and socioeconomic distress. There are opportunities for both near and longer-term redevelopment here, with a few pending projects close to approval at important locations.

The market assessment component of the study has helped guide the planning process to ensure that the plan is based upon achievable market and development assumptions within all sub-areas in the corridor. The objective of the market assessment component is to provide a broad overview of the future market conditions along the corridor, and the achievable demand assumptions by land use over the next 20-year period. The market assessment also addresses the market economics of the development opportunities and constraints along parts of the corridor, in particular the financial feasibility of specific types of development and the critical issues density and site capacity.

Specific tasks of this market assessment have included:

- An assessment of existing land use conditions and current development trends along the corridor.
- An analysis of demographic and market trends within the corridor and its submarkets.
- A calculation of future demand by land use based upon demographic and market trend data, specifically:
 - o Multifamily residential
 - o Retail
 - o Office
- A broad assessment of site capacity in selected cores of activity, with a specific focus on those areas that present immediate opportunities and those that are more site capacity constrained.
- An assessment of the financial feasibility of specific types of development, given expected rents and prices along the corridor



Existing Land Uses

The corridor offers a wide diversity with regard to the character and quality of land uses (see Figure 3.1 on page 41). The area West of the River has a greater concentration of commercial uses than the area East of the River, and the commercial uses in the western area tend to be healthier and are more effectively integrated within a vibrant, mixed-use environment. The quality of the commercial uses in the western portion of the study area does decline in the cores closest to the Sousa Bridge.

The area of the corridor East of the River has relatively few commercial nodes, the quality of these commercial nodes are generally poor, and the commercial activity is not as effectively integrated into surrounding neighborhoods. Much of the retail in the eastern portion of the study area serves the retail needs of passing commuters as much as those of local residents.

Multifamily housing is dispersed throughout the corridor, with a greater share of this housing type West of the River. The multifamily housing stock West of the River tends to be better integrated within mixed-product, mixed-use neighborhoods, and generally this stock of housing is healthier and more stable.

The multifamily housing East of the River tends to be more concentrated, with significant pockets of distress; there are pockets of stable, healthy, moderate and middle-income multifamily housing, as well as a small amount of new, market-rate housing.

The Pennsylvania Avenue corridor is not a significant office market, and the office space

that does exist within the corridor is generally located West of the River within the Capitol Hill neighborhood. This office space tends to be smaller, boutique space. There are DC government offices East of the River, but this activity is not indicative of broader, private sector office demand.

Development Trends

The Capitol Hill sub-area – the western most portion of the corridor, from 2nd Street to 11th Street – is an established, vibrant, mixed-use core. This market condition is moving eastward, and has already generated development opportunities east of 11th Street, (most notably the mixed-use Jenkins Row project). The Potomac Avenue sub-area is therefore already experiencing significant redevelopment pressures, and the next logical step in the near term is further reinvestment in the Potomac Avenue Metro core and the stretch of underutilized parcels from 14th Street to the Sousa Bridge. These redevelopment pressures will impact, and be impacted by, the ongoing efforts to recapture the Anacostia waterfront.

The design of Barney Circle, the I-395 spur, and the Sousa Bridge represent significant physical barriers, and this has historically limited the real and perceived market connection between the west and east sides of the River. Over time, this connection will strengthen, as redevelopment opportunities in the areas West of the River become more limited, and the redevelopment market forces continue to spread eastward.

The neighborhoods East of the River also are experiencing significant redevelopment pressures due to strong pent-up demand for

higher-quality housing and retail from within the existing community. The East of the River market has historically been mostly ignored by the real estate development community; however, this is beginning to change as investment dollars seek out new opportunities in a highly competitive regional marketplace.

Demographic Characteristics

The District of Columbia, after decades of household losses, is projected to add approximately 40,000 net households from 2005 to 2025, after an estimated net gain of 15,600 households from 2000 to 2005 (see Figure 3.2 on page 42). The estimated and projected turnaround in household growth in the District is founded on the assumption that the District offers a variety of housing options in attractive and safe neighborhoods. The revitalization of the entirety of the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor is a key part of this overall growth assumption.

The Pennsylvania Avenue corridor is projected to capture a share of this net household growth (see Figure 3.3 on page 42). This household growth data is based upon the traffic analysis zone (TAZ) districts, as defined by Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG), that border the corridor (see map, Figure 3.4 on page 42).

MARKET ASSESSMENT

existing market conditions



Single Family Vacant Retail Other
Multi Family Office Industrial
Hotel Parking Shopping

MARKET
ASSESSMENT
existing market
conditions

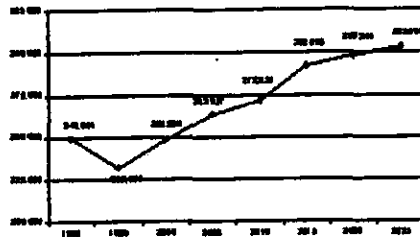


Figure 3.2: COG Household Projections, District of Columbia

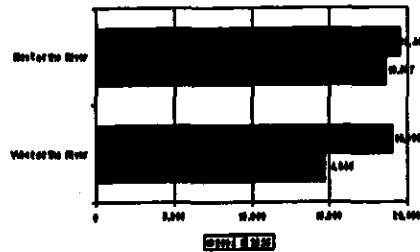


Figure 3.3: COG Household Projections, PA Ave Corridor



Figure 3.4: Map of Demographic Sub-Areas, PA Ave Corridor

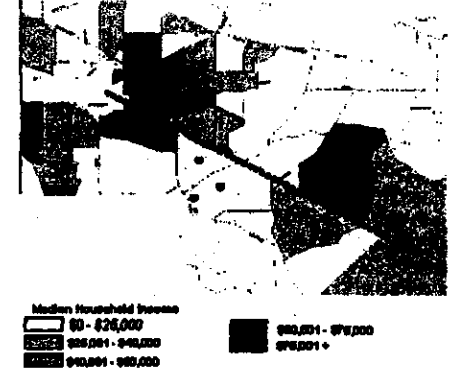


Figure 3.5: Household Incomes, 2006

Net household growth along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor is projected to be concentrated West of the River – approximately 4,350 net households in this part of the corridor from 2005 to 2025, or more than 10% of the District total. This represents an increase of 28% over this 20-year period. The projected net household growth West of the River is driven by the expected expansion of the Capitol Hill market into neighborhoods with significant development opportunities, including larger sites adjacent to the corridor (such as Hill East Waterfront).

The projected net household growth from 2005 to 2025 in the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor East of the River is relatively limited – with only approximately 900 net new households, or 3.2% growth, over 20 years. These projections are especially low, given that the same COG numbers estimate that from 2000 to 2005, this same area added approximately 1,200 households, or 8% of the District total net household growth.

The project team has analyzed the COG

projections, and utilized this data to help understand future housing demand; however, it is very likely that these projections do not account for the full depth of demand for new housing along the corridor, and thus the project team conducted an independent analysis of housing demand conditions, as discussed below.

The corridor is varied with regard to household incomes (Figure 3.5 on page 42). The western part of the corridor has the largest concentrations of census tracts with high median incomes. The highest income households are generally concentrated around the Capitol Hill neighborhood core, with the census tracts immediately west of the Anacostia River having, in general, more modest household incomes.

In the part of the corridor East of the River, incomes are more modest in most of the surrounding census tracts. There are significant pockets of middle-income households in the stable, single-family neighborhoods along Branch Avenue, most notably the neighborhood around Fort Dupont Park.

Housing Characteristics

The area West of the River has higher household densities than the area East of the River (as shown in Figure 3.6, Claritas, Inc., estimates). Density is often, wrongly, equated with lower overall housing values; in fact the area West of the River has significantly stronger housing values than the lower-density neighborhoods East of the River. Single-family home values (Figure 3.7, Claritas, Inc., estimates), in particular, show this contrast.

Single-family home values are indicative of the overall strength of residential market demand. Within the corridor, the highest single-family home values are concentrated in the Capitol Hill sub-area, with typical values decreasing as one heads eastward from Capitol Hill.

Based on 2000 Census data, 51% of total housing units in the census tracts along the corridor are owner-occupied – higher than the District as a whole. The area East of the River has a slightly higher rate of homeownership (52%) than the area West of the River.

The concentration of lowest single-family values is concentrated in the L'Enfant Square area, as well as the northern part of the Fairfax Village / Fort Davis sub-area. There are, however, large concentrations of stable single-family neighborhoods in the Randle Highlands and Penn Branch sub-areas East of the River.

Within the tenure data there are a variety of market conditions. The higher-income census tracts around the Capitol Hill core has a homeownership rate right around 50%, with a significant number of middle and high-income renters – both in multifamily buildings and in rented single-family homes. The area East of the River has a more varied experience, with the lower-income census tracts experiencing

relatively low rates of homeownership (30% to 45%), but the stable, single-family neighborhoods experiencing high rates of homeownership (75% to 85%).

Housing vacancy rates along the corridor were at 9% per the 2000 U.S. Census. Vacancy rates were slightly higher East of the River (11%), with some census tracts experiencing vacancy rates as high as 15%. This is still below the 2000 average for the District as a whole (16%).

Retail Expenditures

Retail demand is derived from household expenditures, which is driven in great part by household incomes – although the relationship between retail expenditures for different types of retail and household incomes is not directly correlated, as many retail expenditures represent basic needs of all households, and some are more discretionary.

The supportable square feet of retail per household for different store types, for the market areas west and East of the River, is shown in Figure 3.8 on page 44. This analysis is based upon an analysis of the retail expenditures for these two market areas, as well as assumptions on sales per square foot thresholds based upon industry thumb rules.

Figure 3.9 provides another look at the same data – this time showing the number of households required to support a typical establishment. Certain store types require much larger formats, and thus require a much larger trade area.

Given income disparities, the market area West of the River supports more retail than the market area East of the River. The differences between the two market areas are less stark

in everyday needs – such as grocery stores (5% difference), pharmacies (14%), and convenience goods (20%). More discretionary retail expenditures are more sensitive to changes in income between the two trade areas. Some retail uses are partly discretionary, but also represent everyday needs – such as discount department stores, warehouse, grocery stores, and limited-service restaurants, where the difference in expenditures between the two market areas ranges from 25% to 30%. In the most discretionary categories, such as comparison goods and full-service restaurants, the differences between the two market areas range from 50% to 90%.

This data also shows the significant number of households required to support the larger anchor retailers. The local market areas along the corridor do not come close to supporting these destination retailers, and therefore if these retailers were to consider a location along this corridor, they would need to draw from a much larger market area.

Office Market Trends

The corridor today is not an established office core. The total Class A&B office space inventory in the corridor is 275,000 square feet, and all of this space is located in the Capitol Hill core. There is scattered Class C (or below) space East of the River, but it is limited in quantity and quality, and not generally indicative of broader trends toward new, multi-tenant office development. The Capitol Hill core is very healthy, with current vacancy rates under 2% and rents in the \$35 to \$40 (full service) per square foot range. Net absorption – defined as the net new office space occupied – has been limited in the past five years, but absorption has been constrained by the lack of new inventory, as evidenced by the very low vacancy rate in the market today.

MARKET ASSESSMENT

existing market
conditions

MARKET
ASSESSMENT
development
opportunity projections



Figure 3.6: Household Densities, 2006

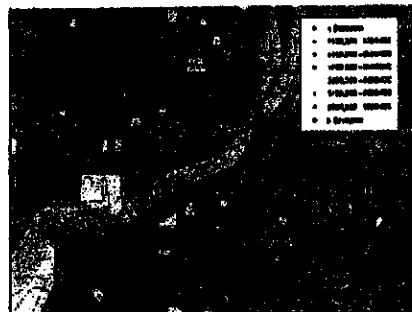


Figure 3.7: Single-Family Housing Values, 2006

There are very strong future market opportunities to leverage positive market trends in the District of Columbia and along the corridor, and increase the amount of development activity in this corridor, especially in the under-served markets East of the River.

Multifamily Residential Development Opportunities
If the District of Columbia is to accommodate

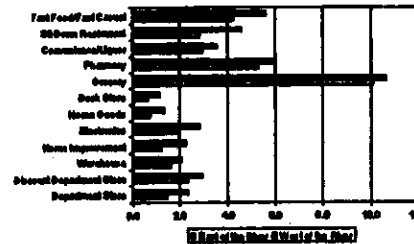


Figure 3.8: Supportable Square Feet per Household, 2006

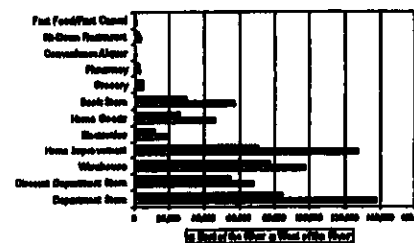


Figure 3.9: Number of Households Required to Support a Typical Retail Establishment, 2006

its projected residential growth, underutilized corridors and sites will need to be revitalized and redeveloped. Given land values/costs of available sites, the predominant housing product type in the District will be multifamily housing.

In order to determine depth of future multifamily residential demand along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor, the projected District-wide

multifamily housing demand was distributed among all the Great Streets corridors (with a share of demand set aside for non-Great Streets residential growth cores), based upon the known development pipeline and an assessment of the near, mid and long-term attractiveness of the corridors.

The net housing demand West of the River will be driven primarily by the ability to find and develop sites, then the ability to capture available demand, over the next 20 years. The Capitol Hill core will have few sites that can be effectively redeveloped in the foreseeable future, especially at a high enough density to add a significant number of net new households, and thus demand for housing will continue to head eastward from Capitol Hill into the Potomac Avenue sub-area. While the Potomac Avenue sub-area has a number of underutilized sites, these sites are not very large, and will likely be able to accommodate a small amount of the total development potential. Overall, the corridor West of the River is projected to be able to capture 1,000 to 1,500 net new households in multifamily housing by 2025.

The portion of the corridor East of the River will not experience similar market pressures in the near term, but already has shown the ability to capture demand for new, market-rate housing. The initial source of demand will be pent-up demand for higher-quality housing from the local market area, with demand spillover from the neighborhoods West of the River having a greater impact in the mid and long terms. Overall, the corridor East of the River is projected to be able to capture 850 to 1,425 net new households in multifamily housing by 2025. The range reflects different assumptions on the pace of growth in the District as a whole.

Retail Development Opportunities

Retail growth typically follows household growth, but in urban environments, there often exists significant pent-up demand for retail services from under-served residents. This is the case in the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor, especially East of the River.

Retail demand was determined based upon an analysis of retail demand for a variety of retail store types from selected retail trade areas, including trade areas outside of the immediate neighborhoods surrounding the corridor's submarkets. Capture rates of available demand were based upon the competitiveness of the identified sub-areas for retail development – visibility, access, surrounding land uses, etc. – as well as the quantity and quality of existing and planned retail nodes in other competitive locations. The corridor is not an ideal location for destination retail, especially given the proximity of existing and planned retail cores that will serve this demand. There are few, if any, sites available along the corridor that could accommodate the critical mass of retail – typically between 500,000 and 1,000,000 square feet – required to create a destination retail core. The neighborhoods along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor are or will be served by several existing or planned destination retail cores, including Union Station area, the Baseball District, Poplar Point, and the redeveloped Skyland Mall. The Capitol Hill core, including Barracks Row, is an existing local destination for entertainment, restaurant, and boutique retail uses, and we project that this will continue to be a position of market strength for this core. However, most of the available demand for these uses has been accommodated, and the future evolution of this retail core will focus more on strengthening the existing base through replacement and repositioning, rather than significant net new

retail square footage.

The strongest retail market opportunity along the corridor is infill neighborhood-serving retail, especially in the parts of the corridor that are today vastly underserved. Much of the projected retail development will replace older, lower-quality existing retail that is not adequately serving its customer base. The Potomac Avenue sub-area will be able to support an additional 200,000 to 250,000 square feet of local-serving retail, which includes the Harris Teeter grocery store that is currently under construction at 13th and Pennsylvania. The retail will likely be developed in small components, as part of mixed-use projects.

Approximately 300,000 to 350,000 square feet of retail development can be supported along the corridor East of the River. This includes demand for a new, full-scale grocery store, a pharmacy, other in-line neighborhood-serving tenants, and a mix of local-serving limited-service and full-service restaurants.

The natural location for the largest retail concentration of this new development is L'Enfant Square, given the strong visibility and access created by the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Minnesota Avenue, the proximity to I-295, and its role as a gateway to the east side of the River neighborhoods. However, L'Enfant Square has few sites that can realistically accommodate this scale of retail, and given these constraints, it is more likely that L'Enfant develops as a smaller-scale retail core (50,000 to 75,000 square feet) focusing on convenience retail, boutique retail, and restaurants. The next logical destination for a node of neighborhood-serving retail is the Penn Branch sub-area, specifically the site that currently holds the older, obsolete Penn Branch center. This site could accommodate,

from a market demand perspective, 150,000 to 200,000 square feet of retail, assuming a grocery anchor. A more limited, unanchored retail program would support 30,000 to 50,000 square feet of retail. A smaller, local-serving retail node in the Fairfax Village sub-area could support 25,000 to 35,000 square feet of convenience retail and restaurants.

Office Development Opportunity

The office development opportunities along the corridor are relatively limited. The Capitol Hill core could certainly accommodate additional boutique office development, given the low vacancy rates and the access provided to the Capitol district. The depth of this additional demand is based more on the viability of specific projects, but it is safe to assume that 50,000 to 75,000 square feet of additional office space could be accommodated over the next 20 years. As with multifamily housing, site availability is a significant constraint.

Office development potential East of the River is relatively limited, as this area is not expected to benefit from any significant spillover from neighboring office cores. However, there is likely some pent-up demand from local-serving, service-oriented office tenants that aim to serve the local population. This demand is estimated at between 20,000 and 40,000 square feet in higher-activity cores such as L'Enfant Square and Penn Branch, specifically as part of a larger, mixed-use redevelopment.

Publicly-driven office uses operate outside of the broader market context, and could provide viable office tenants for any planned office space along the corridor.

MARKET ASSESSMENT

development
opportunity projections

MARKET
ASSESSMENT
development
opportunity projections

Table 3.1 Summary of Market-Driven Development Opportunity Projections, 20-Year Period

Sub-Area	Residential Opportunity	Retail Opportunity	Office Opportunity
Capitol Hill	Infill development opportunities over 20-year period, but site availability a significant constraint	Continued strengthening of existing retail base, but relatively limited net new retail development opportunities	50,000 to 75,000 square feet of net new office can be supported, but limited by site availability
Potomac Avenue	800 to 1,200 net new multifamily units along the corridor	200,000 to 250,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail	Limited
L'Enfant Square	400 to 800 net new multifamily units	50,000 to 75,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving and boutique retail and restaurant	20,000 to 40,000 square feet of local-serving, boutique office space
Randle Highlands	Limited, given lack of infill sites	Limited	Limited
Penn Branch	400 to 800 net new multifamily units	150,000 to 200,000 square feet of neighborhood-serving retail and restaurants	20,000 to 40,000 square feet of local-serving, boutique office space
Fairfax Village	100 to 200 net new units, although availability of sites is a constraint	25,000 to 35,000 square feet of local-serving retail	Limited

Market demand is only one component of future development opportunities. An area that could attract demand must also have the sites available to accommodate this demand, and the proposed projects must be financially feasible given expected revenues (achievable prices or rents) and development costs. On a broad level, we have assessed the market economics of the projected development potential along the corridor, and provided some preliminary strategies on how to overcome near-term market constraints.

Site Opportunities and Constraints

Site capacity is defined by a variety of factors:

- **Value/Cost of Land (Including the cost of razing existing improvements):** Existing uses, even if undesirable and not sustainable in the near term, can often support a land value that makes redevelopment difficult. Also, market speculation can often prohibit development for a period of time, at least until the actual value of the land catches up to the speculative value. These are often limiting factors for redevelopment efforts in emerging locations.
- **Lot Size:** Lot size includes not only the total square footage, but also the width and depth. An appropriate size greatly depends on the type of product that can be supported in any given location. Specifically, without costly solutions to parking needs (such as underground parking), many infill sites are nearly impossible to develop at a critical mass that makes financial sense.
- **Site Ownership:** Since many redevelopment areas are comprised of smaller sites, land assembly is often a critical, and often costly, step in the redevelopment process. To the extent that a relatively few number of land owners are involved, land assembly can be realistically accomplished. In an area

where site ownership is fractured, land assembly is a very significant impediment without direct public sector involvement (e.g., eminent domain).

Much of the corridor is impacted by some, or all of these constraints. The sites within the Capitol Hill core (and on its fringe) are able to overcome these constraints through the strength of the market opportunity – achievable rents and prices can afford to pay for additional development costs. In the Potomac Avenue sub-area, the near-term view is that growing market pressures will also help overcome many existing site constraints.

In the sub-areas East of the River, there are also significant site constraints, but while market demand exists, in the near term the strength of the market forces may not be able to overcome the significant constraints for many sites. L'Enfant Square represents the most significant redevelopment challenge, given the large number of small sites with fractured ownership. The Penn Branch shopping center, in contrast, offers a strong redevelopment market opportunity, given the size of the site and the motivations of a single owner.

Financial Feasibility of Various Product Types

The strength of the market opportunity drives the type of product that can be financially supported, as higher revenue potential allows a site to accommodate denser and more costly construction types (including more costly parking solutions). The following is a review of a sample of residential product types, and their relationship to redevelopment opportunities in the sub-areas within the corridor:

- **High-Rise:** 7+ stories with underground parking. Only supportable in established urban cores, such as the Capitol Hill core (although height limitations and the historic designation make this product type highly

unlikely in the Capitol Hill neighborhood). In the longer term may be supportable in the L'Enfant Square core – a gateway project with world-class views of the Capitol.

- **Mid-Rise with Parking:** 5 to 7 stories above parking. Currently supportable in the Potomac Avenue sub-area, although near-term ability to deliver in this product in this submarket may be constrained by market softness. Supportable in the mid and long terms in mixed- or multiple-use cores East of the River.
- **Donut:** 3 to 5 stories wrapped around above-grade structured parking. Does not offer enough density to make financial sense in an established location, except in cases where achievable density is limited by regulatory constraints.
- **Garden:** 3 to 5 stories with surface parking. Likely there are no sites that can realistically be redeveloped at this level density, given land values as well as the sizes of available sites, with the exception of smaller-scale projects where more creative parking solutions (such as on-street parking) are available.

All along the corridor, the Mid-Rise with parking product type is the most viable for larger parcels, while the Donut type is most likely for smaller, or oddly shaped lots. High-Rise and Garden style are unlikely anywhere along the corridor.

Note: The cost of affordable housing requirements, established as a market norm through the city's Inclusionary Zoning policy, will be passed on to land values, thus reducing the strain on vertical construction costs.

MARKET ASSESSMENT

market economics

MARKET
ASSESSMENT
various product types



Figure 3.10: High-Rise 8+ Stories with Underground Parking



Figure 3.11: Mid-Rise with Podium Parking 6 to 8 Stories

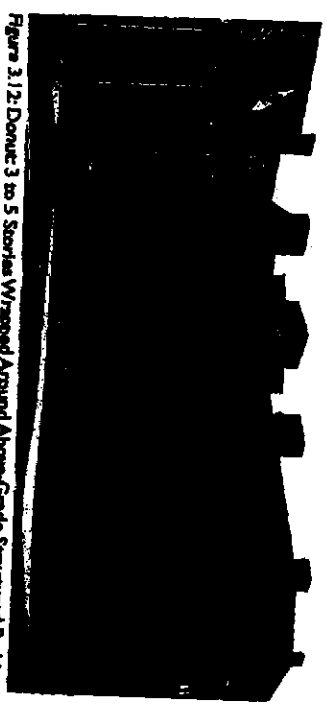


Figure 3.12: Dense 3 to 5 Stories Wrapped Around Above-Grade Structured Parking

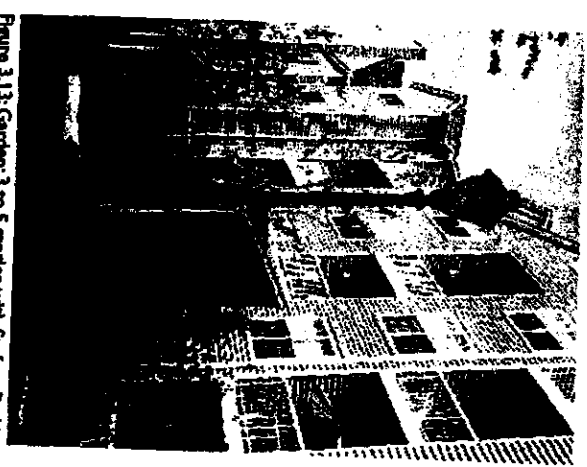
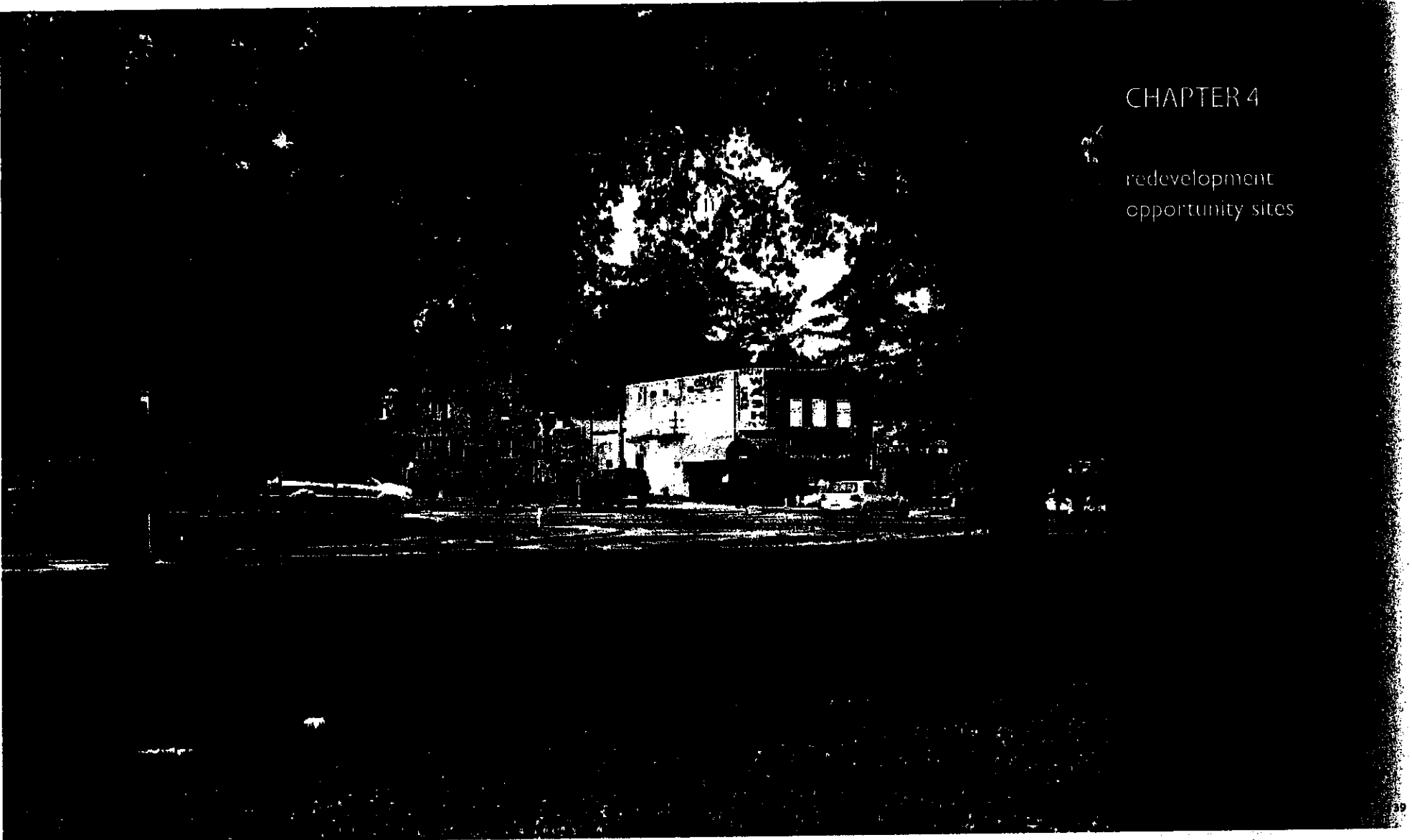


Figure 3.13: Garden 3 to 5 stories with Surface Parking



CHAPTER 4

redevelopment
opportunity sites



REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

OVERVIEW

There are many influences on successful development, including community needs and desires, market analysis, transportation and traffic impacts, retail attraction and retention practices, urban design qualities, etc., and how density can be used to tie them all together. The ultimate recommendations made for each corridor sub-area and specific redevelopment opportunity site were developed by considering all of these factors, and balancing sometimes conflicting priorities.

Beginning in June 2006, OP and the project team carried out an array of activities, including extensive community outreach, market and demographic analysis and urban design to identify the most promising opportunity sites and realistic development programs. In early December, 2006, a multi-day community design charrette was held at the Randle Highlands Elementary School to gain further input on preferred options for redevelopment for the seven opportunity sites. Following the design charrette, the project team identified development programs with the type and intensity of use for each of the sites. The team also prepared illustrative renderings and graphics. OP staff met with several community groups during February, March and June of 2007 to review the proposed development programs for the following sites:

- 1401 Pennsylvania Ave
- 1539-1557 Pennsylvania Ave
- 1550 Pennsylvania Ave
- L'Enfant Square - 2300 block (south side)
- L'Enfant Square - 2500 & 2600 blocks (south side)
- Penn Branch shopping center
- Fort Davis shopping center

The development program for each of the sites intends to illustrate their potential for redevelopment to act as catalytic anchors, in order to achieve a cohesive and vibrant development along the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor.

The final preferred development programs for the seven sites mentioned above, along with the community's comments on goals and concerns, are included in this chapter, along with a discussion of recommendations for land use and design form. The development programs presented for each site are for schematic illustrative purposes only. Future development will be determined by public regulatory processes, private market decisions and ongoing public input from concerned communities.

In the context of this project, the current zoning on each opportunity site was analyzed to ensure that overly restrictive regulations are not impeding desired redevelopment and reinvestment. Current zoning was used as the basis for creating a development template throughout the corridor that reflects both community and real-estate constituency desires for redevelopment and reinvestment.

Understanding the Links: Density & Transportation

The qualities of the surrounding single family neighborhoods East of the River that make them attractive also provide a "catch-22" for potential retail development. The density of the area is among the lowest of the city, and the area experienced a decline in population through the 2000 Census. The trade area surrounding the single family neighborhoods, while denser,

has a population that is significantly poorer than many other parts of the city. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) projected a net growth of 1,200 households from 2000 to 2005 in the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor east of the river. MWCOC projections for the same area from 2005 to 2025 show only approximately an additional 900 net new households, a significant slow down. Further, the economic analysis shows that a significant number of households are needed to support new retail. For example, it would take over 3500 households in the neighborhoods east of the river to support one sit-down restaurant. As it currently stands, all of the opportunity sites are operating well below the allowable development potential. More importantly, the obsolete format in which these commercial centers exist provides a serious challenge to addressing the urgent community need for retail.

Even with all of this being said, a broader look must be taken at how retail development along Pennsylvania Avenue, SE can and will be shaped from a regional perspective, especially from other parts of Wards 7 and 8. Currently, the Good Hope Marketplace is a fairly new neighborhood retail center offering a decent line of retail services. Adjacent to the site, is the future development at Skyland Shopping Center, which will offer a major retail anchor, along with convenience oriented shopping and housing. Potential development at Poplar Point could become a major regional shopping and entertainment venue for not only the District, but also Virginia and Maryland. The efforts to revitalize Anacostia and the Minnesota Avenue/Benning Road commercial district ("downtown Ward 7) also play a critical role in shaping the retail landscape for the entire East of the

River region. In this context, new development on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE will have to be competitive with these other regional developments, or else intensely localized in focus.

In these challenging economic times, success in attracting retail will not come automatically. It will require persistence, coordinated development, and sound financing. It is worth repeating here the findings of the Pennsylvania Avenue Task Force market study from 2002, still relevant today, which found the following components critical for development success:

- **Critical Mass** – Rehabilitation or new construction of only a few small buildings will have little chance of success. Whatever is to be done must be done on large enough scale to overcome the negative perceptions that exist concerning this area.
- **Parking** – There must be ample parking and it must be secure and visible. The overwhelming majority of shoppers will come by car, and their needs must be met if the retail development is to succeed. Good signage is also highly important.
- **Linkage** – It will be difficult to create a flow of shoppers from one side of Pennsylvania Avenue to the other given the width of the street, the wide median strip and the heavy vehicular traffic. The planned transportation improvements by the District Department of Transportation will provide a safer pedestrian environment on both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue SE, thereby increasing neighborhood foot traffic.
- **Aggressive Pricing** – Southeast Washington is a highly price sensitive market. Leasing will need to be at very competitive rates and terms. Very likely, subsidies – possibly substantial ones – will be necessary to offset the high costs associated either with new construction or substantial rehabilitation.
- **Extensive Marketing** – It is unrealistic to think that tenants will appear as if by magic. Concentrated

and extensive marketing programs, employing all available tools, will be essential to securing the kinds of tenants desired by the community.

Development is sometimes a matter of trade offs. In this instance the need for additional density and height is needed in order to obtain certain retail amenities desired by the community. There is a pent-up demand for many retail services, especially in neighborhoods East of the River. What are the implications for new physical development? A mix of uses will be needed, including residential and office, to attract and support new retail. This will result in many positives for the community; not only new neighborhood-serving retail, but new jobs, more housing choices, and ultimately better transit and transportation options.

Regarding transportation, one of the major concerns for area residents has been the increased traffic that would occur as a result of new development. As stated earlier in this document and in numerous community meetings, traffic along the portion of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE east of the Anacostia River is quite congested. The commuter-oriented nature of the corridor will continue and traffic pressure will remain strong, due to inevitable growth in the abutting Maryland suburbs. Nevertheless, critical mass can be reached by strategically concentrating clusters of commercial, residential and limited office uses along the corridor. Enough new residents and office workers combine with existing residents to support new and existing retail establishments in the morning, afternoon and evening. These clusters of residents and workers also justify future investments in rapid bus or other transit services that reduce dependencies on automobiles.

In short, traffic is bad and getting worse. The additional density needed to attract quality retail will indeed impact traffic further, but only to a very small extent compared to existing and future commuter traffic. And though it may seem counterintuitive at

first, adding strategic nodes of mixed-use density and locally serving retail can actually serve to reduce traffic impacts. When daily needs can be met within a neighborhood, more people walk or bicycle, and there are fewer car trips that originate locally. The community should consider this as new development is proposed along the corridor. Is it worth giving up access to better local retail in exchange for a negligible impact on traffic?

In This Chapter

The following chapter takes a closer look at six sub-areas along the corridor: Capitol Hill, Potomac Avenue, L'Enfant Square, Randle Highlands, Penn Branch, and Fairfax Village/Fort Davis. These sections make recommendations for corridor-wide issues such as land assemblage, vacant property, and facade improvements. They also lay out a vision for each sub-area and a list of urban design guidelines for new development. This is followed by an analysis of seven specific sites that serve as the best or most catalytic opportunities for redevelopment.

REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

OVERVIEW

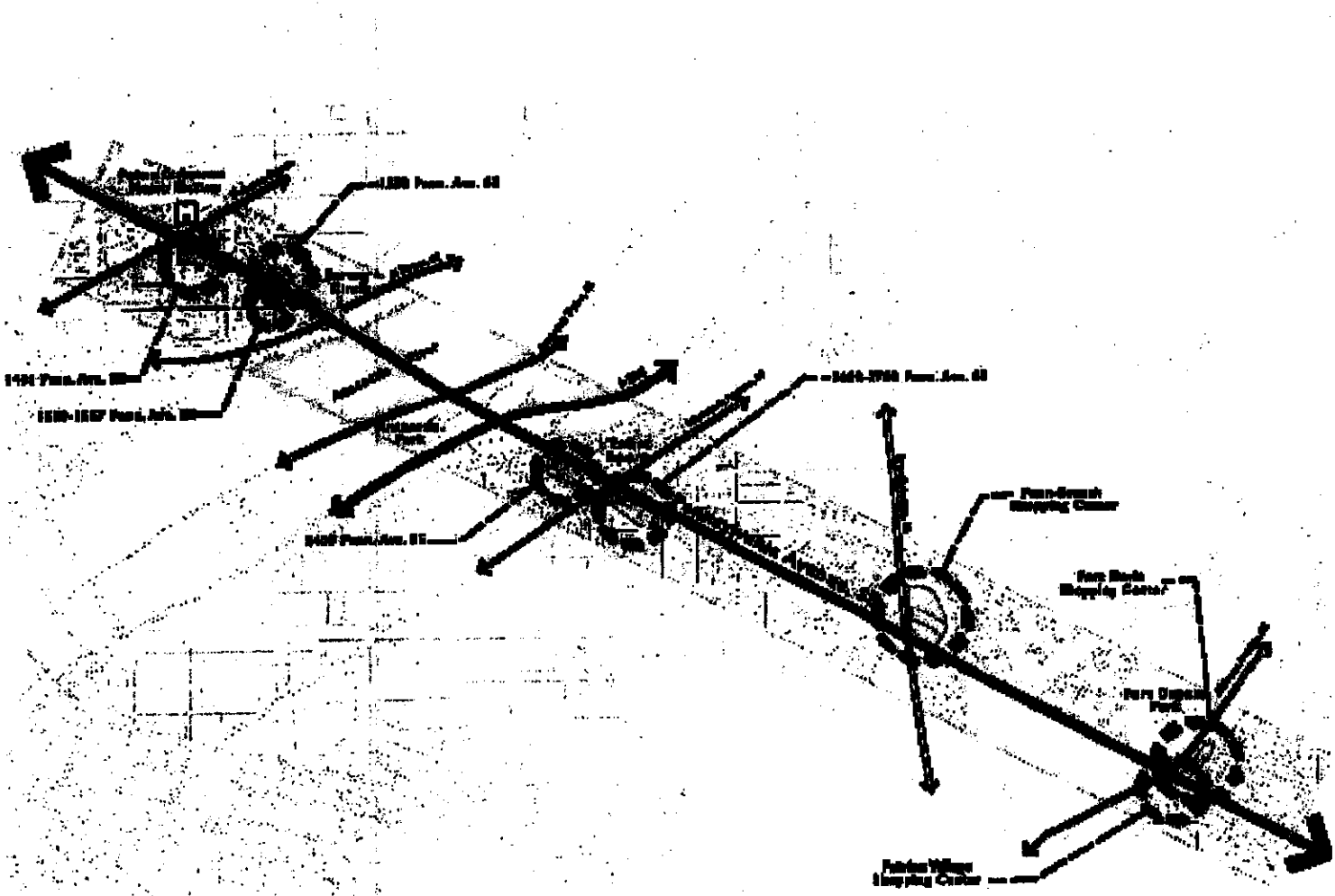


Figure 4.1: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Redevelopment Sites

REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

OVERVIEW



CAPITOL HILL SUB-AREA

Introduction

The Capitol Hill Sub-Area stretches from 2nd Street, SE to 11th Street, SE and falls entirely within the Capitol Hill Historic District. This area has only a limited opportunity for infill development, as most parcels are occupied by historic buildings.

Existing Land-Use

Significant land uses include Eastern Market, a public market located in a 19th century brick building which is included in the National Register of Historic Places. Eastern Market, located on 7th Street SE, has operated as a public market since 1873. The first in a larger city-owned public market system intended to attract residents to the City, it is the last of the city's public markets still in operation. Recognized as the unofficial "town center" of Capitol Hill in the early 20th Century, it still serves as a working farmers' market and popular attraction for tourists and residents. Tragically, Eastern Market was severely damaged by fire on April 30, 2007. The District Government has placed the highest priority on rebuilding Eastern Market.

Observations of the consultant team.

Land Use

- Predominantly commercial land use; little underutilized land
- Residential uses generally row houses on narrow lots
- Commercial and residential zoning; portions within Capitol Hill Commercial (CHC) and Capitol Interest (CAP) Overlay

Districts

- Northwest end boasts a wide variety of restaurants, cafes, specialty stores, and other neighborhood oriented retail services
- Buildings set close to the street
- On-street parking
- Significant open space at Seward Square and Eastern Market
- Pleasant sidewalks, trees, and parks
- New condominium development at Butterfield House

Historic, Cultural, and Institutional Resources

- Eastern Market Metrorail Station
- Capitol Hill Historic District
- Eastern Market
- Old Naval Hospital
- Hine Junior High School
- Southeast Neighborhood Library
- Capitol Hill United Methodist Church

Existing Zoning (see Fig. 4.2)

- R-4 (Residential District)
- R-5-B (Residential District)
- C-M-1 (Commercial Light Manufacturing District)
- C-2-A (Community Business Center District)
- C-3-A (Community Business Center District)
- SP-2 (Mixed Use District)
- C-3-C (Community Business Center District)
- GOV (Government District)
- CAP Overlay (Capitol Interest District)
- CHC Overlay (Capitol Hill Commercial District)



Figure 4.3: Capitol Hill Sub-Area



Figure 4.4: Capitol Hill Sub-Area



Figure 4.5: Capitol Hill Sub-Area

STUDY AREA CONDITIONS Capitol Hill Sub-Area



Future Vision

This portion of the corridor, along with "Barracks Row" on 8th Street, SE, serves as the retail and commercial center of the Capitol Hill Neighborhood. Historic buildings continue to be lovingly restored, and commercial spaces are filled with a mix of thriving businesses, from restaurants and bars, to small groceries and pharmacies, to specialty retail shops and gas stations. In the short term, existing streetscape elements are maintained at good levels or better as defined by DDOT and DPW. In the long term, a community-led initiative results in new streetscaping and wayfinding signage that honors this gateway to the Nation's Capitol.

There are no major redevelopment opportunities in this sub-area, but some targeted infill redevelopment is possible in the near to mid term. Local non-profit groups have been raising funds to redevelop the Eastern Market Metro Plaza along Pennsylvania Avenue, SE between 7th and 9th Streets, SE. This redevelopment can include landscaping, park programming, relocation of bus stops, etc., and should be a collaboration between local community groups and relevant government agencies. This project conforms with Comprehensive Plan Action CH-2.2-B: Eastern Market Plaza. As neighboring Hine Junior High School is currently scheduled to merge with Eliot Junior High School in Northeast Capitol Hill, there is potentially an opportunity to redevelop the school site in conjunction with DC Public Schools so that a new building (or buildings) better fronts Pennsylvania Avenue and offers new opportunities for ground floor retail, community space, DSPS office space and possibly housing.

The Old Naval Hospital on Pennsylvania Avenue, SE between 9th and 10th Streets, SE changed hands from the Federal government to the District of Columbia in 2007. The DC Office of Property Management released an RFP to renovate and reuse this historic property. Over the next two years, the group with the winning proposal will create a new community facility with classrooms, meeting rooms and small offices for local non profit organizations, among other things. This project conforms to Comprehensive Plan Action CH-1.2-F: Old Naval Hospital.

Urban Design

The following basic urban design guidelines should be considered for any infill projects that occur in this sub-area.

Site Planning

- **Lot Coverage and Density:** Should conform with regulations in existing zoning.
- **Mix of Housing Type and Land Uses:** Should conform with regulations in existing zoning. Active ground floor retail is encouraged, and the CHC overlay allows great flexibility for providing either office or residential on upper stories as the market and building configuration demands.
- **Preservation of Natural, Historic, and Cultural Features:** This portion of the corridor is fully within the Capitol Hill Historic District, and infill development will respect all relevant design guidelines.

Site Layout/Development Pattern

- **Development Setbacks:** This portion of Pennsylvania Avenue has a consistent streetwall set back which will be conformed to by all new development.
- **Location of Parking:** The historic district allows waivers for parking requirements. Any new parking provided will be either in the rear or below grade.

Relationship to Surrounding Development

- **Connectivity between land uses:** There is a mix of retail, office and residential spaces throughout this sub area. Existing zoning allows for further mixed use.
- **Transition between land uses:** New retail or restaurant/bar spaces proposed beneath or adjacent to residential buildings will continue to enter into voluntary agreements with the local ANC to ensure compatibility.

Vehicular and Pedestrian Access and Circulation

- **Vehicular Access and Circulation:** This will take place completely from alleys or side streets, with no new curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- **Pedestrian Access and Circulation:** Maintaining a consistent set back will enhance the ease of pedestrian flow and access.

Building Design

- **Building Massing and Façade Treatment:** Must meet all zoning and preservation guidelines for the Capitol Hill Historic District, and respect the historic building characteristics on the street, including the strong townhouse form.



Figure 4.8: Butterfield House - 11th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. This is a good example of appropriate infill development in the Capitol Hill Sub-Area.

- **Building Materials/Colors:** Must meet all historic preservation guidelines for the Capitol Hill Historic District.
- **Entrances:** Should face Pennsylvania Avenue (or may face the corner if located on an intersection).
- **Ground Floor Ceiling Heights:** Should be at least 14 feet tall from floor to ceiling to attract quality retail whenever possible, unless such a ceiling height would disrupt the existing ground floor flow within the Historic District.
- **Transparency:** At least 50% of ground floor street frontage should be made of transparent materials to enhance and activate the street. Buildings within the Historic District must comply with all relevant window guidelines.

Landscaping & Screening

- **Site Perimeter Landscaping Abutting Street Edges:** Should be incorporated whenever public space is being utilized (i.e. for outdoor dining), but is often not possible since most buildings directly abut the sidewalk.
- **Fencing and Walls:** There should be no fences or walls - though low planters and other dividers may be approved through the public space permitting process, particularly for outdoor dining.
- **Service Area Screening:** All service areas will be in the rear, and should be screened from neighboring residential uses.

STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS

potomac avenue
sub-area

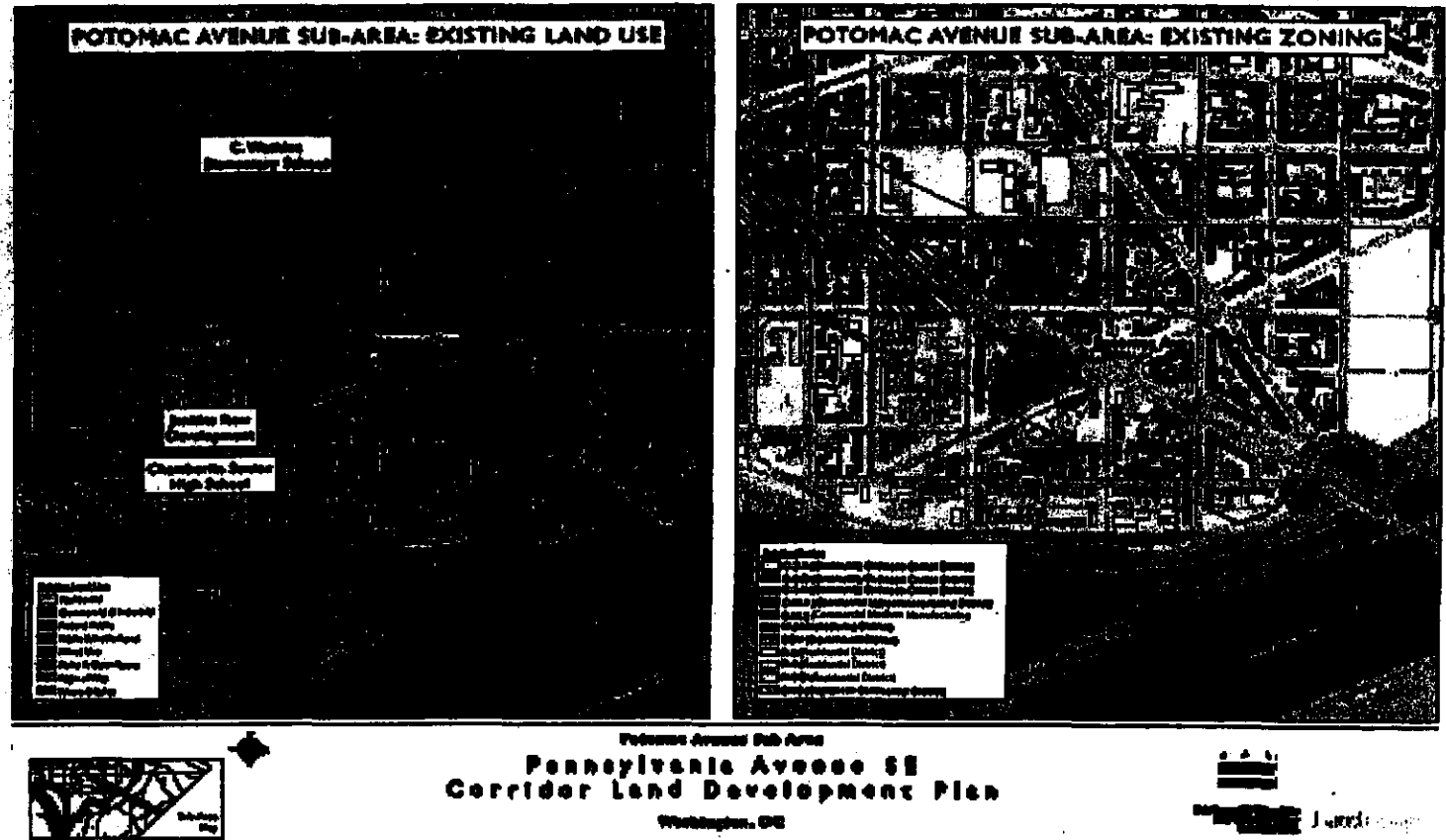


Figure 4.9: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Potomac Avenue Sub-Area

POTOMAC AVENUE SUB-AREA

Introduction

The Potomac Avenue Sub-Area stretches from 11th Street, SE to Barney Circle, SE. The Capitol Hill Historic District currently ends at 13th Street, SE. However, there is much discussion in the community about expanding the historic district or creating a new one. In fact, an application from the Barney Circle neighborhood seeking historic district designation has been recently approved (though it does not include commercial properties along Pennsylvania Avenue). This area has a greater number of redevelopment opportunities than the Capitol Hill Sub-Area, given its smattering of stand along fast food restaurants and other uses inconsistent with the original urban design of the street.

Existing Land-Use

This sub-area extends from 11th Street SE to Barney Circle. The Potomac Avenue Metro station lies in the middle of this sub-area. This is currently an open plaza, with escalators and an elevator carrying passengers below ground to the underground Orange and Blue Lines of the regional subway system. There is a significant amount of bus traffic, and a few taxis regularly wait for passengers. Much of the existing development is either mixed use or residential in two-to-four story buildings built close to the street. Directly across Pennsylvania Ave, SE is a restaurant. There is a used car lot that fronts on Barney Circle on the north side of Pennsylvania Ave, and a fast-food restaurant fronting on Barney Circle on the south. The building form of these establishments is out of character with the area as they are set back from the street behind large parking areas which is more typical of a suburban development

pattern. There is a large mixed residential / commercial development under construction on the southeast corner of Potomac Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue. This will have almost 200 residential units above a grocery store that is expected to draw customers from around the region.

Observations of the consultant team:

Land Use

- Mix of commercial and residential land uses
- Commercial and residential zoning; portions within Capitol Hill Commercial (CHC)
- Two and three-story commercial and residential buildings
- Automobile-oriented retail not consistent with the historic character of the neighborhood
- More sparsely developed retail - predominantly fast food restaurants, liquor stores, and convenience stores
- Surface parking fronting on Pennsylvania Avenue SE
- Mixed-use Jenkins Row development at Potomac Avenue Metrorail Station
- Gas stations at prominent corner locations

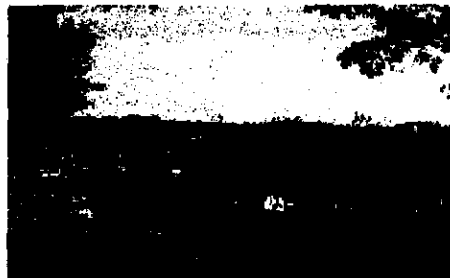


Figure 4.10: Potomac Avenue Sub-Area

- Row houses with curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue SE
- Barney Circle is an automobile-oriented traffic circle
- Transitions from pedestrian-oriented commercial uses to car-oriented commercial uses
- On-street parking, street trees, deep sidewalks, and the wide green median serve to connect dramatically different segments of the avenue between 9th Street SE and the Anacostia River
- Neighborhood-scale and feel

Historical, Cultural, and Institutional Resources

- Potomac Avenue Metrorail Station
- Congressional Cemetery
- C. Watkins Elementary School
- Friendship-Edison PCS Chamberlain Campus

Existing Zoning (see Fig. 4.9)

- C-2-A (Community Business Center District)
- C-2-B (Community Business Center District)
- C-3-A (Community Business Center District)
- C-M-1 (Commercial Light Manufacturing District)
- C-M-2 Commercial Medium Manufacturing District)
- M (Manufacturing District)
- GOV (Government District)
- R-3 (Residential District)
- R-4 (Residential District)
- R-5-B (Residential District)
- CHC (Capitol Hill Commercial District)

STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

potomac avenue
sub-area



Future Vision

This portion of the corridor will retain and expand its neighborhood-serving retail base. Existing architectural fabric and character will be preserved. New development will occur only in existing commercially zoned parcels, within the parameters of existing zoning (including PUDs and inclusionary zoning). New buildings will be of high-quality architecture and compatible with the historic nature of the street. This all complies with Comprehensive Plan Policy CH-2.2.6: Potomac Ave Metro Station.

In the long term, this portion of the corridor will have a more attractive, unifying and user-friendly public realm, building off of any design cues from a renovated Eastern Market Metro Plaza. The area around the Potomac Ave Metro Station will be formalized into a public plaza with new landscaping, seating, kiosks, etc. It will serve as a local meeting point, funded, in part, by public amenity proffers from nearby developments.

Urban Design

The following basic urban design guidelines should be considered for any projects that occur in this sub-area.

Site Planning

- **Lot Coverage/Density:** Should conform with current zoning regulations.
- **Mix of Housing Type:** Should conform with regulations in existing zoning. Housing types are most likely to include condominiums and apartments with some potential for townhouse or stacked townhouse styles.
- **Other Land Uses:** Active ground floor retail is encouraged, with upper story small offices or residential.
- **Preservation of Natural, Historic, and Cultural Features:** Infill development within the Capitol Hill Historic District will respect all relevant design guidelines. Development outside the Historic District is highly encouraged to also use these guidelines.

Site Layout/Development Pattern

- **Development Setbacks:** This portion of Pennsylvania Avenue has a traditional streetwall set back which has been breached by some more modern development, including stand alone fast food restaurants. New developments will maintain or rectify the traditional setbacks to form a more consistent streetwall.

- **Location of Parking:** The historic district allows waivers for parking requirements. Any new parking within or outside the Historic District will be either in the rear or below grade.

Relationship to Surrounding Development

- **Connectivity between land uses:** There is a mix of retail, office and residential spaces throughout this sub-area. Existing zoning allows for further mixed use.
- **Transition between land uses:** New retail or restaurant/bar spaces proposed beneath or adjacent to residential buildings will continue to enter into voluntary agreements with the local ANC to ensure compatibility.

Vehicular and Pedestrian Access and Circulation

- **Vehicular Access and Circulation:** Will take place from alleys or side streets, with no new curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- **Pedestrian Access & Circulation:** Set backs consistent with other buildings on the street will maintain good pedestrian access.

Building Design

- **Building Massing and Façade Treatment:** Must meet all zoning and preservation guidelines for the Capitol Hill Historic District, and respect the historic building characteristics on the street, including the strong townhouse form. While developments outside the Historic District are not required to meet these design guidelines, it is strongly encouraged that they do so. Taller development should step down in the rear if it abuts existing townhouses.
- **Building Materials/Colors:** Must meet all historic preservation guidelines for the Capitol Hill Historic District if within the boundaries. Properties outside the boundaries are highly encouraged to do the same.
- **Entrances:** Should face Pennsylvania Avenue (or may face the corner if located on an intersection).
- **Ground Floor Ceiling Heights:** Should be at least 14 feet tall from floor to ceiling to attract quality retail, unless such a ceiling height would disrupt the existing ground floor flow within the Historic District.
- **Transparency:** At least 50% of ground floor street frontage should be made of transparent materials to enhance and activate the street. Buildings within the Historic District must comply with all relevant window guidelines.

Landscaping & Screening

- **Site Perimeter Landscaping Abutting Street Edges:** Should be incorporated whenever public space is being utilized (i.e. for outdoor dining).
- **Fencing and Walls:** There should be no fences or walls - though low planters and other dividers may be approved through the public space permitting process, particularly for outdoor dining.
- **Service Area Screening:** All service areas will be in the rear, and should be screened from neighboring residential uses.

FUTURE VISION URBAN DESIGN

potomac avenue
sub-area

REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

1401 penn ave, se

1401 Penn Ave (Pizza Restaurant)

The southeast corner property along Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street is a prime location for redevelopment for higher density occupancy considering its immediacy to the Potomac Avenue metro station. At present, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue belongs to a pizza restaurant and associated surface parking. This surrounding area presents a mix in scale and uses comprising of residential and small businesses as well as an institutional use offered by the Friendship-Edison PCS Chamberlain Campus Public Charter School.

Interesting recent developments in the vicinity of the present pizza restaurant property increase its viability as a successful catalyst site for revitalization of the corridor. The Jenkins Row project, located at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues is being developed to include approximately 247 condominiums, a 47,000 SF Harris Teeter grocery store and an additional 5,000 SF of retail space.

Based on recommendations for the Middle Anacostia River Crossings Transportation Study and the Capitol Hill Transportation Study, the District Department of Transportation is designing improvements to the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue, Potomac Avenue, and 14th Street SE. The reconfiguration of this intersection will create a more pedestrian-friendly streetscape and improve the pedestrian connections between the Metro Station, the traffic circle and the subject site. New development at this site should take advantage of this enhancement by offering ground floor retail serving immediate residents, pedestrians and commuters.

The property comes under the current zoning C-2-A which allows commercial and residential uses. However this potential is unrealized in its present use.

Opportunities and Recommendations

- Optimum utilization of the property under current zoning by containing a mix of residential and commercial use.
- 4 to 6 stories is appropriate for this site, and developers are encouraged to build no taller than the Jenkin's Row project in order to form a consistent frame for the Potomac and Pennsylvania Avenues intersection.
- Commercial uses may include accommodating existing small businesses in the area like the pizza restaurant itself.
- Explore the potential to leverage funds from development to create a public plaza at corner of site facing the Park Square at traffic intersection.
- Completes a "neighborhood center" formed by the Potomac Avenue Metro Plaza, grocery store, neighborhood-serving retail, and transit.



Figure 4.15: Upcoming Jenkins Row Development



Figure 4.16: Upcoming Jenkins Row Development

Note: The following site plan, massing model and concept illustration were prepared as conceptual examples, and represent the type and scale of development appropriate for each location.

Site Name: 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Site Area: 0.54 acres

- A range of 30-50 condominium units possible above ground floor retail.
- Appropriate for upper-floor small office development such as doctors' offices, law firms, and other service-based businesses.
- Parking underground, can accommodate roughly 60-65 spaces.
- 5 story building falls within appropriate height range.
- 14-foot heights from floor to ceiling on the ground level to attract quality retailers.
- A range of 6,000 - 14,000 square feet of retail space is possible, which could accommodate a sit-down restaurant, or 3-4 small shops.
- Building has a strong face on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Rounded corner presents a strong counterpoint to Jenkin's Row to the west.
- Vehicular access off side streets and alleys, no curb cut on Pennsylvania Avenue.

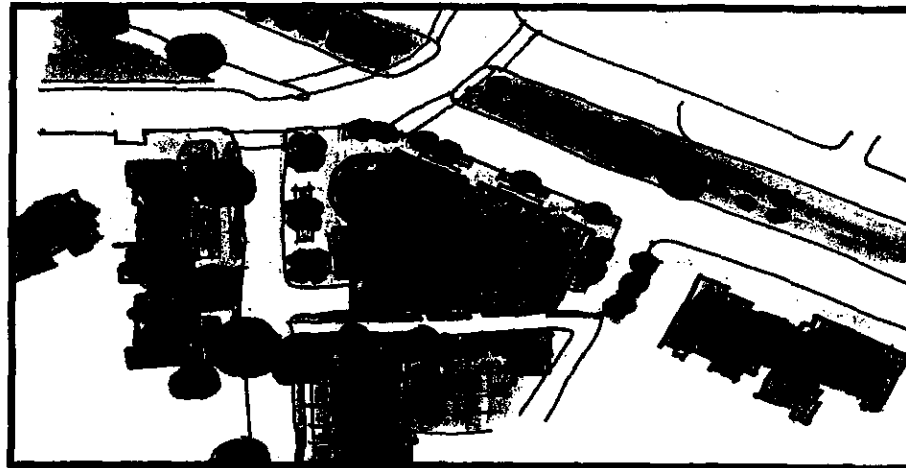


Figure 4.17: Plan - 1401 Penn Ave, SE

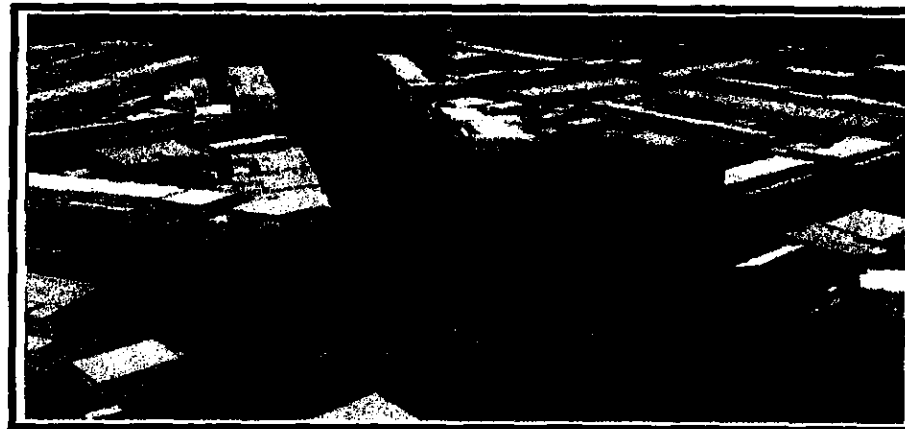


Figure 4.18: View - 1401 Penn Ave, SE

REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1401 Pennsylvania Ave, SE

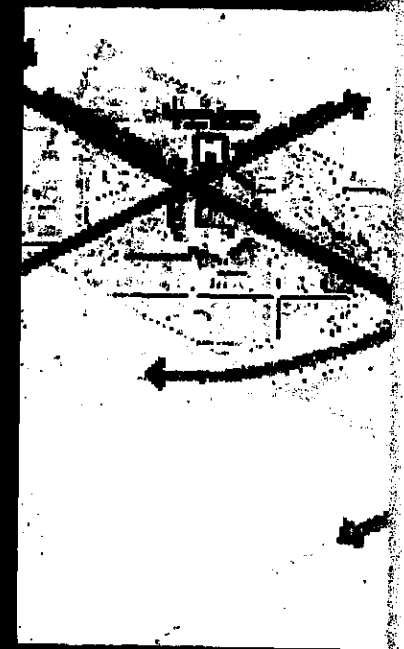




Figure 4.20: Concept Illustration - 1401 Penn Ave, SE - Respects townhouse character of the neighborhood and provides a strong anchor at the intersection of Pennsylvania and Potomac Avenues, SE

Barney Circle Sites:
1550 Penn Ave & 1539-1557 Penn Ave

Barney Circle is an important transportation landmark along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor marking its intersection with Southeast Freeway and M Street which pass under it. The two sites flanking this traffic intersection on either side are currently occupied by a used car lot and fast food restaurant.

The presence of a used car lot is suggestive of an economically unproductive and blighted neighborhood pocket, and its particular location in this case leaves a significant impact on the quality of development in areas surrounding it. Current land-uses on these two important sites and lack of a neighborhood scale destination have added to the automobile oriented character of Barney Circle.

Opportunities and Recommendations

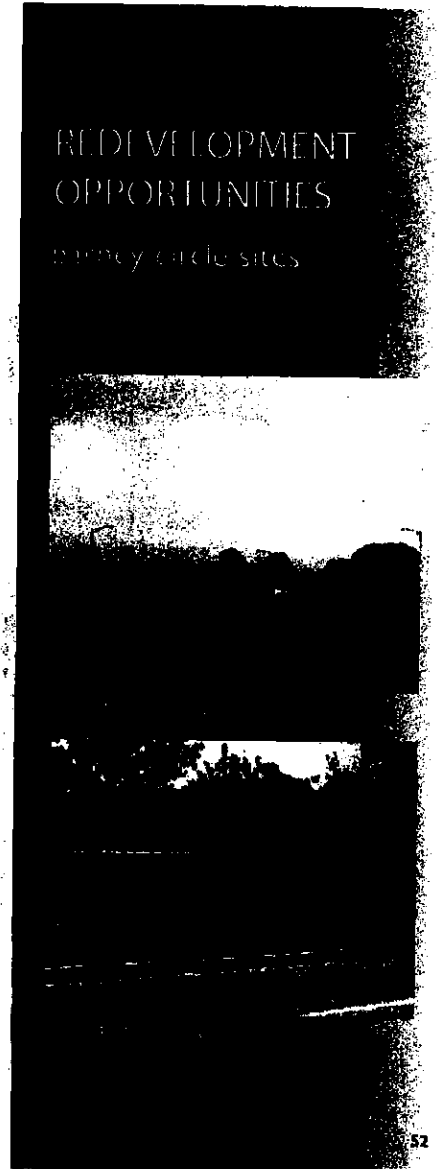
- The two sites flanking Barney Circle should be treated in a unified manner in architecture and massing as the Eastern Gateway to the Capitol Hill area and the Anacostia River.
- Explore allowable mix of uses under the current C-2-A zoning on these two sites.
- Tap potential view of the Anacostia River and Park which can be offered to condo occupants residing above ground level.
- Provision of a mixed scale and type of housing including condominiums, townhouses, and stacked townhouses to complement the existing residential fabric.
- Increased public presence encouraged by convenience retail stores and small scale dining destinations may result in decreased automobile dominance around Barney Circle and a more pedestrian-friendly character.



Figure 4.21: Barney Circle



Figure 4.22: Barney Circle



REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

barney circle sites

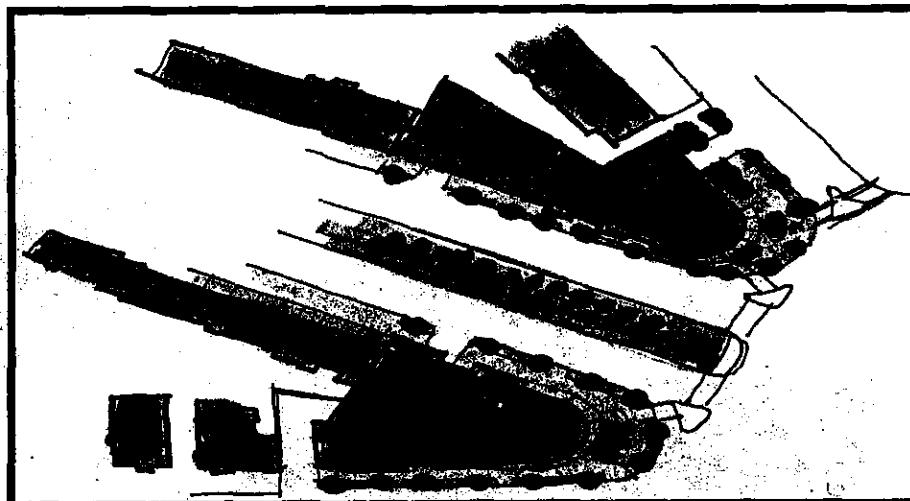
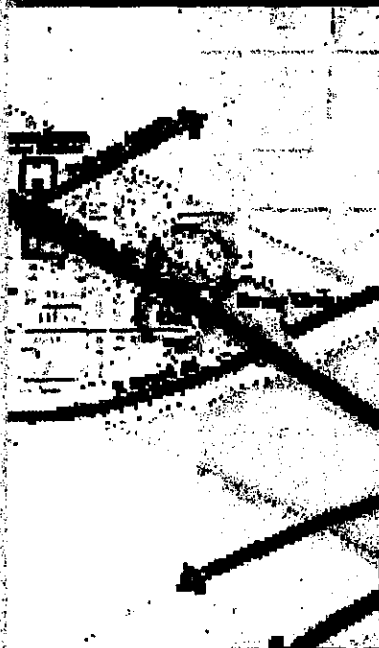


Figure 4.26: Plan - Barney Circle Sites

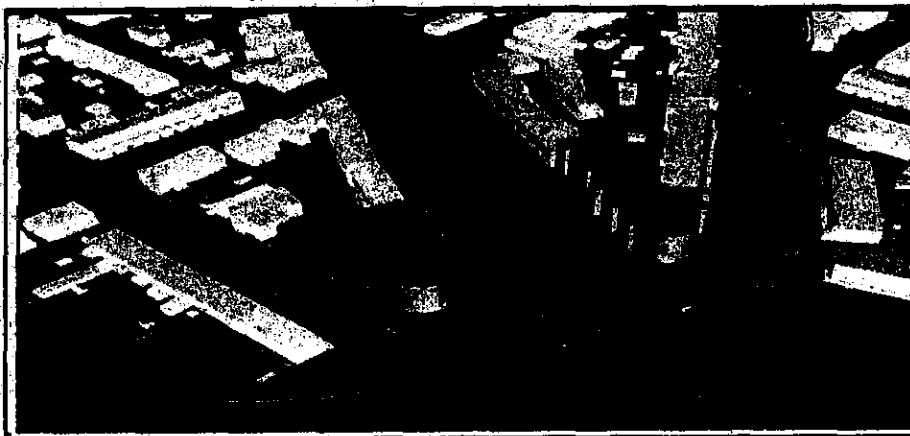


Figure 4.27: View - Barney Circle Sites

Note: The following site plan, massing model and concept illustration were prepared as conceptual examples, and represent the type and scale of development appropriate for each location.

Site Name: 1539-1557 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
 (fast food restaurant)
 Site Area: 0.45 acres

Site Name: 1550 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
 (Used car lot)
 Site Area: 0.41 acres

- A range of 25-35 condominium units possible above ground floor retail at each site, or a combination of townhouses or stacked townhouses and condominiums.
- Parking underground if possible, though a limited number of surface parking spots might be necessary.
- 4 story buildings fall within appropriate height range.
- 14-foot heights from floor to ceiling on the ground level to attract quality retailers.
- A range of 5,000 – 6,000 square feet of retail space is possible on each site, which could accommodate a cafe, or 1-2 small shops.
- Both buildings have a strong face on Pennsylvania Avenue and help to re-anchor the triangular blocks of the L'Enfant grid.
- Rounded corners present strong gateway features on either side of Barney Circle.
- Vehicular access off side streets and alleys, curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue should be avoided if at all possible.

Figure 4.28: Concept Illustration, Barney Circle Sites - This image represents the type of development appropriate at either site. It reflects the townhouse character of the street and offers a strong gateway statement into Capitol Hill and the Anacostia River area.



STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS

L'enfant sub-area

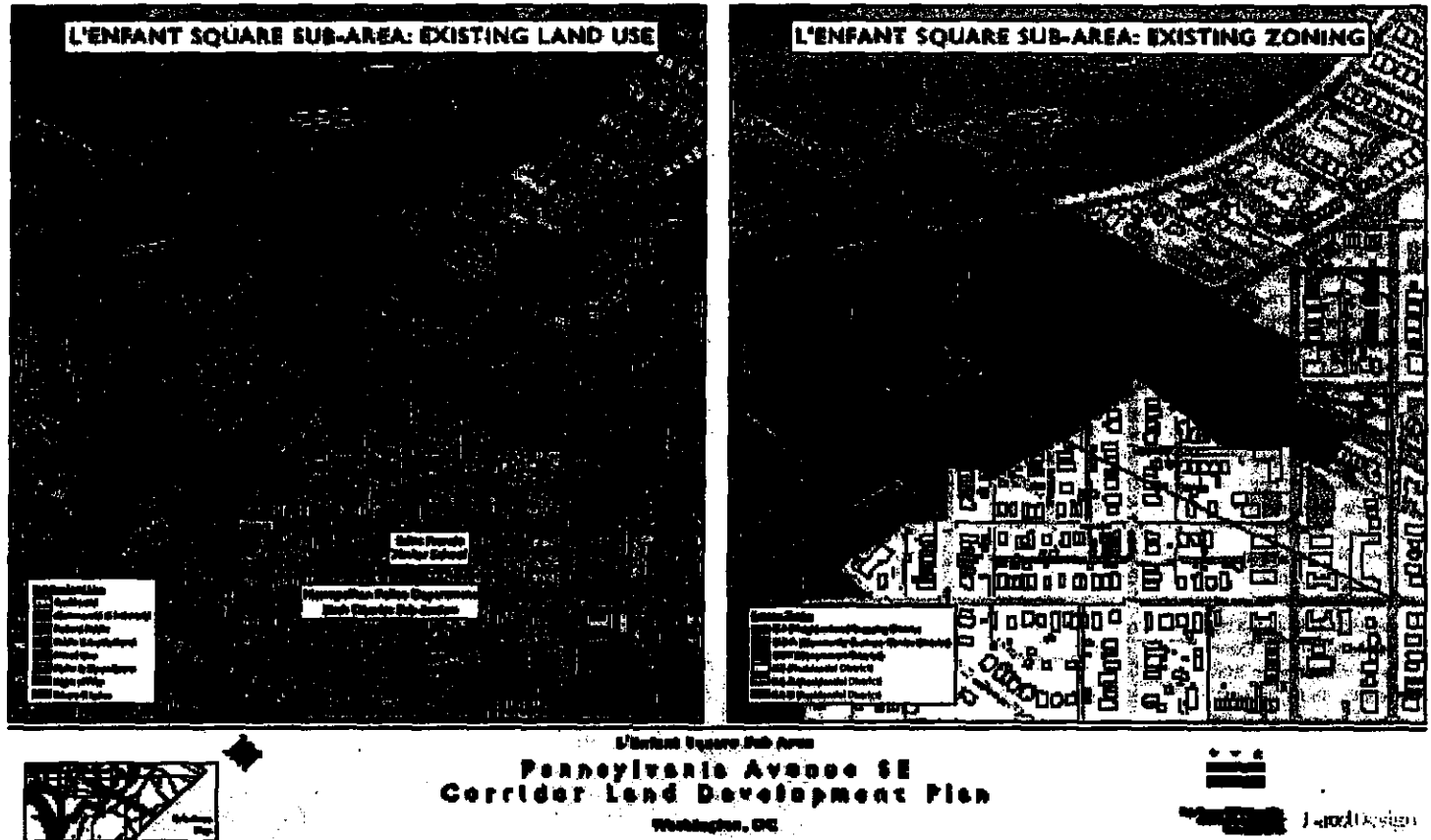


Figure 4.29: Pennsylvania Avenue SE L'Enfant Square Sub-Area

L'ENFANT SQUARE SUB-AREA

Introduction

The L'Enfant Square sub area extends from Fairlawn Avenue SE and the parkland along the Anacostia River to 18th Street SE. It is bisected by Minnesota Avenue SE.

Existing Land Use

Most existing development is small to medium sized commercial in the area around the intersection of Pennsylvania and Minnesota avenues. Gas stations occupy almost all of the high-profile intersections in the heart of the sub-area. Many facades on these commercial structures are in need of attention and repair. Building setback distances are not uniform, while others are drawn up to the street, while others are separated from the sidewalk by off-street parking areas. The Metropolitan Police Department Sixth District Substation is located to the southern end of the study area and is located across Pennsylvania Avenue from the Saint Francis Xavier School. L'Enfant Square itself is a small green space that is bound on all sides by very busy roadways, and is dissected by Pennsylvania Avenue, as well as turning lanes that carry Minnesota Avenue traffic. In its current form, the Square is not a usable pedestrian amenity.

Observations of the consultant team:

Land Use

- Predominantly commercial land use and zoning with some residential development
- Automobile-oriented convenience retail and surface parking
- Large building setbacks; wide sidewalks at points
- Underutilized and vacant properties
- No continuous building line
- Gas stations are prominent features at entry location
- Diminished pedestrian experience
- Roadways splitting open space at L'Enfant Square rendering it into traffic islands
- Pocket park on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue from 27th Street SE to 28th Street SE
- L'Enfant Square lacks aesthetic appeal and is underutilized urban space
- Limited amount of retail goods and services
- Dominated by traffic

Historical, Cultural, and Institutional Resources

- Metropolitan Police Department 6th District Sub-Station
- Saint Francis Xavier School

Existing Zoning (see Fig. 4.29)

- C-1 (Neighborhood Shopping District)
- C-2-A (Community Business Center District)
- GOV (Government District)
- R-2 (Residential District)
- R-5-A (Residential District)
- R-5-B (Residential District)



Figure 4.30: L'Enfant Square Sub-Area



FUTURE VISION/ URBAN DESIGN

L'Enfant Square sub-area

Future Vision

This portion of the corridor should expand its neighborhood-serving retail and housing base. The quality of the existing retail is not conducive to uses that residents have desired; however, by creating a mix of land uses at a moderate density scale, the retail capacity of this neighborhood will thrive. The reconfiguration of L'Enfant Square will also aid in improved pedestrian mobility along the corridor, allowing residents to walk to newly-created retail nodes which provide the desired neighborhood-serving uses, such as a drycleaners, coffee, and boutique shops. Vacant properties will be redeveloped, and existing storefronts will be physically improved and beautified. Ground floors transparency and clear, but unobtrusive, signage will further enhance the pedestrian experience. While some gas stations will be maintained to serve the community, others will be redeveloped to help realize the vision described above.

Should any buildings in this sub-area be designated historic in the future, any redevelopment incorporating these structures will cooperate with the Historic Preservation Review Board to ensure that their salient historic features are preserved while they are adaptively reused to better serve the community.

Urban Design

The following basic urban design guidelines should be considered for any projects that occur in this sub-area:

Sites Planning

- Lot Coverage and Density: Should conform

with regulations in existing zoning.

- Mix of Housing Type: Should conform with regulations in existing zoning. Housing types are most likely to include condominiums and/or apartments.
- Other Land Uses: Active ground floor retail is encouraged, with upper story small offices and/or residential as the market allows.
- Development Setbacks: Building setbacks should conform with existing zoning requirements
- Location of Parking: Any new parking should be located below grade wherever possible, and to the rear where this is not possible.

Relationship to Surrounding Development

- Connectivity between land uses: There is a mix of retail, and residential spaces throughout this sub area. Existing zoning allows for a further mix of uses.

- Transition between land uses: New retail proposed adjacent to residential buildings will continue to enter into voluntary agreements with the local ANC to ensure compatibility.

Vehicular and Pedestrian Access and Circulation

- Vehicular Access and Circulation: This will take place completely from alleys or side streets, with no new curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Building Design and Materials

- Building Massing and Façade Treatment: Building development must meet all zoning requirements. For PUD submissions, the Office of Planning will provide guidance on architec-

tural components related to the project. Developments should respect neighboring lower-scale buildings by stepping down to them on the side and to the rear.

- Building materials should be of high quality, using primarily brick and glass. These materials should be used to break up the massing of the structure and provide a differentiated rhythm along the building's facade.
- Entrances: Should face Pennsylvania Avenue (or may face the corner if located on an intersection).
- Ground Floor Ceiling Heights: Ceiling height should be 14 feet tall from floor to ceiling to attract quality retail
- Transparency: At least 50% of ground floor street frontage should be made of transparent materials to enhance and activate the street.

Landscaping & Screening

- Site Perimeter Landscaping Abutting Street Edges: Should be incorporated whenever public space is being utilized (i.e. for outdoor dining), but is often not possible since most buildings directly abut the sidewalk.
- Fencing and Walls: There should be no fences or walls - though low planters and other dividers may be approved through the public space permitting process, particularly for outdoor dining.
- Service Area Screening: All service areas will be in the rear, and should be screened from neighboring residential uses.

L'Enfant Square Sites: 2300-2500 & 2500-2700 Penn. Ave

L'Enfant Square is the first major node on Pennsylvania Avenue SE after the Sousa Bridge. Under transportation improvements proposed as part of the Great Streets Initiative, the corridor will undergo a major change at the intersection of 25th Street SE, Minnesota and Pennsylvania Avenues. The preferred plan allows the high volume of Pennsylvania Avenue through-traffic to continue through the square as it does today, but redirects all turning traffic and Minnesota Avenue traffic around the outside of the park square.

The two parks to be developed on either side of Pennsylvania Avenue will act as a green pocket between the corridor's new landscaped median throughout the corridor and the park is intended to perform the function of gathering spaces for surrounding communities. These enhancements are targeted to bring about an increase in pedestrian and bike use, and can be a driving factor in discouraging automobile oriented retail pockets which are prolific in areas east of Anacostia at present.

As mentioned in the market assessment chapter (Chapter 3) there is a possibility for the L'Enfant Square core area to support high rise (7+) stories with underground parking in the longer term, as a prominent gateway to neighborhoods East of the River with views of the Capitol. Even at six stories, the recommended maximum here, this should prove to be a dramatic vision for an area that is currently dominated by traffic, marked by underutilized and vacant properties with gas stations at prominent locations and lacking a continuous building line. As per development

opportunity projections, this area can support about 400 to 800 new multifamily units, about 50,000 to 75,000 SF of retail and additional 20,000 to 40,000 SF of boutique office space.

In light of the previously mentioned planned improvements and future possibilities, the two sites South of L'Enfant Square lying on either side of Minnesota Avenue have immense redevelopment potential to result in a unified design for a vibrant and reconfigured public park. The existing zoning allows development on these sites as Community Business Center District (C-2-A) and Neighborhood Shopping District (C-1). Presence of Public and Institutional uses such as Saint Francis Xavier School and the Metropolitan Police Department Sixth District Substation provides a desired mix of uses in the surrounding areas.



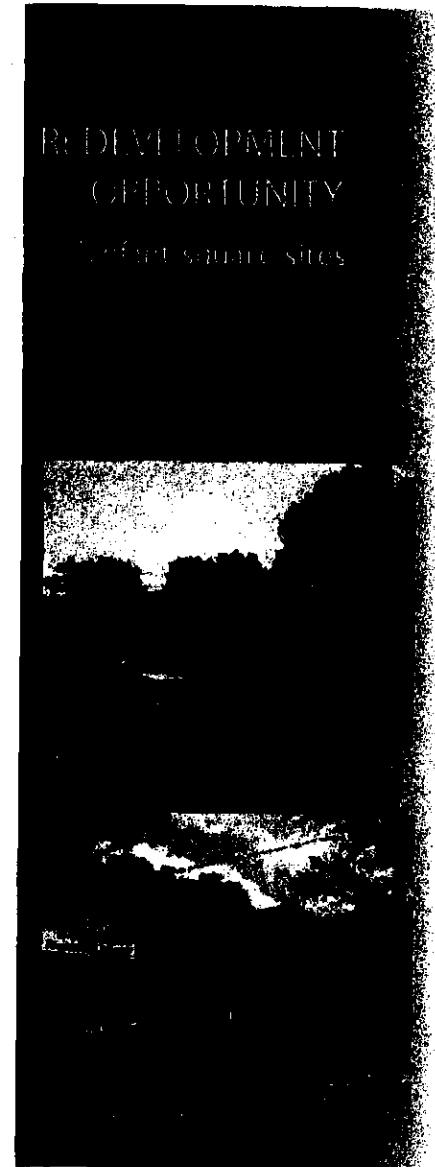
Figure 4.33: L'Enfant Square

Opportunities and Recommendations

- **2300 - 2500 Block:** Maximum of 5 to 6 stories with 85' maximum height and 5' bonus for ground floor non-residential uses. Any upzoning will occur in design review process such as PUD.
- **2500 - 2700 Block:** Maximum of 5 to 6 stories with 65' maximum height and 5' bonus for ground floor non-residential uses.
- Create opportunities for an enhanced pedestrian environment that provides connectivity at L'Enfant Square
- Expand development area at 2300 block to north side of the street to create a major redevelopment node
- Pursue alternate uses for some gas station sites (particularly the site on the south side of the 2300 block) to provide pedestrian friendly and neighborhood serving activities (recognizing that maintaining some gas stations along the corridor is a positive thing for the community). In the near term, encourage improved landscaping and screening.



Figure 4.34: L'Enfant Square



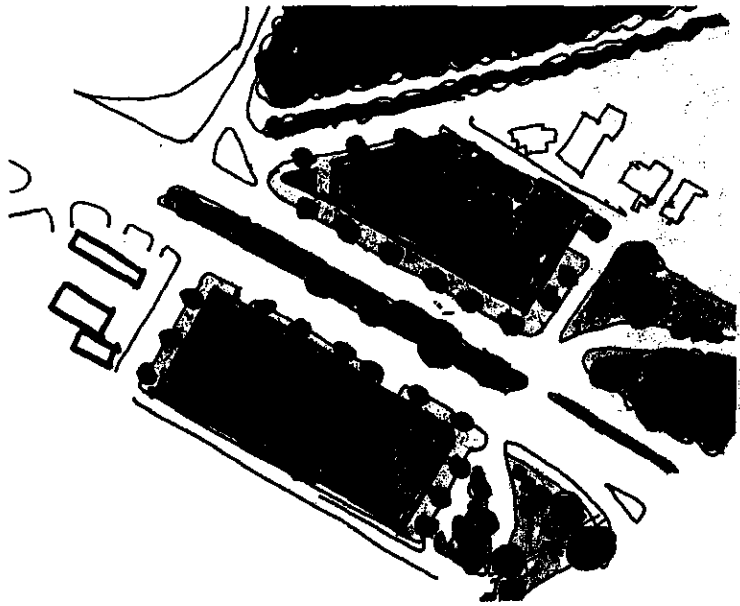


Figure 4.37: Plan - 2300-2500 Penn Ave, SE

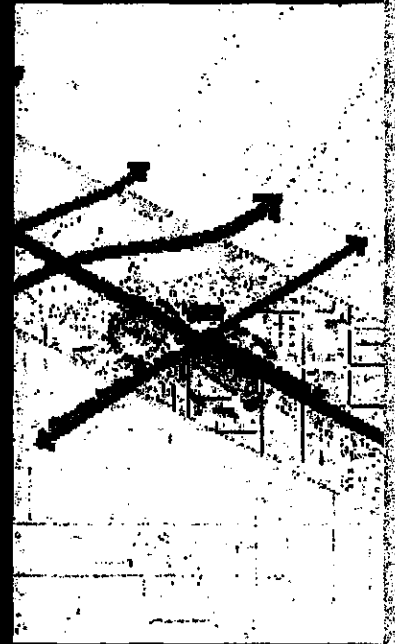
Note: The following site plans, massing model and concept illustration were prepared as conceptual examples, and represent the type and scale of development appropriate for each location.



Figure 4.38 Plan - 2500-2700 Penn Ave, SE

REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Enfant square sites



REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

L'Enfant square sites

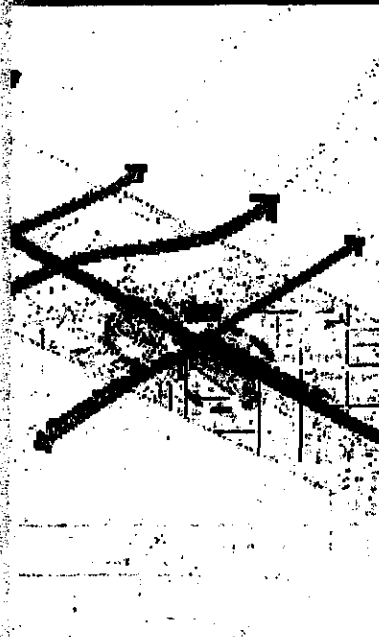


Figure 4.4: View, L'Enfant Square Sites (Note: For illustrative purposes only - does not reflect zoning lot-occupancy requirements.)

Site Name: 2300-2500 L'Enfant Square
Site Area: 0.69 acres

- 50 condominium units with ground floor retail.
- All parking will occur below grade.
- Maximum building height of 5-8 stories totaling no more than 65 feet (not including 5' bonus for ground floor retail).
- 14-foot heights from floor to ceiling on the ground level to attract quality retailers.
- Approximately 22,000 square feet of retail space is possible on this site, which could accommodate a cafe, 1-2 small shops and possibly a sit-down restaurant.
- Vehicular access off side streets and alleys, curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue should be avoided if at all possible.

Site Name: 2500-2700 L'Enfant Square
Site Area: 0.42 acres

- 65-70 condominium units with ground floor retail.
- All parking will occur below grade.
- Maximum building height of 5-6 stories totaling no more than 65 feet (not including 5' bonus for ground floor retail).
- 14-foot heights from floor to ceiling on the ground level to attract quality retailers.
- Approximately 42,000 square feet of retail space is possible on this site, which could accommodate a cafe, several small shops and possibly a sit-down restaurant.
- Vehicular access off side streets and alleys, curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue should be avoided if at all possible.

Figure 4.42: Concept illustration, L'Enfant Square sites - This image represents the type of development appropriate in the L'Enfant Square area.



RANDLE HIGHLANDS SUB-AREA

Introduction & Existing Land Use

The Randle Highlands sub-area extends from 28th Street SE to Branch Avenue SE. This area is mostly single family and low scale (less than five-story) multifamily housing, punctuated by some significant institutional uses. The Randle Highlands Elementary School is in the middle of the sub-area, and is directly across the street from the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church. The Randle Highlands Fire Station (Engine 19) is located in a historic structure on the northern end of the sub-area. Most of the buildings are set back from the sidewalk behind a lawn or other landscaping, contributing to a boulevard-like feel.

Observations of the consultant team:

Land Use

- Residential mixed with significant institutional land uses
- Primarily residential zoning
- Single-family and multi-family residential structures
- High-speed traffic
- Incomplete sidewalk network
- Large setbacks giving it a feel of a green boulevard
- Narrow sidewalks
- Steep topographic changes

Historical, Cultural, and Institutional Resources

- Randle Highlands Elementary School
- Randle Highlands Firehouse
- Pennsylvania Avenue SE Baptist Church
- Muhammad Mosque No. 4

Existing Zoning (see Fig. 4.43)

- C-1 (Neighborhood Shopping District)
- C-2-A (Commercial Business Center District)
- GOV (Government District)
- R-1-B (Residential District)
- R-2 (Residential District)
- R-5-A (Residential District)

Future Vision

Randle Highlands is a vibrant residential community located on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue. Current land use is primarily single-family residential with a few multi-family structures scattered throughout. Randle Highlands Elementary School is also located within this neighborhood. Preserving the character and land use of this community is a strong desire of existing residents. Although no new development has been proposed for this sub-area, any new development should be consistent with the existing character of the neighborhood. With its close proximity to L'Enfant Square and Penn Branch Shopping Center, Randle Highlands residents will be able to utilize the proposed retail establishments located at each of these sub-areas.



Figure 4.44: Randle Highlands Sub-Area

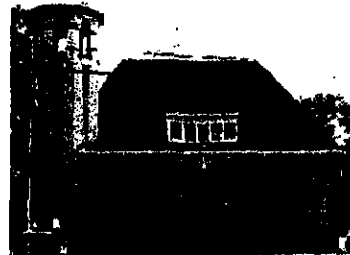


Figure 4.45: Randle Highlands Sub-Area



Figure 4.46: Randle Highlands Sub-Area

STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

randle highlands
sub-area



STUDY AREA
CONDITIONS

penn branch sub-area



Figure 4.48: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Penn Branch Sub-Area

PENN BRANCH SUB-AREA

Introduction & Existing Land Use

The Penn Branch sub-area extends from Branch Avenue SE to Alabama Avenue SE. The northern end of the area is highlighted by the Penn Branch Shopping Center at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Branch Avenue. This two-story center is surrounded on all sides by a large off-street parking area, which is more characteristic of a suburban shopping area. The building is occupied by subprime tenants, and the façade and structure are in need of repair and updating. The southern side of the corridor is dominated by the Fort Dupont Park, which extends from the 3rd Street SE intersection to Alabama Avenue SE. This parkland makes pedestrian travel along Pennsylvania Avenue difficult because there are no sidewalks along the frontage and the terrain is fairly steep. The remaining portions of the sub-area are mostly single family and small multifamily residential in good condition.

Observations of the consultant team:

Land Use

- Remaining area is residential, institutional, and open space
- Predominantly residential zoning with commercial zone at Pennsylvania Avenue and Branch Avenue intersection
- Open space on majority of south side of Pennsylvania Avenue SE
- Penn Branch Shopping Center
 - o Commercial node and defining feature
 - o Automobile-oriented strip development
 - o Large surface parking lots in front and behind building
 - o Abutting property is an abandoned laundromat on large lot

- o Large setbacks
- o Lacks pedestrian connectivity
- Commercial land uses on southwest portion of sub-area
 - o Gas station at prominent corner location
 - o Parking in front
 - o Large building setbacks
- Incomplete sidewalk network
- Includes a small amount of local-serving retail establishments
- Inadequate parking at Penn Branch Shopping Center and resulting spillover parking in residential neighborhoods
- Traffic problems created by vehicles entering and exiting Penn Branch Shopping Center

Historical, Cultural, and Institutional Resources

- Fort Dupont Park
- Fort Davis
- Metropolitan Police Department - Regional Police Command East
- Church of Jesus Christ, Inc.

Existing Zoning (see Fig. 4.48)

- C-1 (Neighborhood Shopping District)
- C-2-A (Community Business Center District)
- C-3-A (Community Business Center District)
- GOV (Government District)
- R-1-B (Residential District)
- R-2 (Residential District)
- R-5-A (Residential District)



Figure 4.49: Penn Branch Sub-Area

STUDY AREA CONDITIONS

penn branch sub-area

Fort
Davis
Park

FUTURE VISION/
URBAN DESIGN
penn branch sub-area

Future Vision

This sub-area represents the best opportunity for new retail in the corridor. It will be anchored by a newly redeveloped Penn Branch Shopping Center, which will consist of visually attractive architecture and landscaping, and provide high-quality, modern retail and office space, as well as mixed-income housing. Other smaller redevelopment in the sub-area, including the laundromat and gas station sites, will add to the retail mix, and form a node at which local residents can take care of many of their daily needs. This node will be pedestrian and bicycle friendly, allowing residents to take advantage of the resources there without having to drive. Development in this sub-area, and particularly at the Penn Branch Shopping Center, will respect the adjoining residential neighborhoods, stepping down towards them and preserving their view sheds whenever possible.

Urban Design

The following basic urban design guidelines should be considered for all projects that occur in this sub-area.

Site Planning

- **Lot Coverage and Density:** Should maximize the proposed range of lot coverage within a moderate-density scaled development project.
- **Mix of Housing Type:** Should conform with requirements of moderate scale zoning. Housing types are most likely to include condominiums, with some potential for townhouse styles as the market permits.
- **Other Land Uses:** Active ground floor retail is encouraged, with limited opportunities for second floor retail. A strong office component is expected, particularly on second and third stories, with government services and other service businesses. Housing is expected to make up the rest of the site.
- **Development Setbacks:** Recognizing Pennsylvania Avenue as the grand boulevard it was intended to be, any development at this site should be brought to street level with appropriate setbacks for sidewalks and pedestrian mobility.
- **Location of Parking:** Any new parking should be located below grade wherever possible, and to the rear where this is not possible.

Relationship to Surrounding Development

- **Connectivity between land uses:** The predominant land use throughout this sub area is residential. A change from the existing zoning to moderate density at key nodes will allow for a mix of uses needed to support the desired retail of the community.

- **Transition between land uses:** New development should physically step down towards existing residential uses, particularly to the side and rear, and provide a buffer of trees and other plantings.

Vehicular and Pedestrian Access and Circulation

- This will take place from alleys or side streets, with no new curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Building Design

- **Building Massing and Façade Treatment:** Building development must meet all zoning requirements. For PUD submissions, the Office of Planning will provide guidance on architectural components related to the project.
- **Entrances:** Should face Pennsylvania Avenue (or may face the corner if located on an intersection).
- **Ground Floor Ceiling Heights:** Should be at least 14 feet tall from floor to ceiling to attract quality retail.
- **Transparency:** At least 50% of ground floor street frontage should be made of transparent materials to enhance and activate the street. Any second story retail should have prominent display windows.

Landscaping & Screening

- **Site Perimeter Landscaping Abutting Street Edges:** Should be incorporated whenever public space is being utilized (i.e. for outdoor dining), but is often not possible since most buildings directly abut the sidewalk.
- **Fencing and Walls:** There should be no fences or walls - though low planters and other dividers may be approved through the public space permitting process, particularly for outdoor dining.
- **Service Area Screening:** All service areas will be in the rear, and should be screened from neighboring residential uses.

Penn Branch Shopping Center Site:

The Penn Branch Shopping center is located on a large property of area about 1.7 acres along the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Branch Avenue. The size and location of this site make it particularly suitable for redevelopment into a neighborhood defining landmark project in the future. This property currently houses the DC Department of Human Services, an automobile-oriented small retail pocket and a large rear portion occupied by surface parking. Surrounding properties include a church, a gas station and single family residences.

Analysis shows that the current split zoning of C-1 and R-1-B may create an impediment to redevelopment. Under the current zoning, the present structure occupies maximum height and floor area allowed. This means that any new building in the same zoning will be approximately of the same size. Unfortunately, realities of the marketplace make this option unlikely as the cost of replacing the existing building with a similarly sized building would be higher than the likely returns on this investment. Furthermore, it is likely that the types of tenants will not improve as the existing building is sub-standard in the present retail and office market. This site needs design flexibility that will increase the likelihood of redevelopment in a manner that attracts the types of tenants desired by the surrounding community.

It is important that any construction on the property respect the adjoining residential neighborhood. For example, the conceptual plan on the following page portrays the bulk of the building located along the street edges, with terraces transitioning down towards the single family homes abutting the rear end of

the Penn Branch Shopping Center site.

Opportunities and Recommendations:

- Change in zoning through the PUD process to support a mix of moderate density commercial and residential development.
- Development of this site will be 5 stories from the lowest point of the site with 65' maximum height, 5 stories with 65' maximum height on south side of Pennsylvania Avenue as well. New development and redevelopment within Neighborhood Commercial Areas must be managed to conserve the economic viability of these areas while allowing additional development that complements existing uses.
- New retail to respond to requirement of neighborhood serving convenience stores like coffee shop, small restaurant, possibly a small grocer or pharmacy
- Underground parking garage to cater to requirements of property occupants as well as provide spill-over public parking spaces
- Improve access and circulation edging the property to encourage pedestrian connection from surrounding areas and bus transit stop



Figure 4.52: Penn Branch

REDEVELOPMENT
OPPORTUNITIES

penn branch

A large, dark, abstract graphic element, possibly a stylized letter 'B' or a building facade, located at the bottom of the page. It is set against a lighter background and has a textured, almost pixelated appearance.

REDEVELOPMENT
OPPORTUNITY

penn branch
shopping center

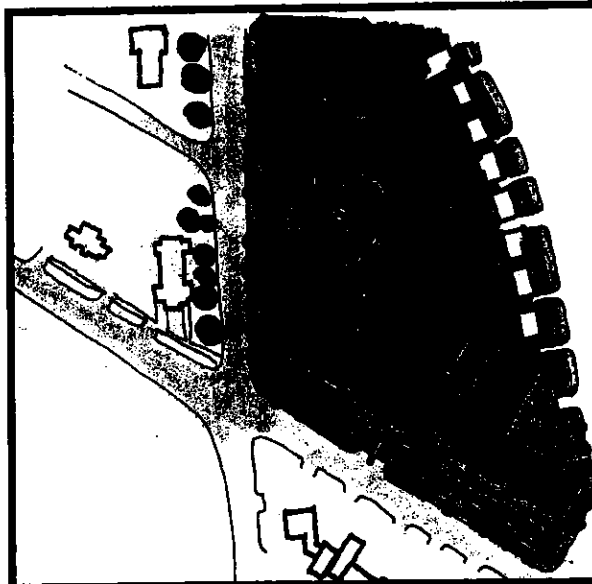


Figure 4.57: Plan - Penn Branch Shopping Center



Figure 4.58: View, Penn Branch Shopping Center

Note: The following site plan, massing model and concept illustration were prepared as conceptual examples, and represent the type and scale of development appropriate for each location.

Site Name: Penn Branch Shopping Center
Site Area: 1.72 acres

- A range of 20,000 – 30,000 square feet of retail space is possible, which could accommodate a restaurant/cafe and several small shops.
- A range of 150-180 condominium units possible to help support desired new retail.
- A range of 20,000 – 40,000 square feet of office space remains for small service businesses and government services.
- Parking underground, with a limited number of surface parking spots.
- 5 story buildings fall within appropriate height range, though due to the site's topography, this is likely to read closer to 3 stories on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- 14-foot heights from floor to ceiling on the ground level to attract quality retailers.
- A green space with trees and other plantings to the rear buffers new development from existing single-family homes.
- Combining lots provides a strong face on Pennsylvania Avenue to attract shoppers.
- Sensitive design provides an attractive environment for new and existing residents, shoppers and employees.
- Vehicular access off side streets and alleys; no new curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue.



Figure 4.59: Concept illustration, Penn Branch Shopping Center -
This rendering is an example of how the site could be sensitively redeveloped as an attractive new asset to the community.



FAIRFAX VILLAGE/FORT DAVIS SUB-AREA

Introduction & Existing Land Use

The Fairfax Village/Fort Davis sub-area extends from Alabama Avenue SE to the end of the corridor at Southern Avenue SE (the District/Maryland line). At the intersection of Pennsylvania and Alabama Avenues, there is significant commercial use contained by Fairfax Village Shopping Center and Fort Davis Shopping Center. While the two properties offer retail uses, they are automobile-oriented developments fronted with surface parking lots. A gas station caters to passing traffic thereby leaving a very small proportion serving the surrounding residential community. Fort Davis Shopping Center currently houses the DC Department of Human Services, drawing in a mix of government/institutional uses.

The Fairfax Village Shopping Center is fairly stable, although it is experiencing some problems with parking. Neighbors and shop owners comment that much of the insufficient parking issue can be attributed to commuters from out of the area using the parking lot for full day parking. The surrounding area is predominantly multi-family residential setback from the street behind attractive lawns and landscaping. A gas station is located on the southwest corner of the Fort Davis Shopping Center, and the actual center has most of its frontage on Alabama Avenue.

Observations of the consultant team.

Land Use

- Mostly residential land use and zoning
- Significant commercial land use and zoning at intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue SE and Alabama Avenue SE
- Mostly multi-family with large setbacks
- Fairfax Village Shopping Center and Fort Davis Center
 - Automobile-oriented strip development

- Surface parking lots in front
- Stable high-quality residences
- Gas station at prominent corner location
- Large concentration of multi-family on the southeast side of the subarea
- Includes small local-serving retail
- Large setbacks
- Lacks pedestrian connectivity

Historical, Cultural, and Institutional Resources

- U.S. Post Office
- DC Department of Human Services Office

Existing Zoning (see Fig. 4.60)

- C-2-A (Community Business Center District)
- GOV (Government District)
- R-1-B (Residential District)
- R-2 (Residential District)
- R-4 (Residential District)
- R-5-A (Residential District)

Future Vision

Fairfax Village continues to be a viable and distinctive neighborhood shopping center, serving the surrounding neighbors with quality retail options. The unique neo-colonial buildings and surrounding landscaping are upgraded and well maintained. The parking area is redesigned to improve access. Redevelopment is not expected here until the buildings reach their natural life span, and will eventually place new buildings to the street edge with parking in the rear.

The Fort Davis Shopping Center represents the best near term opportunity for development and can accommodate a mixture of ground floor retail, and upper story office space and housing.

Both properties will serve as attractive and appropriate gateways into DC.



Figure 4.61: Fairfax Village Sub-Area



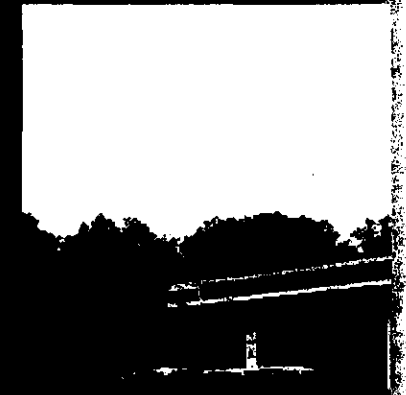
Figure 4.62: Fairfax Village Sub-Area



Figure 4.63: Fairfax Village Sub-Area

STUDY AREA CONDITIONS/ FUTURE VISION

fairfax village /
fort davis sub-area



Urban Design

The following basic urban design guidelines should be considered for any projects that occur in this sub-area.

Site Planning

- **Lot Coverage and Density:** Should maximum the proposed range of lot coverage within a moderate scaled density development project.
- **Mix of Housing Type:** Should conform with requirements of moderate-scale zoning. Housing types are most likely to include condominiums with some potential for townhouse styles.
- **Other Land Uses:** Active ground floor retail is encouraged. A small but significant office component is expected at Fort Davis, with government services and other service businesses.
- **Development Setbacks:** New development at this site should conform to moderate-scale density setback requirements.
- **Location of Parking:** Any new parking should be located below grade wherever possible, and to the rear where it is not.

Relationship to Surrounding Development

- **Connectivity between land uses:** The predominant land use throughout this sub area is residential. Moderate density zoning will allow for a mix of uses.
- **Transition between land uses:** New development should physically step down towards existing residential uses, particularly to the side and rear, and provide a buffer of trees and other plantings.

Vehicular and Pedestrian Access and Circulation

- **Vehicular Access and Circulation:** This will take place from Alabama Ave or alleys, with no new curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue.

- **Pedestrian Access and Circulation:** Maintaining a consistent set back with other buildings on the street will improve pedestrian access.

Building Design

- **Building Massing and Façade Treatment:** Building development must meet all zoning requirements. For PUD submissions, the Office of Planning will provide guidance on architectural components related to the project.
- **Entrances:** Should face Pennsylvania Avenue (or may face the corner if located on an intersection).
- **Ground Floor Ceiling Heights:** Should be at least 14 feet tall from floor to ceiling to attract quality retail, unless such a ceiling height would disrupt the existing ground floor flow.
- **Transparency:** At least 50% of ground floor street frontage should be made of transparent materials to enhance and activate the street.

Landscaping & Screening

- **Site Perimeter Landscaping Abutting Street Edges:** Should be incorporated whenever public space is being utilized (i.e. for outdoor dining), but is often not possible since most buildings directly abut the sidewalk.



Figure 4.65: Fairfax Village / Fort Davis

- **Fencing and Walls:** There should be no fences or walls - though low planters and other dividers may be approved through the public space permitting process, particularly for outdoor dining.
- **Service Area Screening:** All service areas will be in the rear, and should be screened from neighboring residential uses.

Opportunities and Recommendations:

- Explore potential under current zoning classification on the site and promote higher density mix use residential and retail development
- DC Department of Human Services and the US Post office may be re-housed in the project, thus maintaining a mix of uses offered in the present scenario
- New retail to be oriented towards neighborhood serving establishments like a small coffee shop, dining place, barber shop, deli, etc.



Figure 4.66: Fairfax Village / Fort Davis

URBAN DESIGN/ REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Fairfax Village
Fort Davis



REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

fort davis shopping center



Note: The following site plan, massing model and concept illustration were prepared as conceptual examples, and represent the type and scale of development appropriate for each location.

Site Name: Fort Davis Shopping Center
Site Area: 1.57 acres

- A range of 24,000 – 28,000 square feet of retail space is possible, which could accommodate a cafe and several small shops.
- Continued space for small service businesses and government services offices.
- A range of 50-55 condominium units possible to better support ground floor retail.
- Parking underground, though a limited number of surface parking spots might be necessary.
- 4-5 story buildings fall within appropriate height range.
- 14-foot heights from floor to ceiling on the ground level to attract quality retailers.
- Buildings front Alabama Avenue, but the portion facing Pennsylvania Avenue has entrances to shops and does not read as the "side" of the building.
- Facade takes advantage of prominent corner of Pennsylvania and Alabama Avenues.
- Vehicular access off Alabama Avenue and alleys; no new curb cuts on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Fairfax Village Shopping Center across the street is renovated, but not redeveloped, in the near future.

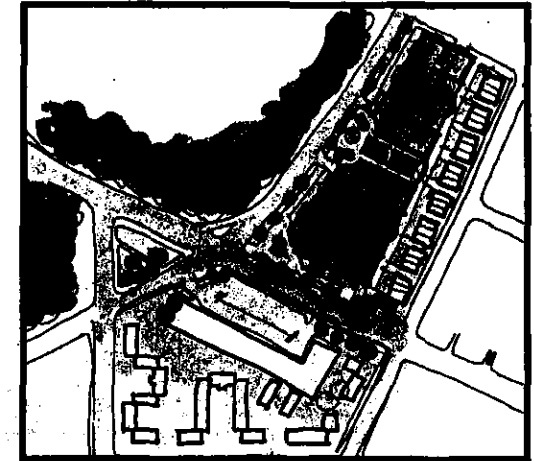


Figure 4.70: Plan, Fort Davis Shopping Center (background)

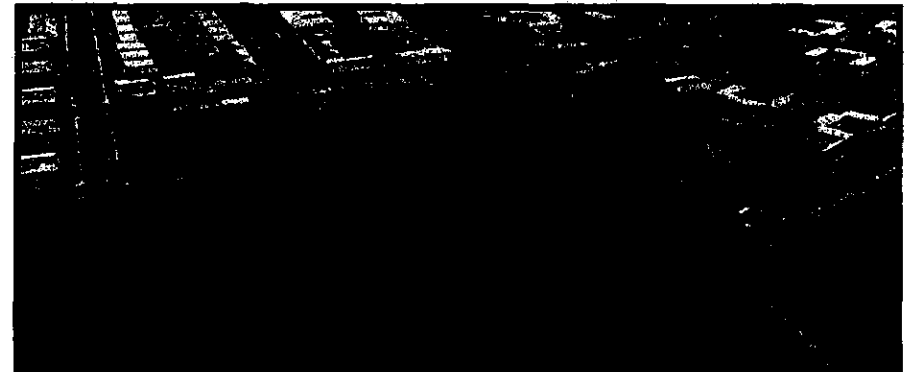


Figure 4.71: View, Fort Davis Shopping Center (left).

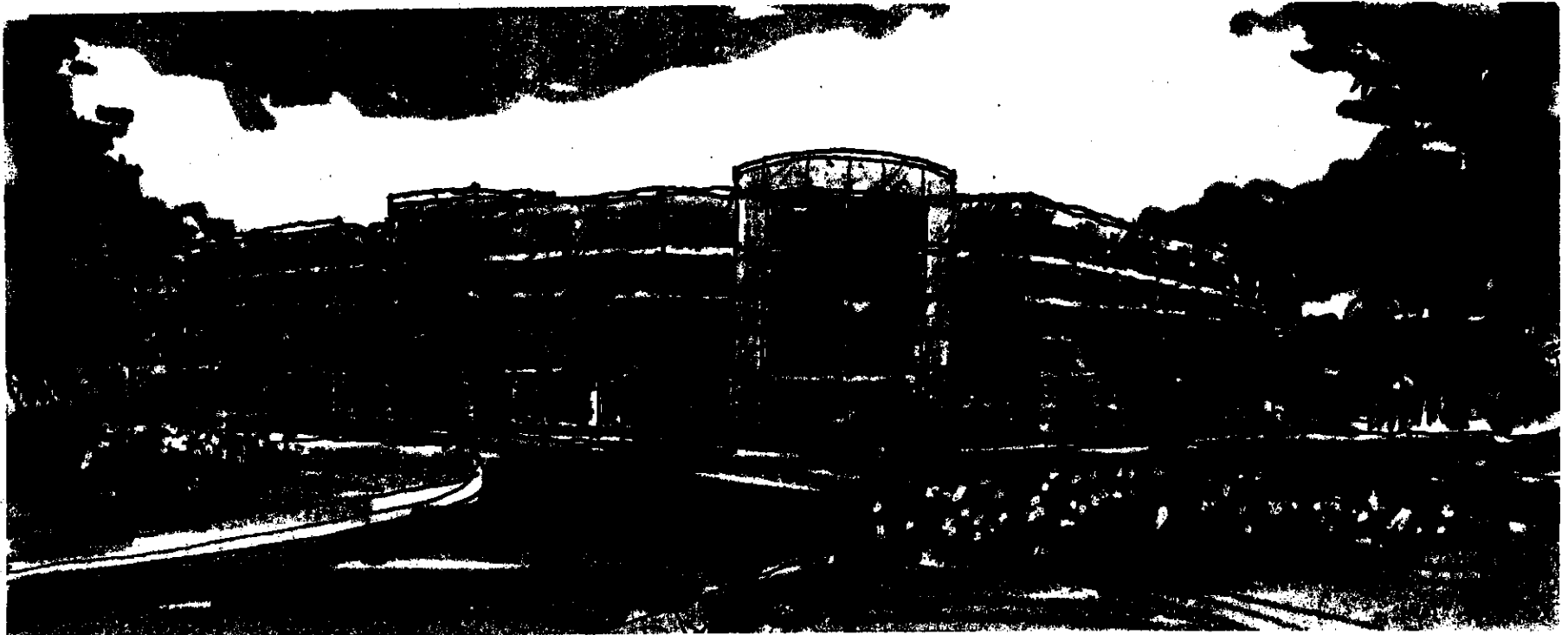
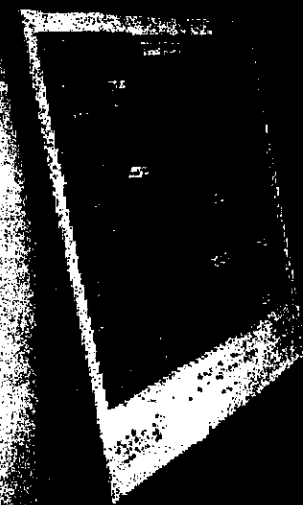


Figure 4.72 Concept Illustration, Fort Davis Shopping Center - takes advantage of its prominent corner location and presents active faces for both Pennsylvania and Alabama Avenues.



CHAPTER 5

implementation



General Recommendations

This section discusses recommendations that are either appropriate to the whole corridor or more general in nature.

The Plan presents a framework for guiding the redevelopment of key opportunity sites along the corridor. The plan for these sites has been developed with an understanding that, in large part, the existing fabric of the corridor is strong and intact. However, portions of the corridor, especially those East of the River, are underutilized and detract from the overall character of the surrounding community. Furthermore, the current range of uses does not functionally serve the surrounding community with the range of goods and services that the residents need and desire. In many cases, existing development is more suited to commuters traveling through the area, both in design and use.

As the community and the District move forward with this plan, it is important that all stakeholders remain involved and committed. These stakeholders include individuals and neighborhood groups, businesses and property owners, developers and investors, non-profit organizations, elected officials and District staff of every agency. It should be recognized that sustainable change does not happen overnight, rather it progresses incrementally. Patience and perseverance are both required to maintain vision and perspective that guarantee long-term success.

In an effort to more effectively service the communities arranged along Pennsylvania Avenue SE, it is important to promote activities that are complementary to the different neighborhoods. The purpose of this chapter is

to help guide this transformation from the current roadway into a Pennsylvania Avenue that lives up to the characterization as "America's Main Street." The chapter is divided into two general sections. The first section provides general recommendations or guidance that is applicable all along the corridor. The second section speaks to specific redevelopment sites.

General Corridor Improvements

- *Continuity and Connections:* The District should move forward with the Pennsylvania Avenue roadway improvements to enhance linkages between the east and west sides of the Anacostia River.

- *Streetscape and Signage:* The District should consider developing identifiable streetscaping elements and signage that carries themes contained in the Sousa Bridge design to other portions of the corridor. These identifying elements should celebrate the neighborhoods and landmarks in the vicinity of the corridor and promote the concept of "America's Main Street." This signage should also help guide residents and visitors to key landmarks and destinations in the vicinity, including historic areas, parks, and the Metro stations at Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.

- *Promoting Existing Businesses:* The District should utilize funds available through the Office of Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development to promote existing business establishments so that they may grow and prosper. Examples of different

business assistance programs include the small business loans provided by the DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (currently through the reSTORE DC program), which assists neighborhood business districts with restructuring, promotion, design improvements, and other enhancements. In order to receive the reSTORE assistance, it would be necessary to create a business district for portions of the corridor east of the Anacostia. Starting an organization akin to a "Main Street" program would make available further funds and technical assistance for all types of corridor improvements.

- *Design and Preservation:* For portions of the corridor west of the Anacostia, there is a desire to develop design and use provisions to guide future construction and renovation. The best strategies for achieving this include extending the Capitol Hill Historic District further into the corridor, or creating a new historic district.

- *Green Space:* While portions of the corridor east of the Anacostia benefit from the Anacostia River Park and Fort Davis Park, there are not as many recreation opportunities West of the River. The District should explore creating a green linear park along the Pennsylvania Avenue median in this portion of the corridor in cooperation with the National Park Service, which owns this land.

IMPLEMENTATION

general
corridor improvements

general
recommendations

IMPLEMENTATION

strategies for catalyzing development

Strategies for Catalyzing Development

In redeveloping corridors there is often the need for non-market interventions in order to capitalize emerging market trends. Strategies that can be employed include:

- *Identifying and Investing in Catalytic Site Redevelopment.* In this study, a number of catalytic sites have been identified. Catalytic sites are those sites that are in critical locations, and will create a critical mass of activity that can impact the marketability of surrounding redevelopment sites. The strategy is to leverage the development on these sites – and any public investment – to spur future private investment. The development of catalytic sites is a critical step towards generating market momentum and proving market acceptance of pioneering concepts.
- *Site Acquisition Funds.* Public dollars are not only spent on infrastructure, but can also be used to overcome key pre-development constraints, most notably site assembly. A public fund to help acquire sites, in order to create a larger redevelopment site, is often a critical step towards revitalization in areas with fractured site ownership and emerging, but not yet established, market demand. In the context of this study, L'Enfant Square is the most appropriate destination for this type of public sector intervention. Predevelopment for determining project feasibility is just as important as site acquisition. DHCD has predevelopment and site acquisition funds, but there is also the possibility of

working with Community Development Finance Institutions to target resources in the area.

- *Facade Improvement Funds.* Redevelopment is only one method to improve the quality and value of an area. Often, a more limited amount of investment is required. Specifically, low-cost loans or grants for façade improvements can often have a significant, near-term impact where full-scale redevelopment is not wanted, needed, or feasible. Funding sources include: reSTORE DC, DHCD, DMPED, and existing or future CDCs.

- *Project-level Financial Assistance.* At the project level, public assistance can sometimes be required to cover economic feasibility gaps. The most common form of this assistance is tax increment financing (TIF), where future tax revenues are used to float a bond that pays for up front infrastructure – typically structured or underground parking in an area where density is highly preferred, but the near-term revenues of the project are not supportive of costly parking solutions. The use of this tool should be used on a case-by-case basis, where it is clear that there is a real gap in the economics of project that is viewed as critically important to the broader revitalization of the area. In order to determine the possibility of using TIF financing for a project a feasibility analysis must be undertaken. Other financial tools from the public and private sector should also be applied.

Table 5.1: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Strategy and Implementation Plan

Priority						
	1401 Pennsylvania Avenue Se	Existing structure and lot detracts from overall character of the area. Potential for property to be redeveloped into a higher density use that compliments the corridor	C-2-A	Opportunity for significant redevelopment. Monitor development applications and activity.	n/a	
	1550 Pennsylvania Avenue SE	This corner serves as a gateway to the western portion of the corridor and Capitol Hill. Current development is a visual eyesore.	C-2-A	Opportunity for significant redevelopment. Monitor development applications and activity. Require minimum facade improvements and building elevation to create visual cues to the entryway	OP; reSTORE DC; DHCD; WDCEP; and existing or future CDCs	
	1539-1557 Pennsylvania Avenue SE					
	2300-2700 Pennsylvania Avenue SE L'Enfant Square	Current buildings present a very haphazard appearance. Little building uniformity. Many structures in poor state of repair. Poor pedestrian experience throughout L'Enfant Square Area	C-2-A	Major redevelopment opportunity. Reestablish L'Enfant Square as a true square. Pursue funds from other city agencies to promote redevelopment. Pursue facade improvement monies for buildings not being replaced. New development will occur within the parameters of a maximum of 5-6 stories with 65' maximum height and 5' bonus for ground floor non-residential uses.	DMPED; DDOT ; NCRC; OP; reSTORE DC; DHCD; WDCEP; and existing or future CDCs	
	Penn Branch Shopping Center	Current structure outdated and in need of improvement. Current development form very suburban, creates a poor pedestrian environment. Current tenants do not adequately serve neighborhood needs. Ideal size for a significant neighborhood-serving use.	C-1/R-B-1	Development of this site will be 5 stories from lowest point of the site with 65' maximum height. 5 stories, with the same parameters on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue as well. New development and redevelopment within Neighborhood Commercial Areas must be managed to conserve the economic viability of these areas while allowing additional development that complements existing uses. This is the only site for which a zoning change is recommended to allow the development described above.	DMPED; NCRC; OP	
	Fort Davis Shopping Center	Gasoline station located in prominent corner of site. Property serves as gateway to DC from points outside of the District. Current uses inadequate for neighborhood needs.	C-2-A	Explores site assemblage or facade improvements. Pursue programs to improve range of tenants in the site and ultimately redevelop.	DMPED; NCRC; OP; reSTORE DC; DHCD; WDCEP; and existing or future CDCs	
	Fairfax Village Shopping Center	Current building present an attractive appearance, but do not house the range of tenants adequate to serve the needs of neighborhood residents. Current parking lot routinely filled by commuters from other areas.	C-2-A	Pursue programs to improve the range of tenants in the site. Explore parking facility improvements such as gates or meters to reduce the number of spaces occupied by non-customer vehicles. Maintain existing structure.	DMPED; NCRC; OP	

IMPLEMENTATION
strategy and
implementation plan



IMPLEMENTATION

public agency action agenda

Priority	Proposed Action	Potential Lead & Active Partners	Program/ Funding Source	Timeframe/ Potential Start	Relation to Comprehensive Plan
TRANSPORTATION & STREETSCAPING					
High	Implement Great Streets improvements as planned for the corridor east of the Anacostia River, including roadwork, median improvements, streetscaping and signage elements.	DDOT	DDOT	Underway	Far Northeast and Southeast Area Element- Action FNS-2.6.B: Great Streets Improvements
High	Implement recommendations from the Middle Anacostia River Crossings Study. Particularly those that aid in reducing regional traffic along Pennsylvania Ave, SE and provide greater access to I-295 North.	DDOT	DDOT	Underway	Far Northeast and Southeast Area Element- Action FNS-2.6.A: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Transportation Study
High	Explore Rapid Bus service along the Pennsylvania Avenue, SE corridor. Improved mass transit opportunities will be critical for serving the neighborhoods and supporting new clusters of retail and housing development, and should be a high priority for DDOT.	DDOT/WMATA	DDOT/WMATA	Currently a long-term project, OP recommends that DDOT strive to fund a study within the next two years.	Far Northeast and Southeast Area Element- Policy FNS-1.1.9: Congestion Management
High	Improve all public realm infrastructure west of the river to at least "good" level, as determined by DDOT's public realm rating criteria, within two years. Maintain this level of quality. (East of the river public realm infrastructure will be upgraded as described above, and also maintained at a "good" level.)	DDOT		Near-Term. Infrastructure should be at "good" levels within two years.	Capitol Hill Area Element - Action CH-2.2-A: Streetscape Improvements
Moderate	Stakeholders in the greater Capitol Hill community are encouraged to lobby DDOT for more extensive streetscape improvements west of the river. The community is empowered to seek streetscape improvements to enhance the corridor's role as the ceremonial gateway to the US Capitol, including landscaping, street furniture and street lighting improvements, maintenance of the esplanade and small parks, pedestrian improvements, and traffic management measures. DDOT and the community will also have to work with NPS as they maintain ownership over the median "esplanade."	DDOT, NPS, Community Groups	DDOT Transportation Enhancement Program	The community is encouraged to contact DDOT with this request whenever they are able.	Capitol Hill Area Element - Action CH-2.2-A: Streetscape Improvements
Moderate	Explore possibility of creating a heritage trail	Cultural Tourism DC, Stakeholder Groups	Heritage Trail development and signage costs about \$250,000 and can be funded from a variety of sources.	Mid-term (Creating a heritage trail is about a 2 year process, once it gets going)	Far Northeast and Southeast Area Element- Action FNS-1.2.2: Connecting to the River

Table 5.2: Public Agency Action Agenda: Transportation & Streetscaping

IMPLEMENTATION

public agency action
agenda

Economic
Development

Priority	Proposed Action	Potential Lead & Active Partners	Program/ Funding Source	Timeframe/ Potential Start	Relation to Comprehensive Plan
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT					
High	Create marketing plan for vacant and new retail spaces - work with property owners to promote spaces to desired retailers and local business owners.	ReStore DC, DMPED, DSLBD	ReStore DC has limited funds for such an effort	Near-Term (Could start late 2007 and continue as new retail space comes on board)	Economic Development Element- Action ED-2.1.B: Marketing Programs
High	Identify existing businesses along Pennsylvania Ave, SE and evaluate specific needs for technical assistance.	ReStore DC	ReStore DC has limited funds for such an effort	Near-Term (Could start late 2007 and continue as new retail space comes on board)	Economic Development Element- Action ED-1.2.B: Technical Assistance
High	Encourage the identification or creation of a stakeholder coalition that can apply for public funding for business development, business area services, facade improvements, etc. Such a group is necessary before funds can be released.	OP		Near-Term (Should explore possibilities very soon with existing organizations such as the Ward 7 Business Association, Pennsylvania Ave Task Force, etc.)	Economic Development Element- Policy ED-3.1.7: Community Equity Investment
High	Extend pre-development assistance at key sites on the corridor east of the Anacostia River.	DMPED, DHCD			Economic Development Element- Action ED-1.2.3: Procurement and Outsourcing Opportunities
High	Create strategy for retention and/or relocation of existing businesses during any future construction or redevelopment. Should include physical plan and ways for businesses to remain viable and retain customers.	DSLBD, DMPED	DSLBD	Near Term (Should get going no later than early Spring 2008 to be ready before first redevelopment projects get started.)	Economic Development Element- Policy ED-3.2.7: Assistance to Displaced Businesses
High	Enlist the services of the Washington DC Economic Partnership to provide analysis and strategies that will aid in recruiting quality retailers for the identified development sites.	WDCEP, DMPED, ReStore DC, DSLBD	WDCEP	Near-term	Economic Development Element- Policy ED-3.1.5: Public-Private Partnerships
Moderate	Plan for how Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District funds will be most effectively utilized.	DMPED		Near-term to Mid-term	
Moderate	Expand the commercial facade Improvement program to aid in the renovation of commercial properties along Pennsylvania Ave, SE	DHCD	Facade Improvement Grants	Near-term to Mid-term	Far Northeast and Southeast Area Element- Action FNS-1.1.A: Façade Improvements
Moderate	Implement recommendations for the 2300-2700 blocks of Pennsylvania Ave, SE as part of OP's citywide Retail Action Strategy.	OP		Near-term (This study will be finalized in April 2008, and will include recommendations for this section of the corridor)	Economic Development Element- Action ED-2.2.A: Retail Action Agenda

Table 5.3: Public Agency Action Agenda: Economic Development

Priority	Proposed Action	Potential Lead & Active Partners	Program/ Funding Source	Timeframe/ Potential Start	Relation to Comprehensive Plan
CLEAN & SAFE					
High	Encourage creation of a "Clean & Safe" team	DSLBD, OP	ReStore DC has limited funds for such an effort	Near-Term (Can get started after ReStore DC completes its assessment of the corridor)	Economic Development Element-Policy ED-3.1.4: Assistance for CDCs
Moderate	Conduct "Operation Fix It" at all commercial sites along the corridor to ensure regulatory compliance.	MOCRS (with DCRA, OTR, ABRA, OAG, MPD, etc.)	MOCRS - Operation Fix It	Near-Term (Sessions already held at Fairfax Village and Fort Davis Shopping Centers in May 2007)	Economic Development Element-Policy ED-3.1.1: Neighborhood Commercial Vitality
LAND USE					
High	Complete Zoning Review Process of current zoning code to make sure that zoning accurately reflects the intent of this Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.	OP	OP - Development Review	Mid-term (This will begin October 2007 and continue for 2-3 years)	Housing Element-Action H-1.1.A: Rezoning of Marginal Commercial Land
HOUSING					
High	Utilize Site Acquisition Fund Initiative to secure affordable housing opportunities near key redevelopment sites east of the river.	DHCD	SAFI	Mid-term	Far Northeast and Southeast Area Element- Policy FNS-1 .1.2: Development of New Housing
Moderate	Encourage funding of mixed-income developments at key opportunity sites along the corridor	DHCD		Mid-term	Far Northeast and Southeast Area Element- Policy FNS-1 .1.2: Development of New Housing

Table 5.4: Public Agency Action Agenda: Clean & Safe, Land Use and Housing

IMPLEMENTATION

public agency action agenda

Clean & Safe

Land Use

Housing



City Officials

Adrian Fenty - Mayor

Councilmembers

Vincent Gray - Chairman of the Council
Tommy Wells - Member-Ward 6
Yvette Alexander - Member-Ward 7
Marion Barry - Member-Ward 8
Sharon Ambrose - Former Member-Ward 8

Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development

Neil Albert

DC Office of Planning

Harriet Tregoning - Director

Project Management Staff

Rosalynn Hughey
Deputy Director, Citywide and
Neighborhood Planning

Geraldine Gardner
Associate Director, Neighborhood Planning
Jeff C. Davis
Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, Ward 8
Evelyn D. Kasongo
Neighborhood Planning Coordinator-Ward 7
Aubrey Thagard
Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, Ward 8
Ed Estes
Community Planner/Graphic Design
Chris Faust - GIS Specialist

District Department of Transportation

Karina Ricks
Great Streets Program Manager
Ali Shakeri, P.E.
Program Manager, Wards 7 & 8
Infrastructure Project Management Administration
(IPMA)

Advisory Committee Members

Marge Francese
Councilmember Sharon Ambrose's Office
Will Hill
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6B-06
Antonette Russell
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6B-09
Reuben Hameed
Barney Circle Neighborhood Watch
Association
Elizabeth Haverkamp
Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and
Professionals
Susan Perry
Capitol Hill Business Improvement District
(BID)
Dick Wolf
Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS)
Jill Downing
Penn East, Inc.
John Begert
JPI
Ed Copenhagen
Frager's Hardware
Dawn Stonneger
Councilmember Vincent C. Gray's Office
Gilbert Bussy
Penn Branch Citizens/Civic Association
Vincent M. Spaulding
Hillcrest Community Civic Association
Barbara Morgan
Dupont Park Civic Association
Akilli Cooper
Fort Davis Civic Association
Cornelius Bailey
Randle Highlands Civic Association
Barbara Morgan
Pennsylvania Avenue Task Force Committee
Villareal Johnson
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7A-07
Lillian Moore

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7B-03
Raymond Keith
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7B-06
Robin Marlin
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 7B-05
Thelma Jones
Fairlawn Civic Association
Anthony Muhammad
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 8A-01
Christopher Jerry
Fairlawn Civic Association
Brad Chesevoir
Brooks Properties
Styllanos Christofides
Infrastructure Capital Group
Gayle Hazelwood
National Park Service-US Department of the
Interior
Brenda Richardson
Councilmember Marion Barry's Office

District of Columbia Agencies

Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning &
Economic Development
Department of Housing & Community
Development
Department of Parks & Recreation
District Department of Transportation
D.C. Housing Authority
D.C. Housing Finance Agency
D.C. Public Library
D.C. Public Schools
National Capital Revitalization Corporation

Consultant Team

LandDesign, Inc.
Robert Charles Lesser Company
Justice & Sustainability Associates

acknowledgements



Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole Notice of Public Hearing

John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

**CHAIRMAN VINCENT C. GRAY
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING
BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON**

PR 17-780, "DEANWOOD/GREAT STREETS-NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS AVENUE NE, AND MINNESOTA AVENUE NE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2008"

PR 17-782, "PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2008" AND

PR 17-790, THE "BENNING ROAD NE CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN"

**TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008, 2:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.**

Council Chairman Vincent C. Gray announces a public hearing by the Committee of the Whole on PR 17-780, the "Deanwood/Great Streets-Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue NE, and Minnesota Avenue NE Strategic Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008;" PR 17-782, the "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008;" and on the "Benning Road NE Corridor Redevelopment Framework Plan." The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 500 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the following three small area plans to revitalize "Great Streets" corridors which have been or will be submitted by the Mayor for review and approval by the Council: 1) the Deanwood/Great Streets-Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue NE and Minnesota Avenue NE, in Ward 7; 2) the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor and adjacent residential neighborhoods in Wards 6, 7 and 8; and 3) the Benning Road NE Corridor in Wards 5, 6 and 7. The plans, which have been developed by the Office of Planning in collaboration with community stakeholders and District government agencies, provide guidance on land use, zoning, transportation, housing and economic development strategies for revitalizing these corridors.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to testify at the public roundtable are asked to telephone Aretha Latta, Administrative Assistant to the Committee of the Whole, at 724-8196, or send e-mail to alatta@dccouncil.us, and furnish their names, addresses, telephone numbers and organizational affiliation, if any, by the close of business on Friday, June 6, 2008. They should also bring with them 20 copies of their written testimony or submit one copy of their written testimony by Friday, June 6, 2008. Persons presenting testimony may be limited to 3 minutes in order to permit each witness an opportunity to be heard.

Written statements for the record are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. All statements should be submitted to the Committee of the Whole, Council of the District of Columbia, Suite 410, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. Copies of PR 17-780 and PR 17-782, each of which has a copy of the small area plan attached to it, may be obtained from the Legislative Services Division of the Council, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 2, 724-8050. A proposed resolution is expected to be submitted shortly for the Benning Road NE Corridor Plan. Each of the plans is also available on the D.C. Office of Planning web site at www.planning.dc.gov by clicking on the link to "Neighborhood and Revitalization Plans."

Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole Public Hearing Witness List

John A. Wilson Building

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

**CHAIRMAN VINCENT C. GRAY
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING
BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE ON**

**PR 17-780, "DEANWOOD/GREAT STREETS-NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS AVENUE NE, AND
MINNESOTA AVENUE NE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2008"**

**PR 17-782, "PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL
RESOLUTION OF 2008" AND**

PR 17-790, "BENNING ROAD NE CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN"

**TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008, 2:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBER
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.**

WITNESS LIST

1. Robert James
James Bunn
Ward 8 Business Council
2. Richard Wolf
Capitol Hill Restoration Society
3. Stylianos Christofides
Christopher Collins
ICG Pennsylvania Branch Associates
Holland & Knight
4. Julie Rones
representing Fred & Gwen Rose
Attorney
5. Sylvia Brown
Deanwood Strategic Plan
6. Cheryl Cort
Coalition for Smarter Growth
7. Laura Richards
Penn Branch Citizens/Civic Association
8. Christopher LoPiano
CityInterest
9. Sarah D. Boyd
ANC 7D
10. Harriet Tregoning
DC Office of Planning

Ward 8 Business Council

TESTIMONY OF JAMES BUNN OF THE WARD 8 BUSINESS COUNCIL

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Good afternoon, Chairman Vincent Gray. My name is James Bunn. I am the Executive Director of the Ward 8 Business Council. I am here today to testify on the Pennsylvania Avenue Revitalization Plan. The Ward 8 Business Council is strongly supportive of this plan because it provides a revitalization strategy for several neighborhoods along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor and also has the potential to guide future development.

Inasmuch as the east side of Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. is now a part of Ward 8, this important thoroughfare does indeed deserve special attention in light of the economic development growth in the new Ward 8. I am particularly supportive of the 2300 Pennsylvania Avenue project because it sits at the east of the river gateway and will spur much needed economic development in this area. Secondly, there is a tremendous need for retail opportunities. I am confident that the Office of Planning was very mindful of balance while the community was engaged in this process – “solutions must balance neighborhood goals and city-wide objectives with market realities....”

Yes, this community is hungry for investment. We would like to see thriving businesses along the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor that includes sit down restaurants, places where people can shop, and perhaps a small venue for entertainment (such as jazz music).

Ward 8 Business Council

It is my hope that special attention will be paid to not only Metrorail but ensuring that the existing bus stops along the Pennsylvania Avenue will remain. I attended a meeting at the Transportation Planning Board's Access for All Committee where I discovered that WMATA is looking at removing some of the bus stops along this important thoroughfare. More development, means more people which requires more accessible transportation.

Finally, I just wanted to take the time to acknowledge the great work of Harriet Tregonig and Aubrey Thagard at the Office of Planning. Aubrey has been an extraordinary Ward 8 Planner. He is very sensitive to the community's needs and has demonstrated his commitment to give the people what they want. Special thanks to Ms. Tregonig for her vision to ensure that the community is always a part of the planning process.

Thank you.

**TESTIMONY OF THE CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA; PR 17-782; PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE CORRIDOR
DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2008 JUNE 10,2008**

I am Richard N. Wolf, President of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS). I am here to testify on behalf of our approximately 1000 members in partial support of some of the findings and conclusions in this plan; to oppose certain portions; and to call into question the validity of the system used to create this plan.

I participated personally in almost every public session held in connection with this study. I had a number of discussions with the Ward 6 Planner, Jeff Davis concerning the content of this plan and, to some extent, our concerns have been responded to. It should be noted that this testimony and our concerns are only with that portion of the study focused on Pennsylvania Avenue SE from 2nd St. SE to Barney Circle. Our view of this study is that it should end up not harming any of the planning and development initiatives extending over 40 years that have made Capitol Hill, in the words of the American Planning Association, "One of the ten best neighborhoods in America". Much of what the plan suggests for the area of Pennsylvania Avenue from 13th Street to Barney Circle states the obvious. There is a need for higher value retail and residential development within a context of excellent streetscape and strong design guidelines that are required to take advantage of the grandeur of the Avenue.

In this connection the Avenue in that area begs for a more intensive design and development study than is found in this study. We have such an in-depth study already in the works for the Eastern Market Metro Plaza—now called our Town Square study. Using Congressionally ear-marked funds , a team led by Amy Weinstein, Architect and Oehme van Sweden , landscape architects is conducting a broad and deep study of that area, building on a previous study funded by CHRS and CHAMPS. That work will dovetail with a development study for the Hine School site. In both instances there has been a broad based community advisory group established to advise on these studies which arise from resident initiatives. I suggest that the Office of Planning should contract with the Weinstein study group to do what this study did not do for the Avenue out to Barney Circle.

We do not support the DDOT implementation initiatives as set forth in the plan. We repeatedly have asked for DDOT to make available to the community detailed information regarding the initiatives for a new 11 Street bridge—a matter we have testified about a number of times before this Council. We have yet to see an integrated traffic study for Capitol Hill although such studies are mentioned a number of times in the Plan. We have no details about the planning being done at the Potomac Avenue Metro Station, although the Weinstein group has obtained some information as a part of their studies. We have no detailed information about plans for trolleys/light rail although these are also mentioned. If OP is to be a central coordination body for planning in the District of Columbia it needs to have complete knowledge of what other DC agencies are planning, including DDOT, and that knowledge has to be factored into OP's planning studies if it purports to be an adequate substitute for a planning commission.

Finally, we want to take issue with the process by which this study and resulting plan came into being. This was initiated by OP, before Ms. Tregoning took over the office, on the basis of a "vision" that the two sides of the Anacostia River needed to be "connected" by some sort of a unified plan. I told the planners early on that this was simply not planning but wishful thinking. From a planning standpoint the two sides are completely different, and those differences are reflected in the plan before you. It would have made more sense to have had two planning efforts and each would have had more focus and depth.

In other words, these plans are initiated by OP with very little input from the community. There is no yearly work plan for the office which could be subjected to review by the Council and citizens. During the course of public meetings—they are not hearings—there is "facilitation" of discussion by staff and a contractor. The public has no idea as to what happens to the comments and there is no legal requirement that the comments be taken into account in the final plan. What you have before you is pretty much what OP thinks about the plan and not very much what we think. That is not transparent and responsive planning, but it is the way planning is done in the District of Columbia. Yet, what is produced is supposed to be the basis for actions by various agencies and the spending of sometimes very large amounts of government funds—our taxes. No matter how many public meetings are held on a topic, these small area plans are pretty much top down, and it is the prerogative of the government to decide whether or not to even bring these forward for adoption.

I don't think adoption of this plan by the Council will either facilitate or hurt proper development along Pennsylvania Avenue on Capitol Hill, except for adoption of plans and policies from DDOT which have not been thoroughly vetted by the public. A great deal of public money has been spent on this effort with not a lot to show in the end. There has to be a better way.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

**PR 17-782, "Pennsylvania Avenue Southeast Corridor
Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008"**

**Testimony in Support by Stylianos C. Christofides
Principal, IGC Properties**

June 10, 2008

Good afternoon, Chairman Gray and Members of the Committee. My name is Stylianos Christofides; I am a Principal with IGC Properties, the owner of the Penn Branch Center located at the northwest corner of Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues, S.E. I am here today to express our strong support for PR 17-782, the Pennsylvania Avenue Southeast Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008. (the "Development Plan").

ICG Properties purchased the Penn Branch Center in spring of 2006, with the intent to upgrade and modernize the Center, and to provide appropriate in-fill development. We have worked extensively over the past two years with the Office of Planning, the Office of Property Management, the Great Streets and various Councilmembers, to shape our vision and proposal. In addition, we have had meetings with the Dupont Park Civic Association, the Penn Branch Civic Association, the Great Streets Task Force, various ANC Commissioners in community meetings and with Councilmember Alexander's Leadership Council. We have also discussed our ideas for the redevelopment with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. The goal of these meetings was to be as inclusive as possible, and I believe that we have achieved a plan which is consistent with the Great Streets Initiative, and which addresses all of the comments and concerns that we have received from the community in our various meetings. We believe that our proposal will bring enhanced opportunities for retail,

housing and office use to this important intersection, in a way that respects the character of this established neighborhood and the goals of the Development Plan.

We at ICG are very excited about the opportunity to revitalize the Penn Branch Center, and to make it an integral part of the world-class boulevard envisioned by this Development Plan. In fact, we just returned from this year's convention of the International Council of Shopping Centers where in partnership with DC we spent 3 days promoting our site and the proposed development to potential new retailers.

In order to achieve these goals at the Penn Branch Center, the first step in the approval process is for the Council to approve this Development Plan, which in turn will support a rezoning of the entire property by the Zoning Commission to a low-density Community Business Center zoning category that allows mixed-use residential and commercial uses. Accordingly, ICG respectfully requests that the Council approve PR-17-782 at the earliest possible time.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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PENN BRANCH CENTER

3200 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

Washington, DC



Penn Branch Center, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Branch Avenue in Washington, D.C., is located within the sought after Hillcrest neighborhood rated one of *Washingtonian* magazine's "Best Places to Live." This mixed use development is undergoing a comprehensive redevelopment and expansion, and will offer 236,000 square feet of prime retail, office, and residential space, plus underground parking.



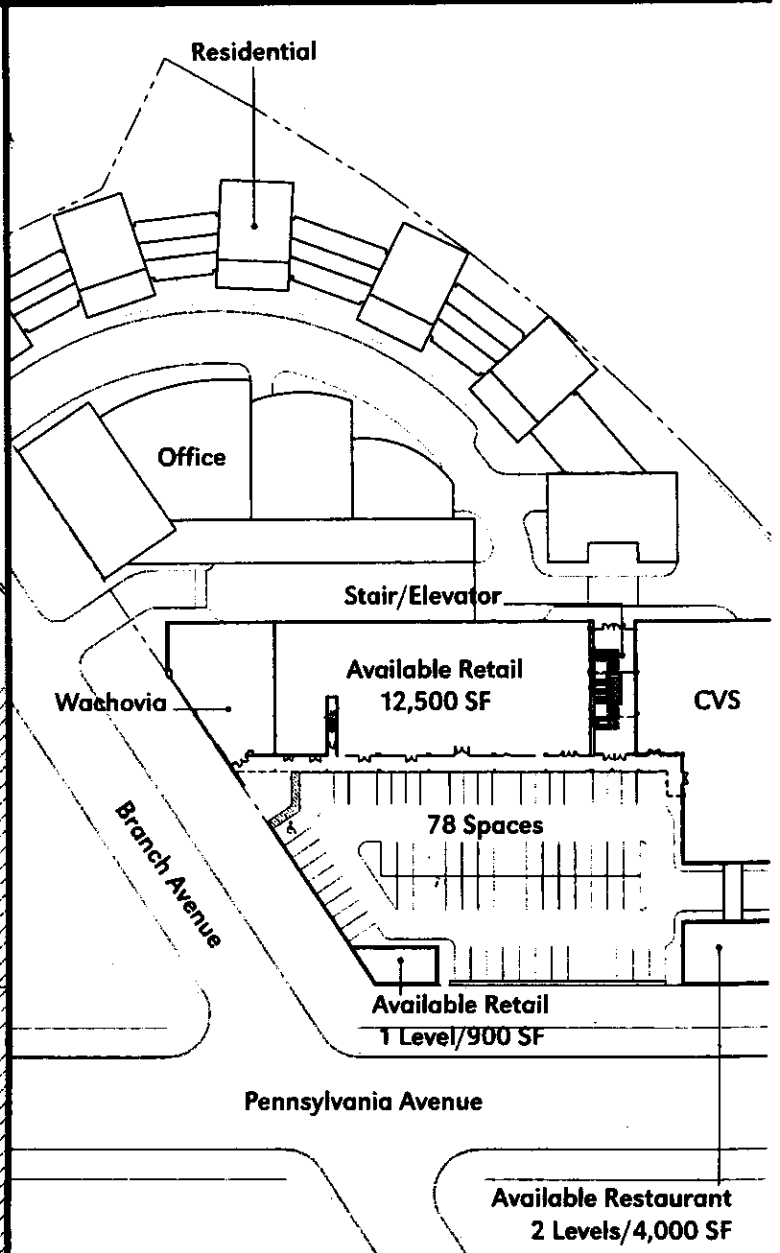
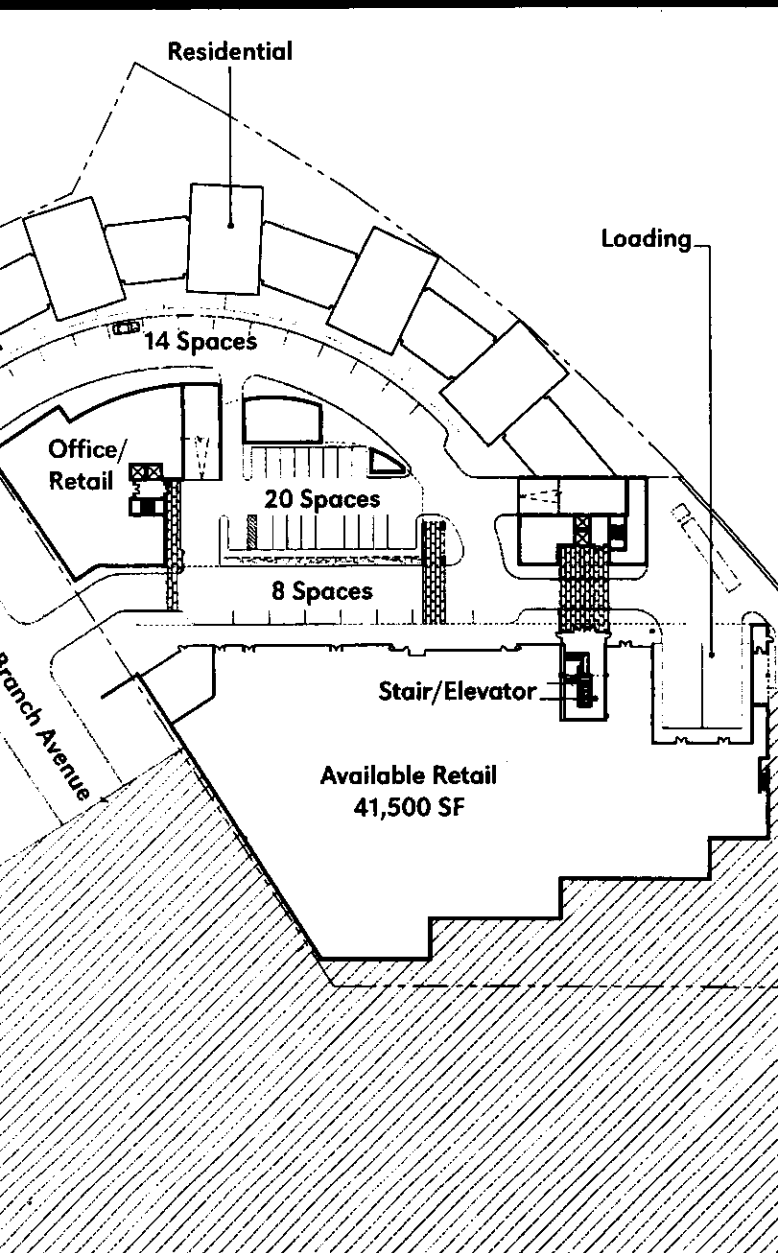
www.icgproperties.com

PENN BRANCH CENTER

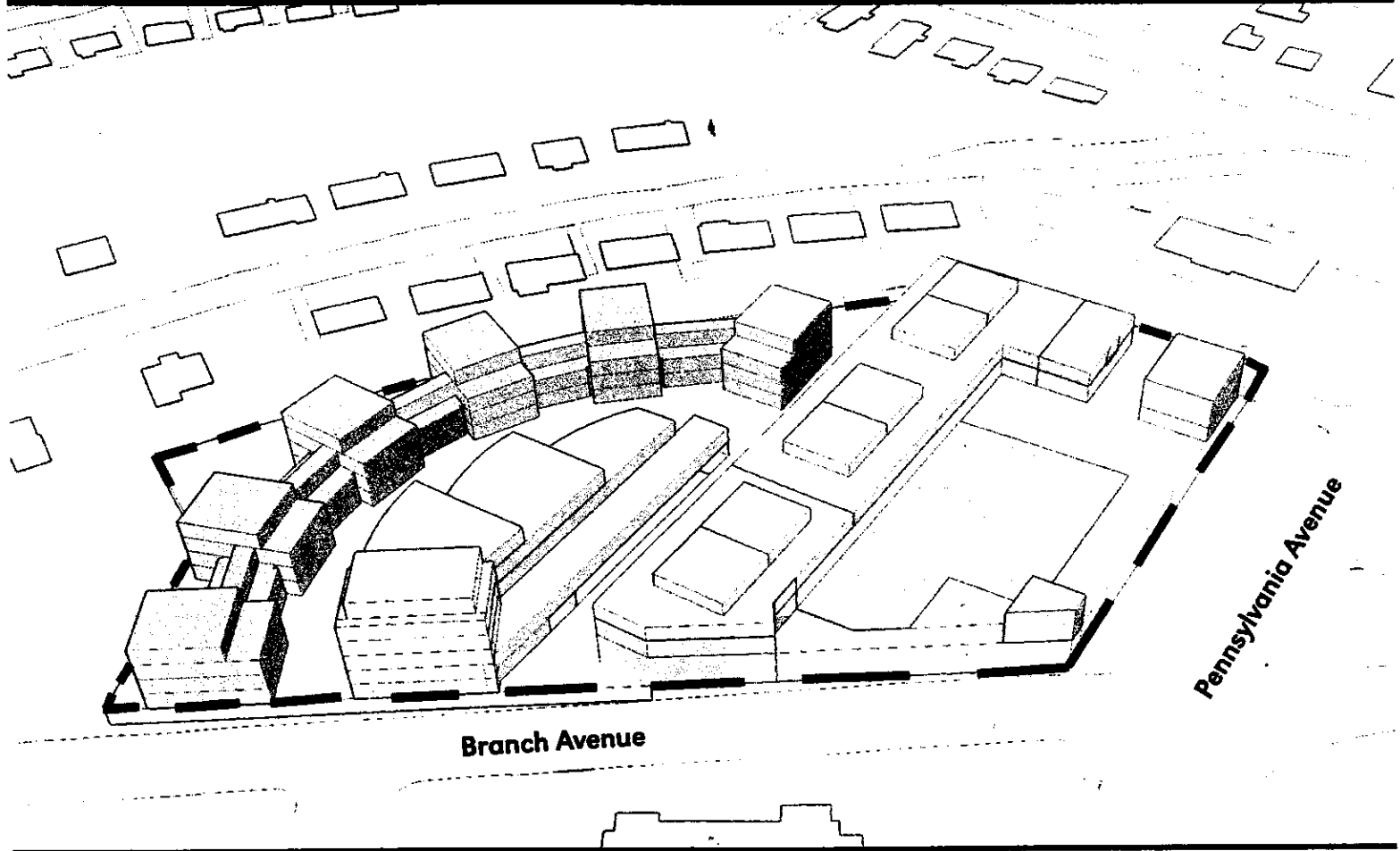
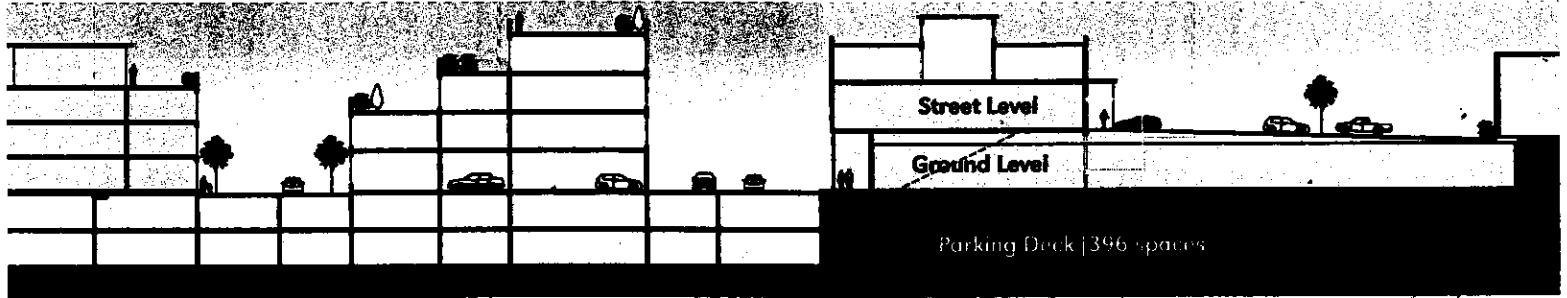
DEMOGRAPHICS	.25 Mile	.5 Mile	1 Mile	3 Miles	5 Miles
Average HH Income	\$75,362	\$74,429	\$61,062	\$59,886	\$62,830
Population	729	4,717	23,190	234,384	484,490
Households	339	2,215	10,619	97,612	198,747

TRAFFIC

Pennsylvania Avenue	30,000 cars
Branch Avenue	18,000 cars
Total	48,000 cars



SITE SECTION



Retail	76,000 SF
Residential	74,000 SF
Office	86,000 SF
TOTAL	236,000 SF

USE PLAN



www.icgproperties.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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**Before the Council of the District of Columbia
Committee of the Whole Public Hearing - COUNCIL CHAMBER - 5TH FLOOR
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING, 1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001**

June 10, 2008 (Prepared for oral delivery)

CHAIRMAN GRAY AND MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE, I AM CHRISTOPHER LAMPKIN. THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO APPEAR AT THIS PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE GREAT STREETS HEARING, INSTEAD OF JULIE RONES AND ON BEHALF OF FRED AND GWEN ROSE. THEY OWN PARCEL 5539, LOT 0843, LOCATED AT BRANCH AVENUE, SE, (39,000 SQ. FEET), WHICH IS BEHIND AND TOUCHES THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER. THE ROSES STRONGLY ENDORSE THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING'S RECOMMENDATION TO REZONE THE PENN-BRANCH AVENUE NODE FOR MIXED USE, MODERATE DENSITY DEVELOPMENT. PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE IS ALREADY WELL TRAVELED AND COULD USE MORE PARKING. THE SHOPPING CENTER LACKS AN APPROPRIATE WATER WASTE DRAINAGE SYSTEM, BECAUSE THE REQUIREMENTS CAME ABOUT YEARS LATER. THE AREA ALSO NEEDS TO HAVE GREATER COORDINATION OF UNDERGROUND STREAMS, SO THE DOWNSTREAM HOUSES WON'T FLOOD. NEW BUILDING OF PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER MEANS THE WATER WASTE SYSTEM MUST CONFORM TO TODAY'S REQUIREMENTS. COORDINATING THE DYSFUNCTIONAL UNDERGROUND STREAMS IS ALSO IN THE COMMUNITY'S BEST INTEREST AND COULD BE ACHIEVED, IF REZONING IS GRANTED. THE ROSES WANT THEIR LOT TO ALSO BE REZONED IN THE SAME CLASSIFICATION, AS THE SHOPPING CENTER, SO THEY CAN BUILD OR SELL AND MOVE THEIR LOT TO ITS MAXIMUM USE AND VALUE. THE CURRENT PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER OWNERS OVER PAID, PAYING A WHOPPING \$26 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER SITE. THEY MAY CONTINUE TO LOOSE TENANTS FOR LACK OF PARKING AND BECAUSE THE STRUCTURE IS OLD AND NEEDS AN UPDATE. THE OWNERS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE CITY COULD ALL BE BIG LOSERS, IF THE ZONING CHANGE IS NOT GRANTED, IMMEDIATELY. PENN-BRANCH IS STRATEGICALLY LOCATED, AND IS PRIME FOR COMPETITION WITH, OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT CAN CAPTURE SOME OF THE NEW BLING, STEMMING FROM DEVELOPMENT OF: THE 2500 BLOCK OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, FAIRFAX VILLAGE, SKYLAND SHOPPING CENTER, POPLAR POINT, BENNING ROAD, MINNESOTA AVENUE, POTOMAC AVENUE, ANACOSTIA, THE NATIONAL'S STADIUM AREA, AND PRINCE GEORGE'S HARBOR. THE COUNCIL SHOULD CLEAR THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER DAY FOR OUR HILLCREST, PENN-BRANCH, DUPONT PARK COMMUNITIES BY APPROVING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING'S RECOMMENDATION, NOW.

PLEASE ADMIT JULIE RONES' FULL STATEMENT INTO THE RECORD. THANK YOU. 3201 O Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020, (202) 582-5536 or [jrone\\$2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jrone$2000@yahoo.com)

Before the
Council of the District of Columbia
Committee of the Whole Public Hearing
COUNCIL CHAMBER - 5TH FLOOR
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

June 10, 2008

Hearing Statement by Julie E. Rones on behalf of Fred and Gwen Rose, Property Owners of the parcel and lot known as 5539 0843, located at Branch Avenue, SE (39,000 sq. feet), directly behind and abutting the Penn-Branch Shopping Center in the rear to "O" Street, SE, DC, Regarding:

PR 17-780, "DEANWOOD/GREAT STREETS-NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS AVENUE NE , AND MINNESOTA AVENUE NE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2008"; and,

PR 17-782, "PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2008"

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN GRAY, OUR OWN, WARD 7 REPRESENTATIVE, COUNCIL MEMBER ALEXANDER, AND ALSO, COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND ALL MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE, I AM CHRISTOPHER LAMPKIN, APPEARING BEFORE YOU IN LIEU OF JULIE RONES, REGARDING THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE CORRIDOR. THIS PRESENTATION IS MADE ON BEHALF OF GWEN AND FRED ROSE, OWNERS OF THE LOT KNOWN AS 5539 0843,¹ LOCATED AT BRANCH AVENUE, SE, (39,000 SQ. FEET), WHICH IS LOCATED DIRECTLY BEHIND AND ABUTS THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER. THE ROSES ALSO OWN LOT 0841, THE FAMILY HOME. THEY HAVE OWNED THE PROPERTY FOR OVER FORTY YEARS.

IN A NUTSHELL, THE ROSES ENDORSE THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING'S RECOMMENDATION TO MODIFY THE PENN-BRANCH NODE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE GREAT STREETS OR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ENABLE A MODIFICATION TO THE ZONING, SO THAT PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER AND THE PROPERTY OWNED BY THE ROSES, LOT 0843 OF PARCEL 5539, IS REZONED FOR MIXED USE, MODERATE DENSITY DEVELOPMENT. FOR REASONS IDENTIFIED IN THIS TESTIMONY, THIS PLAN IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE CITY. I ASK THAT THE ENTIRE STATEMENT BE MADE A FORMAL PART OF THE RECORD.

THE PREVIOUS LAND OWNER OWNED THE ENTIRE 5539 PARCEL, WHICH INCLUDED ALL THE LAND THAT IS NOW THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER, THE PORTION WHERE THE LAUNDROMAT, AND THE RESIDENTIAL HOUSES ON O STREET NOW EXISTS. THE ROSES SUBDIVIDED THEIR LOT, WITH THE VIEW TOWARD DEVELOPING LOT 0843, AFTER IT WAS NO LONGER USED AS A SWIMMING POOL AND TENNIS COURT. OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO, THE NEIGHBORS FOUGHT THE ROSES' PLAN TO BUILD TOWN HOMES ON LOT 0843. THE ROSES NOW WISH TO MOVE THE PROPERTY TO A HIGHER USE AND APPEAL TO THE COUNCIL TO ENABLE THE ZONING BOARD TO INCREASE THE ZONING DESIGNATION FROM R-5B TO A MIXED-USE, MODERATE DENSITY FORM OF ZONING, SO THE LAND WILL NOT OTHERWISE REMAIN LARGELY UNUSED. WITH A NEW ZONING DESIGNATION, THE ROSES HAVE A BETTER OPTION TO MOVE THE PROPERTY TO MORE PRODUCTIVE USAGE, CERTAINLY RATHER THAN ITS CURRENT FALLOW STATE.

THE D.C. OFFICE OF PLANNING (OFFICE OF PLANNING) HAS RECOMMENDED MORE PRODUCTIVE USAGE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE CORRIDOR AND THIS LAND, LOT 0843 OF PARCEL 5539, IS WITHIN THE AMBIT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AND IS STRATEGIC TO THE RECOMMENDATION MADE BY THE OFFICE OF PLANNING. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REMODELING OF THE AREA IS RECOMMENDED BY THIS D.C. EXPERT LAND-USE PLANNING AGENCY.

THE ROSES STRONGLY ENDORSE THE MAYOR'S PLAN TO ALLOW MORE PRODUCTIVE USAGE OF THE CORRIDOR, AS A WHOLE, AND THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER AND THEIR OWN LOT. SPECIFICALLY, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING RECOMMENDS UPGRADING SPECIFIC NODES ALONG THE RELEVANT PORTION OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, FROM SECOND STREET SE, TO THE MARYLAND LINE. THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING RECOMMENDS THAT THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER'S C-1, R-1B ZONING DESIGNATION BE CHANGED TO A "C-2A," MIXED USE, MODERATE DENSITY ZONING DESIGNATION. THE ROSES SUPPORT THIS AND A CORRESPONDING UPGRADE IN ZONING TO THEIR 0843 LOT.

THE ROSES BELIEVE THAT IF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND BRANCH AVENUE, WHERE THEIR LAND IS LOCATED ON BRANCH AVENUE, CONSTITUTES FEDERALLY DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS,ⁱⁱ THAT THIS NODE ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE IS ALREADY WELL TRAVELED AND GREATLY USED, SO THAT THE EXCUSE OF INCREASED TRAFFIC ALREADY RINGS HOLLOW. NOTWITHSTANDING WHETHER PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND BRANCH AVENUES WERE EVER FEDERALLY DESIGNATED HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC IS ALREADY HEAVY ON BOTH AVENUES, SO THE TRAFFIC BURDEN HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR.ⁱⁱⁱ THUS, EXPANSION AND

INCREASED TRAFFIC SHOULD NOT PRECLUDE A CHANGED ZONING DESIGNATION. MOREOVER, GREATER NEED FOR PARKING FACILITIES HAS BEEN INDICATED WITH OR WITHOUT AN EXPANSION. THUS, A ZONING MODIFICATION CAN ENABLE GREATER PARKING FACILITIES.

THEREFORE, A ZONING MODIFICATION TO ENABLE THE ECONOMIC CAPTURE OF THE HEAVILY USED NODE COMPELLS A NEW DESIGNATION. A MODERATE DENSITY ZONE DESIGNATION, OR PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) DESIGNATION, WOULD AFFORD THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY THE OPPORTUNITY TO REAP ECONOMIC AND OTHER BENEFITS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER WAS ORIGINALLY DEVELOPED, IT DID NOT HAVE TO INSTALL APPROPRIATE WATER WASTE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, BECAUSE THE REQUIREMENTS CAME ABOUT YEARS LATER.

THUS, ACCORDING TO WASA OFFICIALS AND THE DC OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS, IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ROSES, **THE WATER WASTE DRAINAGE SYSTEM IS WHOLLY INADEQUATE TO MEET CURRENT OR FUTURE NEEDS AND NEEDS TO BE UPGRADED; ADDITIONALLY, THE LAND MAY HAVE UNDERGROUND STREAMS THAT MAY BE WREAKING HAVOC WITH DOWNSTREAM, RESIDENTIAL AREAS THAT PERIODICALLY EXPERIENCE FLOODING.**

SINCE THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER'S WASTE WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM IS GRANDFATHERED, IMPROVEMENTS CAN ONLY BE MADE IN THE EVENT OF AN IMPROVEMENT MADE TO PENN-BRANCH'S INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS WASTE WATER UPGRADE WOULD BE REQUIRED IF BUILDING ON THE PARCEL GOES INTO EFFECT. SUCH AN UPGRADE COULD BE A BENEFIT TO THE ENTIRE PARCEL, ESPECIALLY THE NON-ABUTTING RESIDENTIAL AREA ON THE SIDE OF OR IN THE REAR OF THE SHOPPING CENTER: THAT IS Q, P, O STREETS AND BRANCH AVENUE, WHICH MAY EXPERIENCE THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF WATER DRAINING DOWN THE HILL ON BRANCH AVENUE FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE SHOPPING CENTER.

A BETTER SYSTEM FOR DRAINAGE HAS BEEN INDICATED AS A NEED ALONG WITH THE POSSIBLE NEED TO CONTROL OR BETTER COORDINATE THE DIRECTION OF THE UNDERGROUND STREAMS. SUCH FUTURE EXPANSION OF THE SHOPPING CENTER ENTAILS THE ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, WHICH GIVES RISE TO THE REQUIREMENT OF AN INSTALLATION OF A WASTE WATER DRAINAGE SYSTEM THAT COMFORMS WITH EXISTING DC REQUIREMENTS. THE INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE MAY ALSO ALLOW FOR THE APPROPRIATE COORDINATION OF ANY RELEVANT UNDERGROUND STREAMS, IMPACTING PARCEL 5539 AND ADJOINING PARCELS. BOTH OF THESE TANGENTIAL MODIFICATIONS COULD PROVE IMMENSELY BENEFICIAL TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, BUT

WILL NOT COME ABOUT ABSENT A CHANGE IN ZONING. THUS, THE RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES COULD EVEN DETERIORATE WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE CHANGES TO THE WATERSHED.

THE ROSES, RESPECTFULLY, URGE THE COUNCIL TO ACT CONSISTENT WITH THEIR REQUEST AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING, ALONG WITH THE PUBLICLY STATED REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION OF ZONING, MADE SEPARATELY BY THE CURRENT OWNERS OF THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER, WHO ARE EXPECTED TO TESTIFY, HERE, TODAY.

PENN-BRANCH IS STRATEGICALLY LOCATED AND IS PRIME FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO CAPTURE SOME OF THE NEW INFLUX STEMMING FROM DEVELOPMENT IN THE 2500 BLOCK OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, THE SKYLAND DEVELOPMENT, POPLAR POINT, BENNING ROAD, MINNESOTA AVENUE, POTOMAC AVENUE, ANACOSTIA, THE SOUTHWEST AREA NEAR THE NATIONAL'S STADIUM, AND EVEN THE PRINCE GEORGE'S HARBOR DEVELOPMENT. WARD 7, PENN-BRANCH, SPECIFICALLY, SHOULD DEVELOP WHILE THE MARKET IS HOT AND PRIMED, OR THE CITY AND ITS RESIDENTS RUN THE RISK OF BEING LEFT OUT OR TOO LATE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A BOOM.

D.C. IS EXPERIENCING A DEVELOPMENT BOOM. DESPITE OTHER AREAS OF THE COUNTRY HALTING BUILDING BECAUSE OF THE HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION CORRECTION THAT'S GRIPPING THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

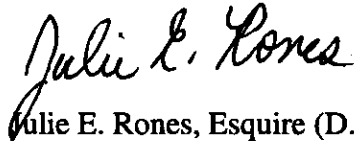
IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND, THAT THE CURRENT OWNERS OF THE PENN-BRANCH SHOPPING CENTER BELIEVE THEY OVER PAID FOR THAT PORTION. THEY PUBLICLY STATED HAVING ERRED BY PAYING \$26 MILLION WHEN IT WAS PURCHASED. IN ITS CURRENT STATE, UNLESS THERE IS IMPROVEMENT, THE OWNERS MAY LOOSE CRITICAL TENANTS. THUS, THERE MAY BE A DANGER THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD SUFFER IF THE WORST SCENARIO OCCURS, THAT IS THE OWNERS LOOSE TENANTS AND HAVE TO SIMPLY ABANDON THE SHOPPING CENTER, ALTOGETHER.

RIGHT NOW, BOTH THE ROSES AND THE OWNERS, SEPARATELY, WANT TO OFFER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SALVATION TO THE COMMUNITY, IF A ZONING MODIFICATION IS GRANTED.^{iv} SUCH INCENTIVE IS NECESSARY AND IN THE COMMUNITY'S INTEREST.

THE COUNCIL SHOULD CLEAR THE WAY TO A BRIGHTER DAY FOR OUR COMMUNITY BY APPROVING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING'S RECOMMENDATION, NOW.

IN SUMMARY, THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR AND ADVANCE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE ROSES AND, IN THEIR VIEW, THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY (IN THE WORDS OF JULIE RONES, AND AS READ BY CHRISTOPHER LAMPKIN).

Respectfully,



Julie E. Rones, Esquire (D.C. Bar, only)
On behalf of Fred and Gwen Rose

3201 O Street, SE
Washington, DC 20020
(202) 582-5536
jrones_2000@yahoo.com

ⁱ See,

https://www.taxpayerservicecenter.com/RP_Detail.jsp?ssl=5539%20%20%20%200843

ⁱⁱ Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues, SE, Washington, DC, were federally designated highways. This designation may have changed in recent years, so that the streets may in fact be under local jurisdiction. However, if in fact, the streets were once federally designated highways, it was because of the strategic nature of the ingress and egress to downtown Washington to and from Maryland and the artery that leads to either 495 or 295. Thus, both streets have always had significant amount of vehicular traffic and this aspect continues to obtain.

ⁱⁱⁱ Contraction of traffic is also a possibility in light of the trolleys expected to be brought online on Minnesota Avenue; and the fact that the Metro, buses and bikes might mean less driving or need to do so; and this is even more a possibility, in light of high gas prices moving forward and interest in curbing auto emissions to improve D.C.'s poor air quality. The Penn-Branch location is strategic and proximate to transportation and downtown, so the area can, arguably, accommodate either a trend up or down in vehicular traffic.

^{iv} The Roses reserve the right to develop their land, themselves; or to sell it to any buyer who steps forward with their asking price and any conditions they elect to impose. The Roses state, for the record, that they are not contractually obligated to sell their land to the current owners of the Penn-Branch Shopping Center. Nor, do they expect to be held hostage to the plans of the Penn-Branch Shopping Center Owners. The Roses are free agents and will sell or develop their property as they determine appropriate. To the degree, however, that the City does not allow a change in zoning and acquiesces in any opposition, the Roses reserve the right to argue any necessary matters, under law, including the right to be reimbursed for any *de facto* taking of their property, by virtue of a preclusion of a higher usage of the land that can only be realized from a zoning modification. Financial incentive is necessary to prompt development and the incentive is contingent upon the grant of the mixed use, moderate density zoning.

Robert T. Richards
3524 Carpenter Street, SE
Washington, DC
rbrchrds@gmail.com

June 10, 2008

Hon. Vincent C. Gray, Chair
Committee of the Whole
D.C. City Council
Washington, DC

Re: *Proposed Corridor Plan for SE Pennsylvania Avenue:
Penn-Branch Shopping Center site*

Dear Chairman Gray and members of the Committee of the Whole:

I wish to make two points today in opposition to the plans for the Penn-Branch site contained in the Office of Planning's (OP) January 2008 Final Draft Plan for Pennsylvania Avenue, SE.

First, the proposed heights and densities are inconsistent with the 2006 Comprehensive Plan's designation of the Penn-Branch site. The Comp Plan calls for low density commercial and residential uses.

Second, in enacting the 2006 Plan, the Council considered and expressly rejected an amendment proposed by the Holland-Knight law firm on behalf of a client to increase heights and densities at Penn-Branch.

Penn-Branch was aware of the Holland-Knight amendment and successfully fought to keep it out of the Plan.

OP's Final Draft Plan is ultra vires. It is an attempted end-run around legislative action by the Council. On this ground alone, it should be rejected.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert T. Richards

D.C. Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map

The Penn-Branch Shopping Center is designated on the Future Land Use Map as Low Density Commercial, a category defined as:

"Shopping and service areas that are generally low in scale and character. Retail, office and service businesses are the predominant uses. Areas range from small business districts that draw primarily from the surrounding neighborhoods to larger business districts that draw from a broader market area. Their common feature is that they are comprised primarily of one- to three-story commercial buildings." See Legend (emphasis added).

The map was enacted as part of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Act of 2006 (D.C. Law 16-299, eff. Mar. 6, 2007). As such, it is a statement of law. The map further states that "[d]esignation of an area with a particular land use category does not necessarily mean that the most intense zoning district described in the land use definitions is automatically permitted." See Guidelines for Using this map.

The land use standards for Moderate Density Commercial sites "generally does not exceed five stories in height." See Legend. The proposed plan would jump all the way to heights contained in the Medium Density Commercial class, where buildings "generally do not exceed eight stories in height." See Legend.

The Penn-Branch neighborhood surrounding the shopping center is shown on the Land Use Map as Low Density Residential, where the predominant use is "single family detached and semi-detached housing with front, back and side yards." See Legend. The proposed plan would build "medium density residential," which anticipates multi-family buildings of 4 to seven stories.

D.C. Comprehensive Plan Generalized Policy Map

Similarly, a second map enacted into law, the Generalized Policy Map, designates the Penn-Branch Shopping Center and surrounding Penn-Branch neighborhood as a "Neighborhood Conservation Area," defined as an area where "[m]aintenance of existing land uses and community character is expected over the next 20 years."

In short, Penn-Branch is not designated as a mixed-use area on the Land Use Map, nor as a Land Use Change Area, or Commercial/Mixed Use Area, or a Main Street Mixed Use Area. The shopping center is a neighborhood commercial

center serving a predominantly single-family residential neighborhood and anything else is contrary to the statutory Plan.

The D.C. Council Refused to Allow More Intense Development at Penn-Branch.

Any suggestion that the Council somehow overlooked providing for more intense development at Penn-Branch must be rejected. When the Comp Plan was before the Council, the law firm of Holland & Knight proposed a number of amendments, including an amendment that would have changed Penn-Branch's land use to permit moderate to medium density commercial and residential uses.

The proposed amendment was rejected by the Council, at the recommendation of then-Planning Director Ellen McCarthy. This small area plan with respect to Penn-Branch is a back-door attempt to circumvent the legislative process. It is a fundamental canon of statutory construction that when a legislative body has considered and rejected a specific provision, a statute cannot be interpreted to include the rejected provision. Indeed, the Office of Planning has acknowledged publicly that the Comprehensive Plan presented a barrier to level of development it wished to imposed on the neighborhood.

Nothing has changed, except OP's willingness to comply with applicable law.

We now address specific provisions of the Plan that relate to the draft Small Area Plan.

Citywide Elements:

Land Use

"The Land Use Element is the cornerstone of the Comprehensive Plan. . . . The critical land use issues facing the District of Columbia are addressed in this element. These include [as the first two listed]:

Promoting neighborhood conservation
Creating and maintaining successful neighborhoods
. . . . 300.2 at 3-1.

LU Overview at 3-1.

LU-2 Creating and Maintaining Successful Neighborhoods

"This section of the Land Use Element focuses on land use issues within the District's neighborhoods. It begins with a broad set of policies . . . protecting the defining characteristics of each community." 308.1 at 3-23.

LU-2.1 A City of Neighborhoods

"For Washington residents, the neighborhoods are the essence of the city's social and physical environment. Land use policies must . . . protect[t] their rich historic and cultural legacies." 309.1 at 3-23.

Washington's "130 distinct and identifiable neighborhoods . . . range from high density urban mixed use communities . . . to quiet low-density neighborhoods . . . , providing a wide range of choices for the District's many different types of households." 309.2 at 3-23.

Policy LU-2.1.4. Rehabilitation Before Demolition.

In redeveloping areas characterized by . . . underutilized older buildings, generally encourage rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings rather than demolition." 309.9 at 3-25.

Policy LU 2.1.5 Conservation of Single Family Neighborhoods.

Protect and preserve the District's stable, low density neighborhoods and ensure that their zoning reflects their established low density character." 309.10 at 3-25.

Action LU-2.1.C Residential Rezoning

Provide a better match between zoning and existing land uses in the city's residential areas 309.21 at 3-27.

Transportation

T-1.2 Transforming Corridors

Our avenues and boulevards are much more than simple transportation routes. They are a legacy of the 1791 L'Enfant Plan and are still one of the city's most distinctive features. . . . Different corridors in the city serve different functions. 404.1, 404.2 at 2-7.

T-2.5 Roadway System and Auto Movement

Traffic congestion on the District's roadway network occurs primarily on the radial principal arterial roadways. . . . [T]he limited number of crossing over the Potomac and Anacostia rivers generates higher volumes of traffic at these gateways than their counterparts in the northern portion of the District." 411.6 at 4-29.

Examples of heavy volumes from the south include 93,000 daily trips across the Anacostia River on the Pennsylvania Avenue [Sousa] Bridge,. 411.7 at 4-29.

Some of the roadway and bridge investments the city is planning to make within next five to eight years include:

...
b. Constructing a tunnel between I-295 east of the Anacostia River and the existing I-395 Third Street tunnel to carry regional traffic beneath the South Capitol Street corridor and to replace the Southeast Freeway;
...."

i. Placing a single point diamond interchange at Pennsylvania Avenue, SE/ Anacostia Freeway (I-295)." 411.9 at 4-29, 4.31.

See also Figure 4.4 at 4-30 (showing the high congestion volumes on Pennsylvania Avenue SE).

Housing Element

See Map 5.1 at 5-4, classifying Penn-Branch as a "stable" neighborhood.

H-1.3 Diversity of Housing Type

"During the last five years, more than 80 percent of the new housing in the city has consisted of multi-family housing. As this trend continues, the District faces the prospect of a less diverse housing stock" 505.2 at 5-15.

"While the market for housing has been robust during the last five years, there is no guarantee this will continue indefinitely. The first six months of 2006 suggest softer demand due to high prices and rising interest rates." 500.17 at 5-5.

Area Element – Far Northeast and Southeast

"The Far Northeast and Southeast Planning Area encompasses the 8.3 square miles located east of I-295 and north of Naylor Road SE," an area that includes Penn-Branch. 1700.1 at 17-1.

Far Northeast and Southeast is known for its stable, attractive neighborhoods . . . It includes single family communities like Hillcrest, East Gardens and Penn-Branch 1700.2 at 17-1.

Densities are typically lower than the citywide average, with much of the housing stock consisting of one- and two-family homes. 1792.2 at 17-3.

Relative to the city as a whole, the area has higher percentages of children and seniors. 1703.2 at 17-4.

Planning and Development Priorities

The low-density character that typifies most Far Northeast and Southeast Neighborhoods should be maintained. . . . [D]evelopment should generally be similar in density to what exists today. 1707.a. at 17-7.

Policy FNS-1.2.4. Soil Erosion

Reduce soil erosion and stabilize slopes at . . . erosion "hot spots," particularly [among others] O Street SE. 1700.4 at 17-13.

Policy FNS-1.2.5: View Protection

Protect and enhance important views and vistas between Far Northeast/Southeast and Central Washington Such views are area in the District and should be maintained. 1709.5 at 17-13.

Policy FNS-2.6.1: Pennsylvania Avenue "Great Street"

Plan the Pennsylvania Avenue SE cooridor in a manner that reduces traffic impacts on adjacent neighborhoods " 1716.3 at 17-23.

Policy FNS-2.6.2: Neighborhood Shopping Improvements

Promote a wider variety and better mix of neighborhood-serving retail shops at the shopping centers at Pennsylvania and Alabama Avenues and Pennsylvania and Branch Avenues. 1716.4 at 17-23.

95,000 Good Hope Marketplace; Skyland 170,000 as built; planned to increase to 275,000.

Submitted by
Penn-Branch Citizens

Excerpts from Transcript of the
Mayoral Hearing on the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan
January 17, 29008 – Randle Highlands Elementary School¹

Key points:

- Eleven citizens testified at the hearing; nine were from Penn-Branch.
- All Penn-Branch witnesses testified in the strongest possible terms against the proposed development for the Penn-Branch shopping center site.
- The hearing was held in inclement weather, as described by OP staffer Aubrey Thagard: “Temperatures are dropping, ice, freezing rain expected for the metropolitan areas. So we have to make sure that everyone gets home safely.” Tr. at 17-18
- Numerous meetings were held beginning in summer 2006, but this was the only hearing held on the record.
- The Final Draft report was released in December 2007, just before Christmas.
- The hearing was given far less public notice by OP than the non-record public meetings that preceded it.
- The Final Draft Report has not been modified to reflect citizen comments.

Excerpts from witnesses’ hearing statements:

RICHARD HAWKINS, former president, Penn-Branch Citizens/Civic Association

Currently the shopping center [is zoned C1] and C1 is defined as a matter of right, neighborhood shopping at low density Tr. at 31. This [Final Draft Report] will require changes from C1 to C2B. Such a change is not consistent with the surrounding community of low density housing. . . . They object to the increased height and density that it would bring. Tr. at 32.

GILBERT BUSSEY, current president, Penn-Branch Citizens/Civic Association

[F]rom my experience at our meetings, Penn-Branch meetings, overwhelmingly, the residents of Penn-Branch are opposed to this plan. We’ve been here before and we’ve

¹ The transcript was provided to Penn-Branch by OP staff at our request. The quality is very poor. Penn-Branch contacted the transcriber retained by OP, Beta Reporting, www.betareporting.com, and was informed that the sound system malfunctioned and that the transcript you have before you is the best that could be produced.

heard things, presentations, about Office of Planning and what not and they tell us, hey, this is just the planning stage. Well, now it looks like it's a done deal. Tr. at 35.

I've lived here for 40 years and before that I was a police officer in this area, prior to that, and Penn-Branch has always been a very nice residential neighborhood. . . . I do believe we can overbuild things. Tr. at 35-36.

JAMES FERGUSON, Penn-Branch resident

We have, over the past year and a half, had numerous meetings, whether it may be committee meetings, whether they be association meetings, we had meetings with the planning department, individual planners themselves, and the whole time our message was that if you're not accountable you don't get the plans that were being promulgated. Tr. at 37.

I think at some point we met with a developer and at that time it was clear that we were not supportive of the plan. Now we come to January 17th, 2008 and this is the plan whether we have comments to the contrary or not. Tr. at 38.

I don't think the planning department had any communication with the mayor. . . . [H]e said he is opposed to this as we are. They'd know he said that he would support our position, so I don't think there's been any communication. Tr. at 39.

So I just want to go on record to say we oppose it, the Penn Branch Citizens/Civic Association opposes it, and we will make sure that our voice is heard. Tr. at 40.

CARRIE JAMES, Penn-Branch resident

This hysterical future vision describing plan is not acceptable In my opinion it really should be totally residential. We don't need—We are basically a tranquil, well-maintained and comfortable neighborhood. We want to keep it that way. Tr. at 40-41.

I'd like to close by saying no. No, to a change of the exist[ent] zoning to more of density, no to an introduction of high-rise structures in the neighborhood, no to the expansion of retail and commercial space in the neighborhood. Tr. at 42.

JUAN THOMPSON, Penn-Branch resident

[I]t is my conclusion that [the Final Draft Plan] is not going to be beneficial to the Pennsylvania Penn Branch Avenue. Tr. at 42.

I am also concerned about the carbon footprint on the new traffic being in here, so – we have the second largest traffic problem in this area, so adding more would not be

advantageous to the neighborhood. So I am opposed to the zonal change that's set forth.
Tr. at 43.

LAURA RICHARDS, Chair, Penn-Branch Legislative Committee
Documents detailing prior opposition submitted for the record, Tr. at 43

The president of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society said that with respect to the Office of Planning, "We told them what we wanted and we got it." Tr. at 46. I expect to be testifying to that on our behalf [and seeking comparable treatment].

LEROY HICKS, Penn-Branch resident

I am thoroughly against any type of change of our zoning law to accommodate the type of buildings that I see around me. Because I feel that you would change the residential area from a residential area to another, I guess, commercial area. I think it's too large and I wish this panel will think—would think about something like Chevy Chase Village. Tr. at 47.

ETHEL WILSON, Penn-Branch resident

I love my community. I like the way it looks in terms of what it had to offer, in terms of the architecture that we not have Tr. at 50. [W]e do not wish to have a skyscraper building there. . . . I know I have personally experienced having to live close to a skyscraper building. This kind of change is very pervasive. It does indeed impact on a person. Tr. at 51.

HON. KWAME BROWN

But it all starts to me on what you want. Right? Tr. at 9.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING**

**PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
SE CORRIDOR LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
MAYORAL HEARING**

Washington, D.C.

Thursday, January 17, 2008

- 1 PARTICIPANTS:
- 2 AUBREY D. THAGARD
Coordinator
- 3
- 4 JEFF DAVIS
Coordinator
- 5 GERALDINE GARDNER
Project Manager
- 6
- 7 KWAME R. BROWN
Councilmember
- 8 GILBERT BUSSEY
- 9 WILLIAM FARRIS, JR.
- 10 JAMES FERGUSON
- 11 RICHARD HAWKINS
- 12 LEROY HICKS
- 13 CARRIE JAMES
- 14 THELMA JONES
- 15 LAURA RICHARDS
- 16 DWAYNE ROBERSON
- 17 JUAN THOMPSON
- 18 ETHEL WILSON
- 19
- 20 * * * * *

21

22

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1 **PROCEEDINGS**

2 (6:20 p.m.)

3 **MS. GARDNER: We'll get started.**

4 **Welcome to today's hearing of the**

5 **Pennsylvania Avenue, Southeast Corridor. I**

6 **want to thank the members of the _____**

7 **_____ are working very**

8 **diligently throughout this. It's been really**

9 **an 18-month process to get this plan**

10 **together.**

11 **Tonight's a culmination of that**

12 **work and we look forward very much to hearing**

13 **your comments in the draft plan. I also want**

14 **to thank our neighborhood planners from wards**

15 **6, 7, and 8, Jeff Davis, Evelyn Kasongo isn't**

16 **here tonight, but she worked very hard at**

17 **this plan, and Aubrey Thagard.**

18 **Also, I'd like to thank Geraldine**

19 **Gardner and Rosalynn Hughey for their efforts**

20 **to get through this. Additionally I'd like**

- 21 to thank a member of our staff, Ed Estes,
22 who's done some of the graphics work that you

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1 see here tonight.

2 The purpose of the hearing is for
3 our office to receive your testimony in the
4 draft plan that was released December 6th.
5 We would like you to present your comments
6 and suggestions on the plan that we will then
7 use to _____ prior to bringing them to the
8 city council for consideration.

9 At the final public meeting, this
10 past June, we presented recommendations for
11 the five _____. We received a lot
12 of feedback from you about how to better
13 demonstrate how the balance should actually
14 look. So one of the things that you see
15 represented on the board that _____
16 some renderings of what the development might
17 look like, so you can get a better sense of
18 the size of the building, and what the
19 architectural character might be.

20 We've heard that preserving the

- 21 physical character of the community is really
22 important. And so we've tried to make sure

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1 the drawings reflected that physical
2 character.

3 One of the things that we've heard
4 throughout this process is that opportunity
5 for upgrading the retail choices along the
6 Corridor are really important, and that we
7 really heard you say that.

8 So we put our best-efforts into
9 this plan, with the idea of providing a
10 strategy that you think is liable to effect
11 the kind of retail services that the
12 residents of the Corridor said they liked and
13 need.

14 All of your comments will be
15 reflected on the record. I guess I'm saying
16 this because I already know. We've gotten
17 some comments already and I know we'll get to
18 hear a lot of comments tonight, that not
19 everyone in the community agrees that this is
20 the right strategy to pursue. We are eager

21 to hear your comments. We are.

22 This is our effort to try to get

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1 the retail that a lot of people have said
2 they wanted in the corridor. And we'll
3 reflect your comments on the record.

4 We will forward your response to
5 the city council to deliberate on the plan
6 because we know the success of implementing
7 the plan is going to rely on strong local
8 organizations and neighborhood leaders
9 that'll be able to be the stewards of growth
10 in investments and capital to make sure it
11 looks like what we want it to look like. We
12 look forward to continuing to work with our
13 stakeholders as we look forward to planning
14 this _____.

15 And what we plan to do is have
16 Aubrey Thagard do an overview of the plan,
17 and have Jeff Davis kind of go through the
18 ground rules. But what I might suggest in
19 recognition that Councilmember Kwame Brown
20 has joined us, and I know that he has a very

21 tight schedule tonight, he wanted to offer

22 comments. Right now, we'll be delighted to

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1 hear you.

2 MR. BROWN: Thank you. Good

3 evening.

4 SPEAKERS: Good evening.

5 MR. BROWN: Let me thank everyone

6 for just coming up in this cold, wet, snow.

7 Hopefully we'll actually all get home. But

8 _____ what do we think the

9 Office of Planning. Harriet has done a

10 phenomenal job, at least give the people a

11 sense of what we are trying to do, right?

12 And one of the things is young neighborhoods.

13 So _____ . I _____

14 and no matter where I go, no matter when I

15 was knocking the doors, whatever, I want you

16 to go fight so we could have some _____

17 with one side Pennsylvania Avenue looks like

18 the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue. And

19 to do anything about _____ we

- 20 do not create an environment in which the
21 people of the neighborhood getting to feel
22 it's too big, and that produces certain

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Councilman
Brown

1 things that people don't want. [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 There are a couple things that can
6 be built. I want to specifically talk about
7 Penn Branch, right, because as we look at
8 what we do, when we do the overall plan for
9 the Penn Branch area, if the best that we
10 want to see is just a strip mall that has
11 things like that in it I have a feeling that
12 I would do, and someone would be so mad at me
13 and say, who gave that money to do that. So
14 we have to create a balance.

15 Now if we can do that, some things
16 that we do so we can get quality retail.
17 Nothing worse than opening up a shopping
18 center on this side of the river and is not
19 good quality. No one will be happy. You
20 know that, and I know that. It will look

21 good, it will feel good, but you will still

22 go across the bridge and other places to

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1 shop, eat, and do the things that you want to
2 do.

3 So we have to find a balance, and
4 that's why we're supporting this plan. I
5 know there are going to be questions, and
6 some people are not happy, and we have to
7 figure out what the balance is.

8 ~~it all starts to come on what you~~

Councilman Brown

9 ~~Right?~~ Right? If you want chicken places
10 and CVS -- I really love CVS, but there is
11 not one 24-hour pharmacy east of the
12 Anacostia River. So anybody could come
13 _____ a quality retailer, a quality
14 restaurant, quality amenities.

15 In order to do that, we need to
16 have what is the best look, if you look at
17 these maps, to be able to make that happen.
18 So I'm going to be supportive. And what you
19 are doing here _____ public input
20 _____ are going to hear what you

21 have to say, and try and get as much as you

22 can get included.

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1 I have a feeling we are not going
2 to include everything. People are going to
3 be mad if someone can't deliver. But if I
4 can't provide quality retail over here, then
5 I have a feeling that more people than that
6 will be mad.

7 And they will say, how did you
8 allow this to happen in community economic
9 development? So we are now going to do is
10 provide the residents _____
11 its 34 years, where people have been
12 promising for 34 years.

13 And whatever plan it has to
14 include that people coming together, not only
15 now, but in the future, because, if not, you
16 are going to come back and do this all over.

17 And nobody wants to do that again because no
18 matter how long _____ smother
19 your plans.

20 I'm going to be doing this for next

21 two years, I know, right? Another five, six,

22 seven, eight, nine, ten years and doing

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1 nothing _____

2 I'll try again. So, let's get the plan done,
3 and do something. Let's see if it happens.

4 So I just wanted to stop by

5 _____ that important for you

6 to come by to say hello. _____ going

7 to listen to you. _____

8 So Harriet, thank you and your team for all

9 the work that you've done.

10 We want to, of course, add some

11 suggestions and have some modifications, but

12 we want something that's going to give us

13 quality retail, quality affordable housing

14 over here in this particular area. Does

15 anyone disagree with that? Ann, do you

16 disagree with that?

17 SPEAKER: I have a question.

18 MR. BROWN: Can I take your

19 question? One question.

20 SPEAKER: _____.

21 MR. BROWN: Well, I can take one

22 for you.

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1 **SPEAKER:** _____

2 _____

3 **MR. BROWN:** I'm supportive of
4 whoever gives us quality retail, a quality
5 shopping center as I look over at -- let me
6 give you a perfect example. How come we
7 can't have a Harris Teeter? How come we
8 can't have this stuff, right? And I drive
9 down Pennsylvania Avenue and I passed where
10 they are building a new Harris Teeter, and
11 they are building some of the stuff. And he
12 said, why can't one side look like the other
13 side?

14 And then, I asked these questions
15 to Harriet and I asked these questions to all
16 the developers. Why can't I do it? Then
17 give me the plan that allows me to do that.
18 Right?

19 This is going to be financially

- 20 feasible to make sure that if the city puts
21 in this money, we do whatever we can to make
22 that happen. I think that's what residents

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1 have asked me to figure out how to do, and
2 that's what I'm trying to figure.

3 I don't know if that is the exact
4 one, but whoever gives us quality retail and
5 affordable housing in a way that our
6 residents want, I want to be supportive and
7 have a plan that reflects that. I don't want
8 a plan that doesn't give me that, because
9 then you won't get it. Yes.

10 SPEAKER: Good evening.

11 MR. BROWN: Good evening.

12 SPEAKER: I'm for progress, and I'm
13 for change, but progress doesn't have to be
14 so big --

15 MR. BROWN: Well I think what this
16 plan lays out is the opportunity for it to be
17 big. Now if we do see people to come through
18 and have proposals that may not need all the
19 space, that's a different conversation. But
20 let me ask you the question. What are you --

21 who would you like to see? I think you are

22 talking about Penn Branch. Is that correct?

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1 SPEAKER: Yes.

2 MR. BROWN: Okay. Tell me, who
3 would you like to see at Penn Branch? What
4 would be an ideal -- if you were to get your
5 wish, what would you like to see at Penn
6 Branch as it relates to retail?

7 SPEAKER: I don't have any. I
8 don't have a plan, but that's all.

9 MR. BROWN: Oh, okay. Well, we
10 just having an off the record conversation,
11 right?

12 SPEAKER: Yes. I don't have a
13 plan, but my concern is size.

14 MR. BROWN: The size limit?

15 SPEAKER: I think, once we get this
16 idea, it's so large, _____
17 And soon that big _____ we talking
18 about, it's going to move out into the
19 neighborhood.

20 MR. BROWN: We can't. We are not

21 going to --

22 SPEAKER: _____

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1 _____ and two-hour parking

2 all around it, and the neighborhood --

3 MR. BROWN: Well, let me promise

4 you this. This is my neighborhood like it's

5 your neighborhood. I want to see all the

6 stuff that you talked about. So it's not

7 like we are trying to create something that's

8 going to push people out of this

9 neighborhood.

10 Let me be very clear, because I'll

11 be pushing myself out. Well, I can't afford

12 to go no where. I'm going to be here. We

13 are stuck. This is where I'll be. I can't

14 afford no other house, so I tell my wife, get

15 ready, change the paint, we are going to be

16 here for a long time.

17 So I understand, this is a personal

18 -- I'm personally invested like you.

19 Whatever it is, and whatever it's going to

20 be, I'm personally invested like you are

- 21 personally invested. And I'm very much
- 22 concerned about making sure that it doesn't,

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1 you know, we don't start tearing down other
2 houses to continue to make this a big
3 _____ development. I don't think
4 that's the plan. Okay.

5 All right, thank you. I just have
6 to go, but I won't be coming. I'll be in
7 Ward 7, going to an education meeting, and
8 then going to _____ meeting at 7:00 and
9 then back to Roosevelt about 8:30.

10 It was that important for me to
11 come up and thank Harriet and listen to the
12 residents. I'm going to be looking at the
13 feedback and making decisions based on what
14 our residents want and that's in the best
15 interest of our residents. Okay.

16 I thank everyone. God bless.

17 MR. THAGARD: Thank you, Councilman
18 Brown. I'm from the D.C. Office of Planning.
19 I'm a neighborhood planner assigned to Ward
20 8. Tonight, it's my responsibility to kind

ANC 6B

Capitol Hill / Southeast

921 Pennsylvania Ave SE
Washington, DC 20003
202.543.3344
FAX 202.543.3507

June 13, 2008

OFFICERS

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Chairman Vincent C. Gray
Committee of the Whole
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Suite 410
Washington, DC 20004

**RE: PR 17-782, "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor
Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008"**

Dear Chairman Gray:

COMMISSIONERS

SMD 1 *David Garrison*
SMD 2 *Mary Wright*
SMD 3 *Julie Olson*
SMD 4 *Kirsten Oldenburg*
SMD 5 *Kenan Jarboe*
SMD 6 *Will Hill*
SMD 7 *Carol Green*
SMD 8 *Neil Glick*
SMD 9 *Michael Patterson*
SMD 10 *Francis Campbell*
SMD 11 *Vacant*

At a regularly called and properly noticed meeting on June 10, 2008, with a quorum present, ANC 6B voted unanimously (8-0) to support the Committee of the Whole's Resolution PR 17-782, "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008".


ANC 6B request that this letter be included in the hearing record of the Committee of the Whole on this matter, which was held on June 10, 2008.

The Commission believes the plans developed by the Office of Planning in collaboration with community stakeholders and District government agencies will help guide the proper and best practices for land use, zoning, transportation, housing and economic development strategies for revitalization of this special Pennsylvania Avenue corridor.

We thank you in advance for your support and understanding in this matter.

Please notify the Commission if you have any questions or comments.

Very truly yours,


Julie Olson
Chairperson

Cc: Councilmembers

NAYLOR DUPONT

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7B

District of Columbia Government
3200 S Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020
Email: anc7b@pressroom.com
Web: www.anc7b.net
phone: (202) 584-3400 fax: (202) 584-4320

June 10, 2008

Vincent C. Gray
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Gray,

During the Advisory Neighborhood Commission's 7B monthly Executive committee meeting held on June 5, 2008, it was brought to the Commissioner's attention that the upcoming hearing on the final draft of the "Pennsylvania Avenue Strategic Development Plan", PR17-0782 is scheduled to be held by the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 2:00 pm in the Council Chamber.


Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7B respectfully request, that a vote to approve the "Pennsylvania Avenue Strategic Development Plan", PR17-0782 be postponed until the ANC Commissioners of 7B receive copies of the final draft of the plan from the DC Office of Planning.

Further, several Commissioners indicated, that the DC Office of Planning had held a previous final draft meeting of the "Pennsylvania Avenue Development Plan" at the Randall Highland Elementary School on the same night of the ANC 7B's monthly community meeting. Obviously, this prevented ANC 7B Commissioners from attending the final draft meeting plan presented by the DC Office of Planning. The Commissioners of ANC 7B would like very much to have the opportunity to have input regarding the plan, and open dialogue with the DC Office of Planning and the community.

Therefore, the Commissioners of ANC 7B believe, that it's incumbent of the DC Office of Planning to agree to make their last presentation of the final draft of the "Pennsylvania Avenue Development Plan", PR17-0782 to the community and Commissioners at the July 17, 2008 general meeting of ANC Commission 7B.

Respectfully submitted,

 Date 6-10-08
Phillip J. Hammond, Chairman

 Date 6-10-08
Thetus Boyd, Vice Chair

 Date 6-10-08
Robin Hammond-Marlin, Secretary

ANC 7B Letterhead

Hon. Vincent C. Gray, Chairman
D.C. City Council
John Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Hon. Harriet Tregoning, Director
D.C. Office of Planning
801 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Pennsylvania Avenue SE Small Area Plan

Dear Chairman Gray and Ms. Tregoning:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7B held a duly-noticed special community Town Hall meeting on June 25, 2008 at the Ryland Methodist Church, located at Branch Avenue and S Street, SE. Thirty-three (33) residents signed in.

The meeting was convened to discuss the "Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Land Development Plan" (commonly referred to as the "PA Avenue Small Area Plan"), which was prepared by the Office of Planning ("OP") and is now pending before the Council's Committee of the Whole. The PA Avenue Small Area Plan is proposed to be adopted by the Council in implementation of the D.C. Comprehensive Plan and to guide future development of Pennsylvania Avenue SE, including the Penn-Branch Shopping Center site, located at the intersection of Branch Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue SE.

The meeting was held pursuant to Chairman Gray's June 10, 2008 request to OP to communicate with ANC 7B in an attempt to reach consensus on the language of the Small Area Plan with regard to the Penn-Branch site. The request was made at a Council hearing on the Small Area Plan at which ANC 7B members Robin Marlin and Thetus Boyd stated that the ANC needed additional time for review and comment. The Small Area Plan also was discussed at ANC's regularly scheduled meeting on June 19, 2008, a meeting attended by Ms. Tregoning.

OP was represented last night by Ms. Geraldine Gardner, Associate Director for Neighborhood Planning. Ms. Gardner had prepared a Powerpoint presentation, but an equipment malfunction prevented its being shown, although a few hard copies of the slides were available.

After an hour-long discussion, and exchange of questions and comments among Ms. Gardner, the Commissioners and the Residents, a motion to amend the current language of the PA Avenue Small Area Plan was made by Laura Richards, seconded by Richard Hawkins and numerous others, and passed by a show of hands vote by 29 out of 33 in attendance.

with MPD on one possibility but it is too early to commit to and a meeting next week will not change that.

If you are willing to proceed with DOES and DMV only, then a meeting would be useful. Otherwise, a meeting is premature.

Email from Todd Douglas: Attached is OPM's first brush at the LOI. There are serious concerns as to whether any of the government needs can be addressed as the development is presented. We will schedule a meeting to get another overview of the development as we have new staff and would like to discuss face to face. We will be in contact soon.

Respectfully,

**Stylios C. Christofides | Principal
ICG Properties**

1600 K St., NW, Suite 650
Washington, DC 20006
T: 202.783.4700 (x822) | F: 202.783.4701
schristofides@icgproperties.com
www.icgproperties.com



To: Ward7@yahoogroups.com
From: jrones_2000@yahoo.com
Date: Mon, 30 Jun 2008 00:15:36 +0000
Subject: [Ward 7] Please support Penn-Branch Subarea Recommendation

June 29, 2008

Dear Hillcrest/Penn- Branch/Dupont Park Community and Ward 7 community,

Having just shopped at the Target, Bed and Bath, Starbucks, Marshalls at 14th and Park, N.W.; and also after attending a National's game, a Mystic's game at Verizon, etc., I truly believe and urge you to support the Mayor's recommendation through the D.C. Office on Planning to enable improvement to the Penn-Branch Shopping Center through a zoning modification for mixed use, moderate density zoning. We need to allow for improvement and position our community to reap the benefits from such an upgrade and concomittant economic development. I truly enjoyed the shopping and being able to walk to restaurants and contribute to our City's revenue stream.

The Shopping Center improvement can also mean new water waste infrastructure and coordination of underground streams, which may flow underneath and result in flooding of homes down along Branch Avenue. These are real community benefits and can help stave off any deterioration to properties in the area that might experience challenge from the underground streams and lack of an adequate waterwaste infrastructure for the Shopping Center, which is grandfathered into its old water waste system. WASA and the DC Office of the Environment indicate separately that the system for water waste for the Shopping Center was built when adequate standards were not in place. Thus, it's grandfathered and won't change unless a permit for building is newly requested. Such a system is very expensive. That parking is inadequate, and without a face lift for the Shopping Center, those leasing the upper level offices to not want to stay. There's also a question about whether the City Government offices might stay. There needs to be a long-term solution and the Office of Planning's recommendation seems a real step in that direction.

The current owners of the Penn-Branch Shopping Center paid \$26 Million for the property and are likely not reaping anywhere near what they envisioned; and may stand to lose if no expansion is approved. This could mean a loss to the entire community if the owners throw up their hands and walk away. There is no guarantee they will be incented to upgrade the facility, if they can't get approval consistent with the Office of Planning's recommendation for a zoning change to enable mixed use, moderate density development.

H.R. Crawford, our former Ward 7 Council Member, is moving forward to develop the 2500 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. He is to be applauded for his vision and fortitude. Our community can be the

beneficiary of his plans, just like the City is benefitting from new development, infrastructure, increased tax base and sales stemming from China Town and Gallery Place, the Nation's Stadium, Potomac Avenue development, etc. Pennsylvania Avenue will be lopsided in developing at Penn-Branch, if opposition is not overcome. This will not be a healthy outcome for the community to let Penn-Branch languish in the midst of development at 2500 Pennsylvania Avenue, Fairfax Village, Skyland, Minnesota Avenue, Benning Road, Potomac Avenue, etc.

My family strongly endorses Planning's proposal. They would like to continue to be a part of a thriving community and a pleasant shopping area that's in walking distance. They own 45,000 square feet and two separate lots, with one directly abutting the Shopping Center in the rear along Branch Avenue. Additionally, our family members also own two houses on Pennsylvania Avenue two blocks from Penn-Branch.

We constitute a significant land mass and property tax base supporting this community. We strongly believe approval of the Office of Planning is in the community's best long-run interest and urge others to speak up favorably; and for City Council Members to vote in support of the recommendation. We urge leadership and understanding of the benefits that have flown to the City from their enlightened actions in enabling development of China Town, the National Stadium and surrounding area, Potomac Ave., SE, etc. We also believe that this area will continue to stagnate unless transformation is approved. This area will be in competition from the National Harbor, Ward 8 and other developments. It should be allowed to take advantage of the continued DC building boom, before the opportunity wanes.

While there was an emergency meeting held by ANC 7-B this past week, there is no official vote or action that can come from this body supporting opposition to the Plan. A vote of that body without a quorum lacks "great weight." Moreover, the actions of ANC 7B might be further called in question in terms of the possibility of a proposal to the Office of Planning, since the actions of an ANC of that body might be questionable in light of one of the Members possibly being in a "Hatched" posture as a result of running for another political office. Proper actions need to be scrutinized. ANCs can't run from other political office without being Hatched; thus a resignation may have been required in advance of the emergency meeting (sorry, but politics and holding office requires deference to statutory requirements) . See, Washington Post Article,

Speak Up for D.C.'s 'Hatched' Officials

Like the mayor and members of the D.C. Council, advisory neighborhood commissioners are elected public officials. Yet unlike the mayor and members of the D.C. Council, commissioners may not run for another elected partisan office, according to an opinion issued in 2002 by the U.S. Office of Special..."

That aside and regardless of whether this impacts a decision by ANC 7-

B to advance a proposal to the Office of Planning, the real issue is that the community is not in agreement in opposing Planning's recommendation.

Consistently, my family have testified in writing in support of Planning's recommendation. We have filed comments before the City Council recently and during the Comprehensive Plan proceeding; and also at the January 17th Mayor's Town Hall at Randle Highlands.

We urge others who support change to step forward and not fear change or a vocal group of the community who oppose change (however, at this point the official record before the City Council may be closed.)

Thank you for your time,

Julie E. Roness, resident and Member of:

The Hillcrest Community Civic Association;

The Penn-Branch Civic Association; and

The Dupont Park Civic Association.

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**PHILLIP J. HAMMOND
2132 BRANCH AVENUE, S.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20020**

**TO: Kwame Brown, Chairman
Committee on Economic Development
(202) 724-8174 – (202) 724-8156 (fax)**

**From: Phillip J. Hammond
ANC Commissioner 7B04
(202) 582-3059 – (202) 582-3528 (fax)**

Date: July 15, 2008

**Re: Redevelopment of the Penn-Branch Site (Small Area Plan)
The Office of Planning’s Pennsylvania Avenue SE “Great
Streets Plan”**

OF COPIES W/COVER 3

**NOTE: Please include the Penn-Branch Citizens/Civic Association’s
letter of June 19, 2007 in today’s record of the Committee of
the Whole’s legislative mark-up regarding the Office of
Planning’s Small Area Plan for the Penn-Branch Site.**

***Penn-Branch Citizens/Civic Association
P.O. Box 6730
Washington, DC 20020-0430***

June 19, 2007

Hon. Adrian Fenty
Mayor, District of Columbia
John Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: *Proposed Development for the Penn-Branch Site
In the Pennsylvania Avenue SE "Great Streets" Plan*

Dear Mayor Fenty:

This letter thanks you for attending the monthly meeting of the Association held on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, 30th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. We much appreciated hearing your developing vision for our city.

We appreciate even more that you listened to our concerns, in particular our great distress at the plans proposed by the Office of Planning ("OP") for the Penn-Branch shopping center site, which is one of three commercial nodes in the Pennsylvania Avenue SE "Great Streets" plan, east of the Anacostia River. OP's proposal envisions:

- a five-story building (measured from the low point of the site) with first-floor retail at 18 feet;
- mixed-use condominiums, retail and office;
- eliminating the current general setback (at least 50 feet) and bringing the building forward close to the sidewalk.

The great majority of the Penn-Branch community has been telling OP and D.C. Department of Transportation staff since last July that these and similar proposals are unacceptable, and that the community desires to retain uses consistent with the existing zoning (C-1 and R-1-B) and the existing Comprehensive Plan land use designations (neighborhood-serving commercial and low-density single-family detached housing). **Penn-Branch fought successfully to retain those designations when the Comp Plan was amended last year. An amendment to intensify the use categories was offered and defeated.**

THANK YOU FOR TELLING US THAT YOU STAND WITH THE COMMUNITY IN AND THAT THE OFFICE OF PLANNING WILL BE OUR "ALLY"

IN PROTECTING OUR EXISTING LAND USES CATEGORIES AND OUR EXISTING ZONING.

THANK YOU FOR TELLING US THAT YOU HAVE SPOKEN WITH OUR WARD COUNCILMEMEMBER, THE HON. YVETTE ALEXANDER, AND THAT SHE EXPRESSED VIEWS AKIN TO THOSE OF THE COMMUNITY.

PENN-BRANCH HEARD YOU, AND PUT OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN YOUR SUPPORT!!!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING A REVISED GREAT STREETS PLAN CONSISTENT WITH THE COMP PLAN AND CURRENT ZONING.

Most respectfully,



**Penn-Branch Citizens/Civic Association
Gilbert Bussey, President
By: Laura Richards, Legislative Committee Co-Chair**

- cc: **PBCCA Membership**
- Hon. Vincent Gray**
- Hon. Kwame Brown**
- Hon. Yvette Alexander**
- Hon. Phil Mendelsohn**
- Hon. Marion Barry**
- Hon. David Catania**
- Hon. Carol Schwartz**
- Hon. Tommy Wells**

- Ms. Harriet Tregonning**
- Ms. Jill Diskan**

Miller, Robert (COUNCIL)

From: HistoricWashington@yahoogroups.com on behalf of scott@scott-roberts.net
Sent: Sunday, July 06, 2008 1:41 PM
To: historicwashington@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [HistoricWashington] Pennsylvania Ave. SE Plan urges historically sensitive development

See this item from the "ANC 6B" report in the July 2008 Hill Rag.

This certainly catches my eye – encouraging the development of properties outside of a historic district to follow historic guidelines. Hmmm!

Scott Roberts

Pennsylvania Avenue Plan Amended

[http://capitalcommunitynews.com/publications/hillrag/2008_July/html/ANC6BOozeTubesZoneOverlays.cfm]

Jeff Davis, Ward 6 planner with the DC Office of Planning, presented changes under consideration for the Pennsylvania Avenue Corridor Southeast Plan, noting that the council was still accepting comments on Res. 17-782 following the June 10 hearing. Most changes to the plan, Davis said, affected areas east of the river. One change important to Ward 6, he noted, would "strongly encourage" any development outside the historic district to follow historic guidelines. "Encouragement" cannot be enforced but does provide the ANC with another tool when reviewing new developments. Unanimous support for Res. 17-782 was to be conveyed to the council.

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7/6/2008

TESTIMONY OF MAURICE KEYS
ACTING TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DIVISION CHIEF
DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEFORE
THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
VINCENT GRAY, CHAIR

**PR 17-780, “Deanwood/Great Streets – Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue NE, and
Minnesota Avenue NE Strategic Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008”**

**PR 17-782, “Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan Approval
Resolution of 2008”**

and

PR 17-790, “Benning Road NE Corridor Redevelopment Framework Plan”

Tuesday, June 10, 2008
2:00PM

Council Chambers
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Good afternoon Chairman Gray and honorable members of the Committee of the Whole. I am Maurice Keys, Acting Transportation Planning Division Chief in the District Department of Transportation. I am pleased to be here to represent DDOT's support for these Small Area Plans presented to you by the Office of Planning.

DDOT was pleased to work closely with the Office of Planning and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development in the development of these plans for the Pennsylvania Avenue SE corridor, the Benning Road corridor, and the Deanwood community which included the Great Streets of Nannie Helen Burroughs and the northern portion of Minnesota Avenue.

DDOT whole-heartedly supports the fundamental principles these plans are rooted in – that of putting goods and services, employment and amenities within reach of existing communities. By conveniently locating these essential ingredients for daily life within access via foot, bike or bus these plans not only increase the quality of life for our residents, but expand the efficiency of our transportation system. Today many of our community residents must travel significant distances to take care of their most basic errands – buying fresh fruits or vegetables, visiting a doctor, or taking a child to dance class. These travel patterns not only add to roadway congestion, but cost families both time and money.

These plans put forward by the Office of Planning explore the opportunities of presently vacant or underutilized land to accommodate these neighborhood-serving uses without displacement and within the character of the existing community. Strategic use of the limited available land is paramount to strategic and sustainable use of our transportation system. Reuse of these parcels means District residents will not need to travel as far or as often to meet their daily needs. The concentrated nodes of development proposed in each of these plans makes it easier to enhance transit services and expand mobility options for residents, visitors and shoppers.

DDOT has already begun work to implement the vision put forth in these plans and through the Great Streets initiative. Engineering design is already well underway for the Pennsylvania Avenue, Minnesota Avenue, Benning Road, and Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue corridors and construction will commence as early as next summer and will total well over \$40 million in public infrastructure investment. Adoption of these plans will help ensure that private investment will soon follow in both form and function that serves the abutting neighborhoods both present and well into the future.

Thank you for your time, leadership and personal vision in ensuring this sustainable growth for these communities and our city as a whole.

Government of the District of Columbia

★ ★ ★



**Office of the Deputy Mayor
for Planning and Economic Development**

Testimony of
Derrick L. Woody
Office of the Deputy Mayor
for Planning and Economic Development

PUBLIC HEARING ON

P.R. 17-781 “Kennedy Street Revitalization Plan Approval Resolution of 2008”

P.R. 17-792 “Upper Georgia Avenue Redevelopment Plan Approval Resolution of 2008”

P.R. 17-780 “Deanwood/Great Streets-Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue, NE and Minnesota Avenue, NE Strategic Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008”

P.R. 17-782 “Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Corridor Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2008”

P.R. 17-790 “Benning Road Corridor Redevelopment Framework Approval Resolution of 2008”

Committee of the Whole
Vincent C. Gray, Chair

Council of the District of Columbia

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Good morning Chairman Gray and members of the Committee of the Whole. I am Derrick Lanardo Woody, Coordinator of the Great Streets Initiative within the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. I am here to testify on behalf of Deputy Mayor Neil O. Albert in support of Council's adoption of the five land use plans, which are the subject of today's hearing, as Small Area Plans.

A Small Area Plan supplements the District's Comprehensive Plan. Approval of the planning documents is important because the recommendations contained within each plan become legal guidance to a series of actions and policies which will be carried out by a cross section of District agencies over time. The planning document contains zoning, urban design, parking, historic preservation and land use recommendations, which provide important guidance about how each corridor and/or neighborhood should ideally grow. Approval of the plans will ensure a longer-term framework for implementation and serves as official guidance to developers and others who become partners with the community and the District.

Each plan generally aims to accomplish the following things:

A. To bring more visibility and urgency to each corridor's or neighborhood's significant investment opportunities in the context of an asset based strategy;

B. To restore neighborhood business, residential and cultural centers with recommendations that are largely about strategic infill on under-utilized or vacant sites which have some location and/or market advantages; and

C. To highlight the needs for amenities and services to benefit existing and new residents. Ultimately, each plan is a "story" that hopefully entices private investors to realize opportunities to produce a product that is supported by months of extensive community input, endorsement by the District agencies responsible for implementing it, and the guidance allowed by Council.

DMPED's role over the many months of the planning processes has been two-fold. At the end of the day, the plans have to be implementable and have to be realistic about the current development market. Our focus has been on balancing the desires of residents to see their communities improve against the real and increased cost of land and construction in the District. We have also been instrumental in making sure the concerns of our private development partners is reflected in the plans. In the final analysis, the District wants each plan to excite investors and for them to move quickly to realize opportunities. If the plans made limited changes to facilitate development sooner, we worked with the Office of Planning to address these concerns. This completes my testimony. I am happy to respond to any questions which you may have at this time.

TESTIMONY OF HARRIET TREGONING

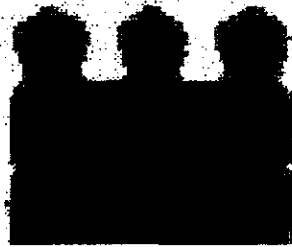
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PLANNING

BEFORE

THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

VINCENT C. GRAY, CHAIR



**PR 17-780, "DEANWOOD/GREAT STREETS-NANNIE HELEN BURROUGHS
AVENUE NE, AND MINNESOTA AVENUE NE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2008"**

**PR 17-782, "PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE SE CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT
PLAN APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF 2008" AND**

**PR 17-790, "BENNING ROAD NE CORRIDOR REDEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK PLAN"**

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

2:00 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBER

1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Introduction and Overview

Good morning Chairman Gray and members of the Committee of the Whole. I am Harriet Tregoning, Director of the Office of Planning. I am pleased to be here today to share the results of over a year's worth of intense collaboration with the neighborhoods in Ward 5, 6, 7, and 8 to create three small area plans: the Benning Road Redevelopment Framework Plan, the Deanwood Strategic Development Plan, and the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Development Plan. Before I discuss these plans, I want to thank the committee for its support of our mission and work in these neighborhoods. That support will be critical to implementing the plans before you today and to realizing positive change in the District's neighborhoods.

One of the chief duties of the Office of Planning is to help imagine our future as a world-class, sustainable, and globally competitive city, made up of distinctive neighborhoods and districts that manifest their unique history, character, and amenities. A key means of realizing this vision is to encourage and facilitate the continued development of healthy, thriving, and inclusive neighborhoods. Our primary tool for achieving this vision is the creation and implementation of small area plans which can take the form of neighborhood or corridor plans. A small area plan is designed to supplement the Comprehensive Plan by providing more in-depth and targeted strategies to achieve a development vision for a specific area of the city. We work intensely with community stakeholders including Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, residents, business owners, property

owners, and institutions to create a framework for public and private collaboration and investment at the neighborhood level.

There is an intimate connection between the changes happening in the District, in the United States, and around the globe and their collective impact on our neighborhoods. Energy, climate and environmental concerns are having profound neighborhood effects by reshaping development preferences and goals for the types of uses and transit options that are desired by communities. We are already seeing a historic decrease in vehicle use (down 3% since last year) and an increase in transit ridership (up nearly 4% since July of last year), with 5 of the past 10 peak ridership days occurring in the past year. These changing preferences underscore how important it is to make sure our neighborhoods contain the services and amenities that allow our citizens to meet their daily needs in their neighborhoods and provide them real and economical choices about how they travel to work, school and play.

Not only do our residents desire neighborhoods where they can meet their daily needs within walking distances of their homes, our business owners want to provide services, goods, and jobs to serve this growing market. Institutions and government agencies strive to provide human capital services, education, arts, culture, and recreation that are easily accessible to neighborhoods.

Our office has been engaged in community planning throughout the city. We've heard in neighborhood after neighborhood the desire to improve choices and access without compromising the quality of life or the affordability of the community. The Small Area Plans are designed to guide growth that brings new retail, jobs, services, and transit choices while minimizing impacts affecting community character, displacement, and increased traffic congestion.

We recognize that accomplishing these goals requires collaboration with other District government agencies, the Council, the development community, institutions, non profits, and community stakeholders. The Small Area Plans before you today establish a framework for managing growth and development along Benning Road and Pennsylvania Avenue and within the Deanwood neighborhood.

All three plans were prepared for the Great Streets Initiative, which is collaboration among my office, the District Department of Transportation and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development. The purpose of the Great Streets program is to leverage public and private investment to spur economic development along seven major corridors in the District, while making critical transportation and public realm investments that facilitate multiple modes of transportation.

Pennsylvania Avenue

Transportation and land use are critically linked in all three of the Great Streets plans. The proposed land use recommendations along with the planned transportation investments will work to create an environment that can sustain the type of retail development desired by the communities along Pennsylvania Avenue. By locating retail and commercial development within proximity of existing neighborhoods and linking them with safe, walkable streets and transit, residents will have more transportation choices to access these destinations. By mixing new residential and commercial development at development opportunity sites along the corridor, there are more live/work opportunities along Pennsylvania Avenue. New retail also has the potential to attract the commuter traffic along the corridor and capture those expenditures within the District. In this context, residential and commercial growth can be leveraged to expand transit and mobility options, diversify housing choices, attract new highly desirable retail, and improve pedestrian and vehicular safety.

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Avenue SE Corridor Plan is to create a comprehensive revitalization strategy to achieve this vision. Specifically the plan identifies sites for retail and commercial development and provides a framework for guiding growth and development that will create a consistent, functional, and aesthetic character along the corridor. The framework strives to balance neighborhood goals and city-wide objectives with market realities. The resulting development strategy concentrates development at underutilized sites where

there is an opportunity to enhance residential and retail choices. A key element of the strategy is to draw development eastward across the Anacostia River and to promote a consistent, high-quality architecture throughout the corridor.

To accomplish this goal, the plan identifies seven opportunity sites for strategic redevelopment: three sites are located in Ward 6, three sites in Ward 7 and one site in Ward 8. The existing C2A zoning along the corridor is sufficient to accommodate the development potential of the opportunity sites, except at the Penn Branch Shopping Center site. The existing two story shopping center is separated from the street by surface parking and represents the best opportunity for new retail along the corridor because of its size and proximity to stable residential neighborhoods. The site is currently underutilized; the large setback from the street creates a poor edge to the corridor and curb cuts for parking entrances discourage walking. The recommendation for the site includes supporting a land use change to moderate density mixed-use, which would be consistent with other opportunity sites along the corridor. We understand that there are important community concerns regarding the scale of development and preservation of viewsheds. The plan addresses these issues by requiring the height of new development to be measured from the lowest point on the site, which may limit the height along Pennsylvania Avenue to three stories. It also requires that development step down towards the rear of the site so that there is a scale transition to the adjacent residential area.

The conceptual site plan that is included in the plan is but one example of how the site could be developed using the guidance of the plan. There are many other ways to achieve the vision for the area, including adaptively reusing the existing structure. This plan does not automatically change the underlying zoning. Any proposed change in the zoning would also include a public process that will provide for dialogue regarding the building design, orientation, and height in the context of a specific proposal. This process will also allow the District and the community to weigh in on transportation demand management strategies that can mitigate the additional vehicle trips to and from the site by new or existing site users.

The revitalization effort on Pennsylvania Avenue did not begin with this planning process. The plan builds upon the aspirations and work of the Pennsylvania Avenue Task Force, whose members have been dedicated to promoting economic development and revitalization East of the River. I hope that with the passage of this plan by the Council that we can continue to work together towards implementing the recommendations in this plan and bring positive changes to Pennsylvania Avenue that will benefit current and future residents, as well as the District as a whole.

Benning Road

The Benning Road corridor stretches almost four miles from Bladensburg Road to Southern Avenue, crossing three wards, and over twenty neighborhoods. This

plan was particularly challenging because the existing conditions and development potential varied greatly from one end of the corridor to the other. The corridor was therefore broken down into four subareas so that individual recommendations would suit specific market and existing built conditions. A series of corridor wide principals link the subareas together and the whole plan creates a comprehensive revitalization strategy that will:

- **Guide** redevelopment to address needs of adjacent neighborhoods;
- **Improve** the aesthetic look and feel of the commercial corridor;
- **Expand** the current retail and commercial mix;
- **Enhance** open space and public realm features; and
- **Coordinate** public investment.

The corridor is rich in assets which form the foundation of the development plan. Benning Road begins at the foot of H Street, NE, and can capitalize on the opportunity to draw development interest and activity further down the corridor. It also has two Metro stations – Minnesota Avenue and Benning Road – that serve the Orange and Blue lines. There is a great potential for transit oriented development at both Metro stations that can anchor development in Ward 7 and create walkable, mixed-use centers in close proximity to adjacent neighborhoods. Over 34 acres of vacant or underutilized land is located along the corridor, half of which is located at or adjacent to a Metro Station. The plan prioritizes development at the gateway to H Street and at both Metro stations. The development opportunity sites featuring high-quality, mixed-income housing, retail, and office development must be linked by a visually appealing corridor with consistent and well-maintained public realm; and multi-modal transit

opportunities that connect development and adjacent neighborhoods to each other and the downtown core. Much of the corridor is zoned appropriately to foster this type of development. We have made land use recommendations for key opportunity sites that establish a consistent moderate to medium density mixed-use designation.

While there is an incredible opportunity for development in the corridor we heard very strongly from the community that there are significant unmet needs among existing residents of all generations. While this plan is focused on the corridor, it cannot be separated from the neighborhoods that surround it. To revitalize the corridor requires us to lift the neighborhoods and the residents who reside there. Participants in the planning process understood the connection between the corridor and the neighborhoods and challenged us to prepare a community development agenda that addresses neighborhood issues. Consequently, goals and recommendations in the plan address increasing mixed income housing production, improving existing retail and small businesses, promoting a clean and safe community, expanding access to quality open spaces and recreational opportunities, and reinforcing community identity through urban design and historic assets.

There is a great deal of synergy between this plan and the Deanwood Plan, primarily in the shared recommendation for the intersection of Minnesota and Benning Road as a transit-oriented mixed-use development opportunity. This area is the priority site to begin the immediate implementation of this plan. We

have worked collaboratively in both plans with property owners and developers involved in the Minnesota and Benning area; their proposals directly respond to the goals of these plans, and along with the District's investment in the Government Center project, are expected to anchor a renaissance in this area of Ward 7.

Deanwood

While this is also a Great Streets plan for the Minnesota and Nannie Helen Burroughs corridors, it is primarily a neighborhood plan. The plan was intended to provide a development framework for the neighborhood that articulates broad goals for growth. However, the level of concern within the community about preserving Deanwood's historic and residential character has lead us to provide more specific guidance on the location, scale, and quality of new development so that it would support the existing neighborhood and create the desired retail amenities and services.

The planning process began in March of last year and over 250 people participated in twelve planning meetings held in the community. A dedicated advisory committee helped to steer the process and guide the final recommendations. Throughout the planning process there was a great emphasis placed by the community on ensuring compatible residential infill development, especially in areas with high concentrations of vacant and abandoned properties. We also heard that expanded retail choices and safe, walkable streets were highly desired.

The resulting development strategy focused development at the two metro stations, Minnesota Avenue and Deanwood and at the gateways to the neighborhood: Dix and Eastern, Nannie Helen Boroughs and Minnesota Avenue, and Sheriff Road and Eastern Avenue. In addition, the plan supports the recommendations for the Town Center at Nannie Helen Boroughs and Division Avenue that was established in the Lincoln Heights New Communities Plan.

These areas, or “hubs” as they are called in the plan, will expand housing and retail choices while building upon existing assets and amenities. Specifically the development visions for each hub include:

- Minnesota/Benning as a 12 to 24-hour destination that features civic, office, retail, and residential uses.
- Nannie Helen Gateway as a neighborhood serving retail gateway that connects to Marvin Gaye Park.
- Deanwood Metro as a moderate density transit-oriented residential development with convenience retail.
- Sheriff Gateway as a strengthened neighborhood serving retail node.
- Dix Gateway as a mixed use gateway that features retail, residential, and community facilities and is jointly developed with Seat Pleasant.

Several land use changes are proposed for each area, including a change from low density commercial to moderate density mixed use at the Nannie Helen

Gateway area. At the Deanwood Metro, we propose a change from low density industrial to moderate density mixed use. And finally at the Dix Gateway, we support a change from low density commercial to moderate density mixed use. No land use changes were recommended for the interior of the neighborhood, which is limited to strategic infill development that will be aided by the design guidelines in the plan.

Throughout the public process stakeholders raised concern about the potential impact of the new development on the quality of life in the area. An important part of the process involved articulating goals for Deanwood as a place to live, work, shop, learn, worship, and play. Specifically the goals described a neighborhood that:

- Places a priority on development of affordable housing for both ownership and rental (Live);
- Attracts job intensive businesses in the commercial areas that support family wage incomes (Work);
- Provides for daily shopping needs within an easy walk of all residents, encouraging mixed-use development in the commercial corridors (Shop);
- Promotes a self-sustaining community with educational activities and services for all generations (Learn);
- Encourages institutional stewardship of neighborhood revitalization projects (Worship); and

- Links safe and accessible recreational and open space facilities to residential areas (Play).

As in all of the plans before you today, specific strategies to accomplish these goals are presented in the plan. These range from recommendations for bricks and mortar investments in preserving existing subsidized affordable housing to human capital investments to expand job training and development programs.

With the implementation of the Deanwood Plan we hope to have a community whose historic character and residential housing stock is preserved and improved, whose access to quality retail choices is expanded, whose children can walk safely to recreation, education, and enrichment opportunities, and whose neighborhoods take advantage of the tremendous assets of Marvin Gaye Park and the Anacostia riverfront. We look forward to continuing to partner with Councilmember Alexander and the community to realize this vision.

Implementation & Next Steps

The hard work and energy spent on creating these plans has been well spent; however I believe that the true value in creating a small area plans comes through their implementation. Development is occurring along these corridors and the guidance in the small area plans will give direction to that growth and shape its physical form; these recommendations will be implemented by my

office in coordination with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, as well as the Office of Zoning.

The implementation of these plans require actions to stabilize and improve current conditions while making key investment in advance of private development to ensure that existing businesses and residents have the opportunity to thrive in a newly revitalized area. What we've heard most strongly through these processes is that the people who are here now, who participated in the planning process, want the benefit of this growth. They want to be able to shop, to dine, to work, to learn, and to play; to reach these destinations on foot, bicycle, bus, or maybe in the future by a streetcar. It is critical, therefore, that the elements of the plan that are not related to land use, zoning, or development receive equal attention and funding by our agency partners and by the Council.

In terms of our approach to implementation, we have established a database tracking system for the Comprehensive Plan, which we will also use for the small area plans recommendations. Our ward planners will report regularly through their quarterly ward newsletters and ANC briefings on the implementation status of each plan. In the case of Deanwood, we anticipate reforming the advisory committee as the "Deanwood Task Force" to continue to guide the implementation process and serve as community liaisons. The interagency working groups that are established for each plan will continue to serve as the primary mode of communication and coordination among District agencies.

Finally, with our office assuming greater responsibility in the capital budgeting process, we will be able to use the small area plans to target resources and implement plan recommendations.

To truly be a globally competitive city in the 21st century, we need to have strong, inclusive neighborhoods. I hope that through the implementation of these plans we can create tangible benefits and improved neighborhood outcomes for District residents. Again, I would like to thank the Chair and Committee for your continued support of OP's programs. I would be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have at this time.

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

17-782

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To approve the proposed Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor small area action plan. 1

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this 2
resolution may be cited as the Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor Development Plan Approval 3
Resolution of 2008". 4

Sec. 2. Pursuant to section 4(c)(4) of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan Act 5
of the 1984 Land Use Element Amendment Act of 1984, effective March 16, 1985 (D.C. Law 5- 6
187; D.C. Official Code § 1-306.03(c)(4)), the Mayor transmitted to the Council the proposed 7
Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor Development Plan, dated January 2008 ("Plan"). 8

Sec. 3. The Council finds that: 9

(1) The Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor is located in Wards 6, 7, and 8 and 10
includes the neighborhoods of Capitol Hill, Barney Circle, Fairlawn, Twining, Randle Highlands, 11
Dupont Park, Penn Branch, Hillcrest, Fort Davis, and Fairfax Village. The planning area is 12
defined by the properties fronting Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., starting at Second and 13

Independence Avenues, S.E., to the west and the District-Maryland border at Southern Avenue, 1
S.E., to the east. 2

(2) The Plan was initiated in September 2006 by the Office of Planning as 3
part of its efforts to support the Great Streets Initiative, a multi-agency, multi-discipline program 4
designed to aid in the revitalization of major commercial corridors in the District. 5

(3) The proposed Plan was published and made available to the public on 6
December 17, 2007, and a public hearing was held January 17, 2008. 7

(4) The purpose of the Plan is to provide a development framework that 8
guides the revitalization of the Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor through land use, urban 9
design, economic analysis, and public investment strategies that support of the Great Streets 10
Initiative. 11

(5) The Plan uses specific land-use analysis and incorporates the broadest 12
range of planning techniques and practical solutions to achieve the District's goals and 13
objectives. 14

(6) The Plan seeks to identify critical issues that impact revitalization for 15
the Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor. The Plan outlines strategies to: 16

(A) Provide clear direction concerning land use and zoning policy for 17
the commercial corridor; 18

(B) Unify and transform Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. into a world-class 19
boulevard; 20

(C) Create opportunities for mixed-use development, including 21
enhanced retail amenities and affordable workforce and market rate housing; and 22

(D) Support important streetscape and infrastructure investments that will
aid in revitalizing one of the District's major corridors.

(7) The Plan defines near and mid-term strategies for revitalization and
articulates broad development goals, urban design, and priority actions considered critical to the
revitalization of the Pennsylvania Avenue S.E. Corridor.

(8) The Plan will provide supplemental guidance to the Zoning Commission and
other District agencies in carrying out the policies of the District of Columbia Comprehensive
Plan.

Sec. 4. The Plan, as submitted, is approved by the Council as a small area action plan.

Sec. 5. The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the
fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.