

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Welcome! Thank you for joining us.
We will be getting started shortly...

Metropolitan Branch Trail: Blair Road to Piney Branch Road Design

November 15, 2023

Meeting Agenda

- Overview of Webex functions
- Project Team, Background, Scope, and Schedule
- Selected Alignments
- Van Buren Street Update
- Questions & Answers
- Wrap-up

OVERVIEW OF WEBEX FUNCTIONS

Welcome to our virtual public meeting!

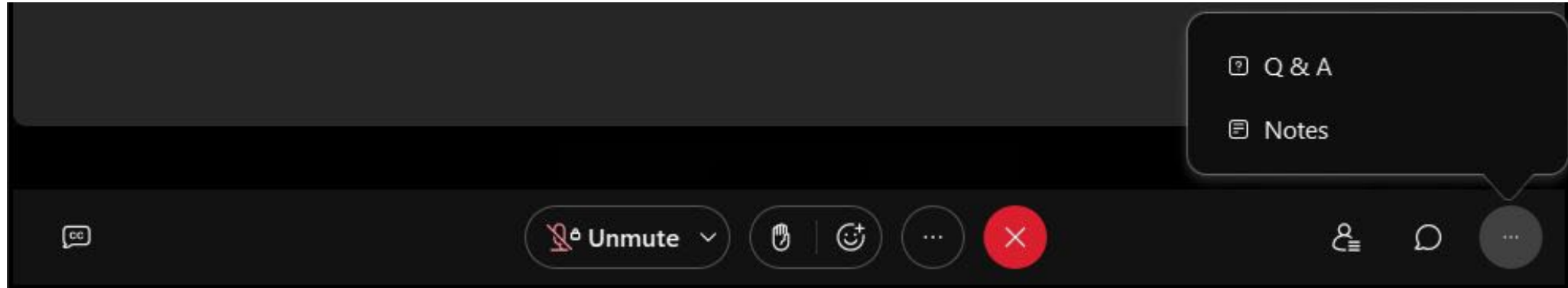
To begin, we will review some basic controls to help you participate on this platform.

Please Note: This is an open meeting and as required by DC Code 2-578, this meeting is being recorded, and the recording will be made available to the public.

- The video file (with both audio and video) will be shared on the project team's website and DDOT's YouTube Channel ([YouTube.com/DDOTVideos](https://www.youtube.com/DDOTVideos)) within 7 days after the meeting has ended.
- This meeting is being live-streamed to DDOT's Facebook page: [Facebook.com/DDOTDC](https://www.facebook.com/DDOTDC)
- If you do not wish to have your voice recorded, please do not ask to speak. You may enter any questions or comments in the Q&A which we will review shortly.

If you need technical support during this meeting, please call **202-997-8354**

Using Webex – Audio & Video



Audio/Muting

- Everyone is on mute. You cannot unmute yourself. We can unmute you during the Q&A and Comment period. This helps ensure the meeting runs smoothly and there are no auditory disruptions during the presentation.
- To request to speak, you will need to use the Raise Hand feature.

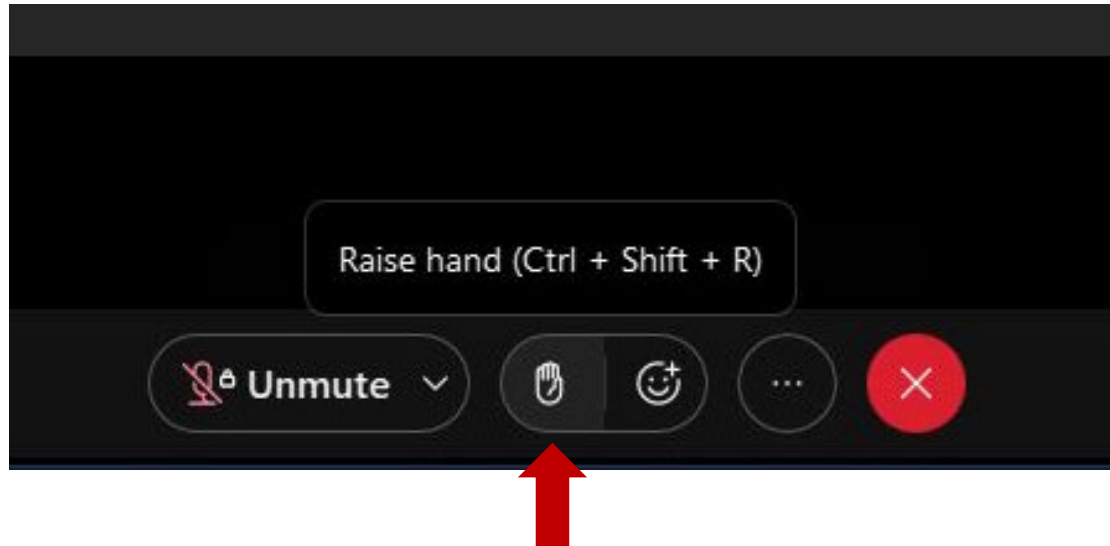
Closed Captions

- Webex has automatic system-generated Closed Captions available during the meeting. Click the CC icon in the lower left corner of the window to turn on Closed Captions. There are additional settings so you may adjust the appearance of the captions if needed.
- Using the Webex Mobile Application? Click the 3 dot (...) icon, scroll down and select the Closed Captions option. Make sure the toggle switch is blue.

Video

- Your video camera is off by default, and you will not be able to share video.

Using Webex – Raise Hand



If you have a question or comment that you would like to speak up about, please raise your hand. This indicates to the Project Team that you would like to speak.

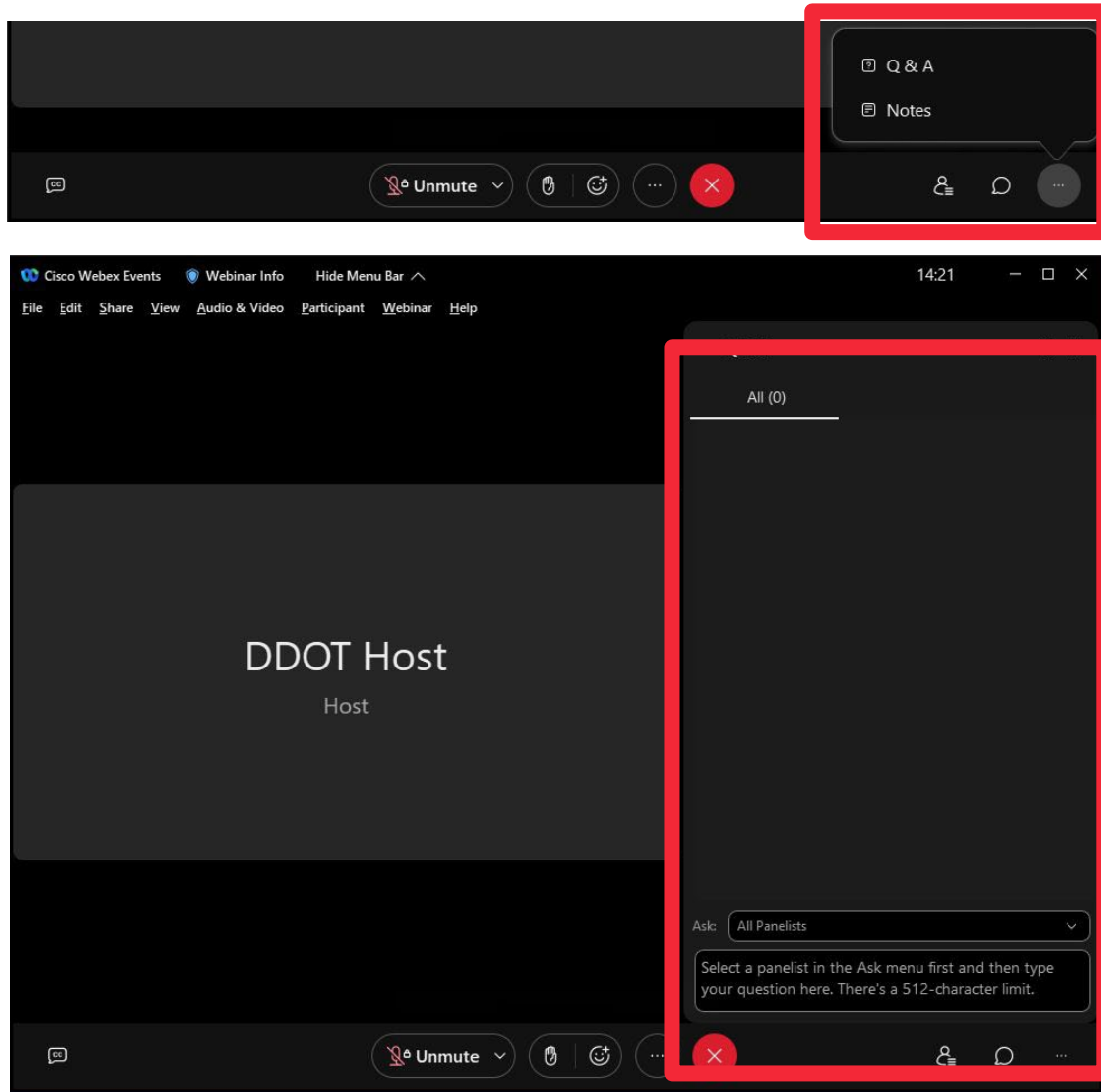
To virtually raise your hand:

- Click the “Raise Hand” icon on the bottom center of the Webex window.
- Alternatively, you may press the Ctrl + Shift + R keys on your keyboard to raise your hand.

If you joined via browser or mobile app, click the 3 dot (...) icon and select Raise Hand.

If you dialed in by phone, dial *3 to use the Raise Hand function.

Using Webex – Q&A



If you have a question during the presentation, send it via the Q&A feature.

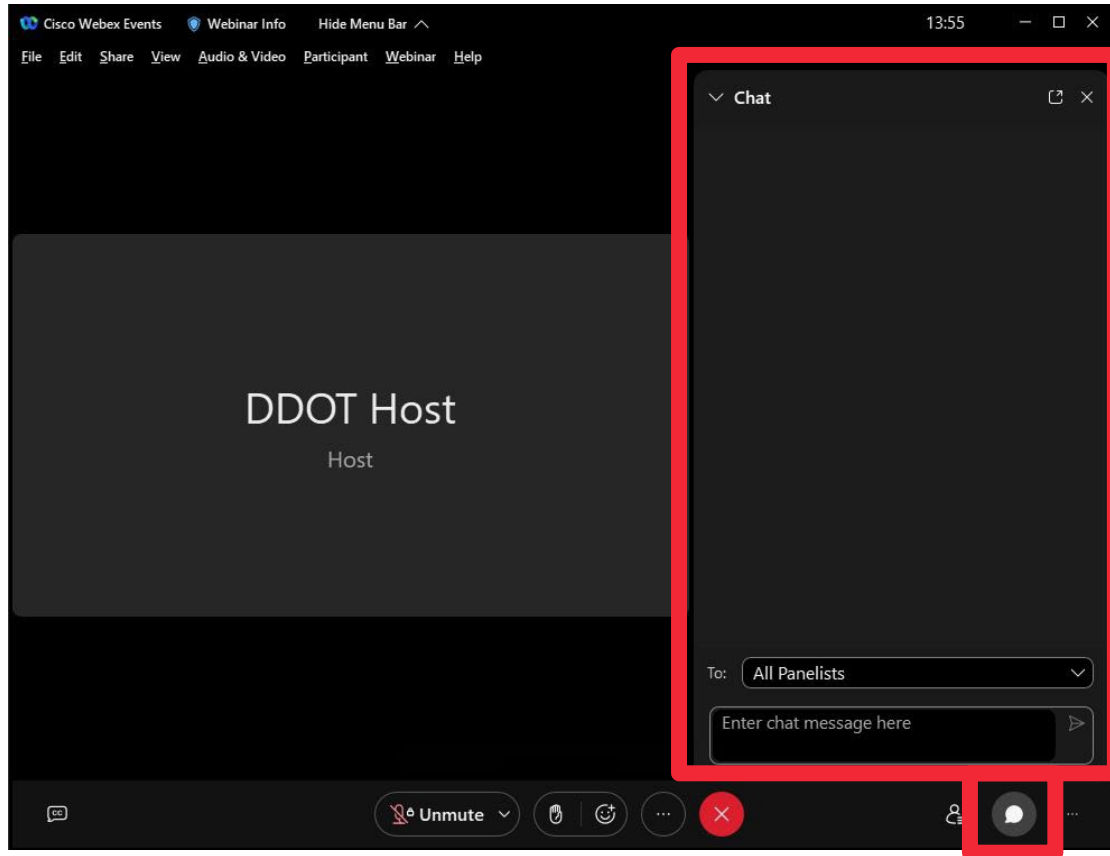
- Note: If Q&A is enabled, the Q&A panel will be open by default when you join the Event.

To Send a Question:

- Click the “three-dot icon (...)” on the bottom right side of the Webex window and select Q&A.
- A new panel or window will appear. In the “Ask” field, select All Panelists.
- Click the text box to type your question and press the Enter key to send it.
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Using Webex – Chat



If you have a comment or question during the presentation, send it via the Chat feature.

Note: If you have called in by telephone, you cannot access the Chat.

To Send a Chat:

- Click “Chat” in the bottom right side of the Webex window.
- A new panel or window will appear. In the “Send to” field, select All Panelists.
- Click the text box to type your question or comment and press the Enter key to send it.

PROJECT TEAM, BACKGROUND, SCOPE, AND SCHEDULE

Introductions & Project Team

- Samer Alhawamdeh (DDOT Project Manager)
- Michael Alvino (DDOT Active Transportation Branch Manager)
- David Balick (DDOT Trails Planner)
- Kornelius Anderson (DDOT Community Engagement Specialist)
- Sassan Aflaki (DDOT Supervisory Civil Engineer)
- Charlie Alexander (Consultant Project Manager)
- Mike Gifford (Consultant Design Engineer)

MoveDC – Related Goals



Safety

DDOT will design and manage a transportation network that offers safe and secure travel choices for all users, in accordance with Mayor Bowser’s Vision Zero initiatives.



Mobility

DDOT will increase system reliability, improve accessibility and manage congestion through coordination, communications, and mobility options, providing safe and affordable travel choices for all users and trips.



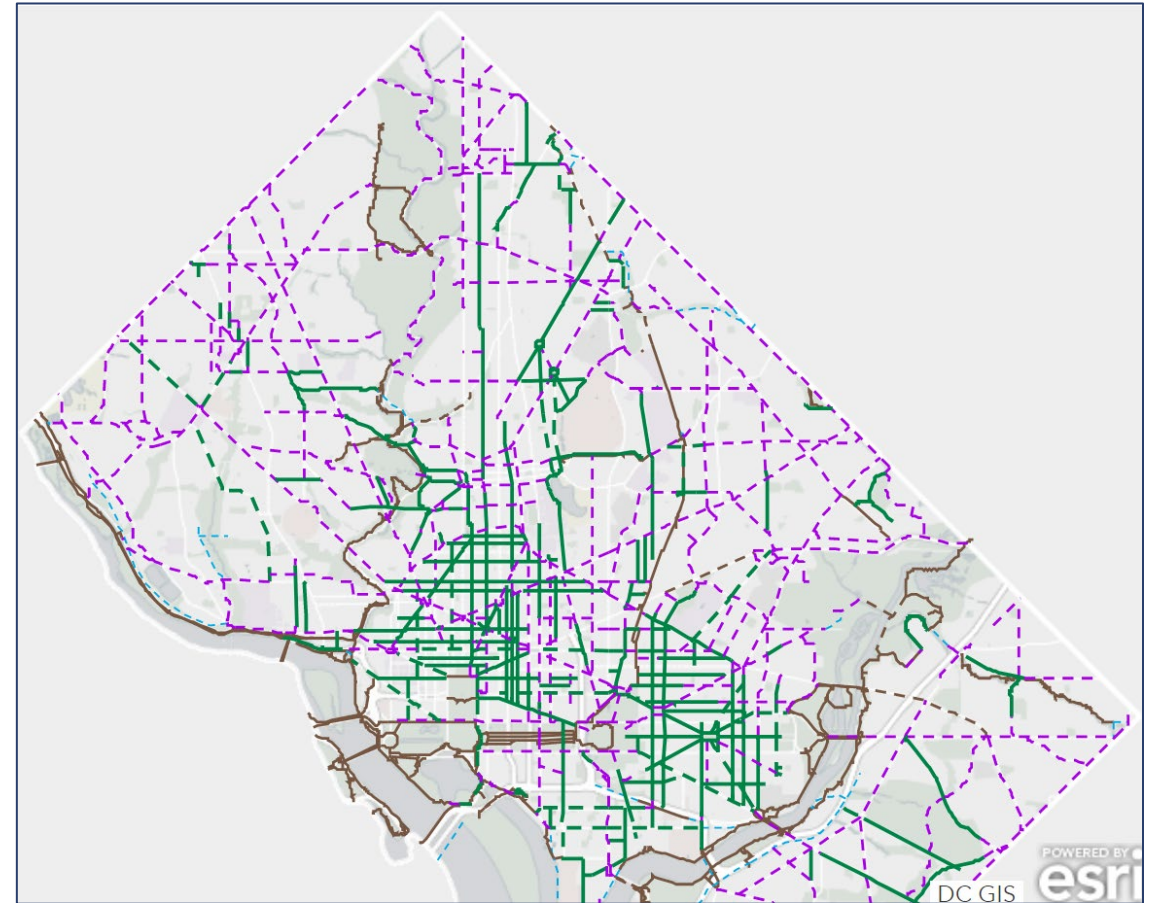
Sustainability

DDOT will manage and promote a transportation network that supports economic vitality and opportunity, reduces emissions, and strengthens resilience in the face of climate change, especially in historically under-resourced neighborhoods that may experience greater impacts.



Enjoyable Spaces

Public spaces and transportation systems managed by DDOT will be accessible, safe, and welcoming to residents, visitors, and commuters.



- Existing Bikeway
- - - Future Planned Bikeway

Project Background

The MBT is an element of the **Capital Trail Network**:

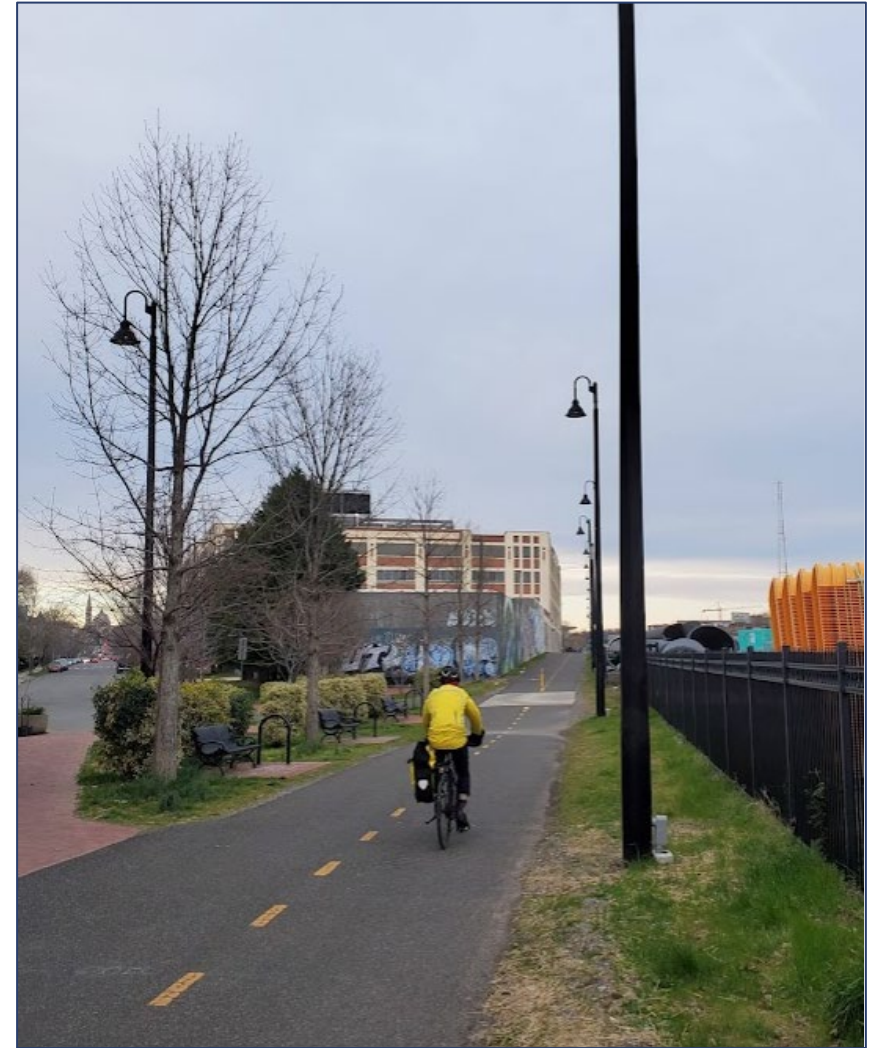
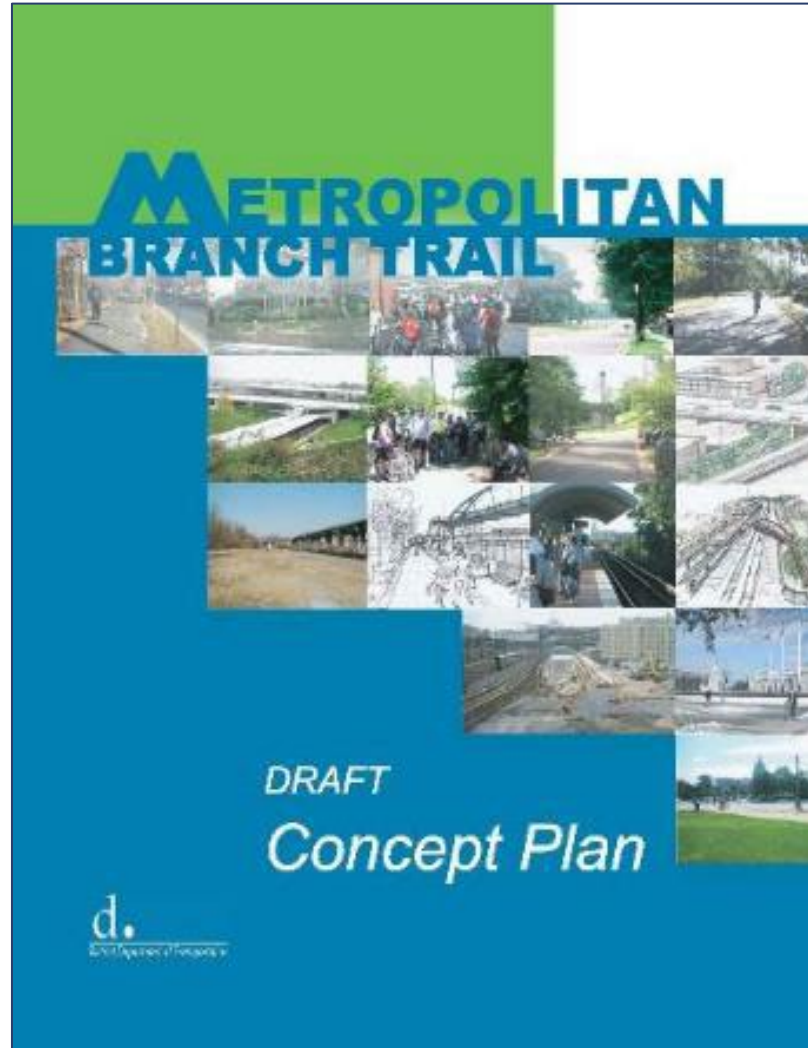
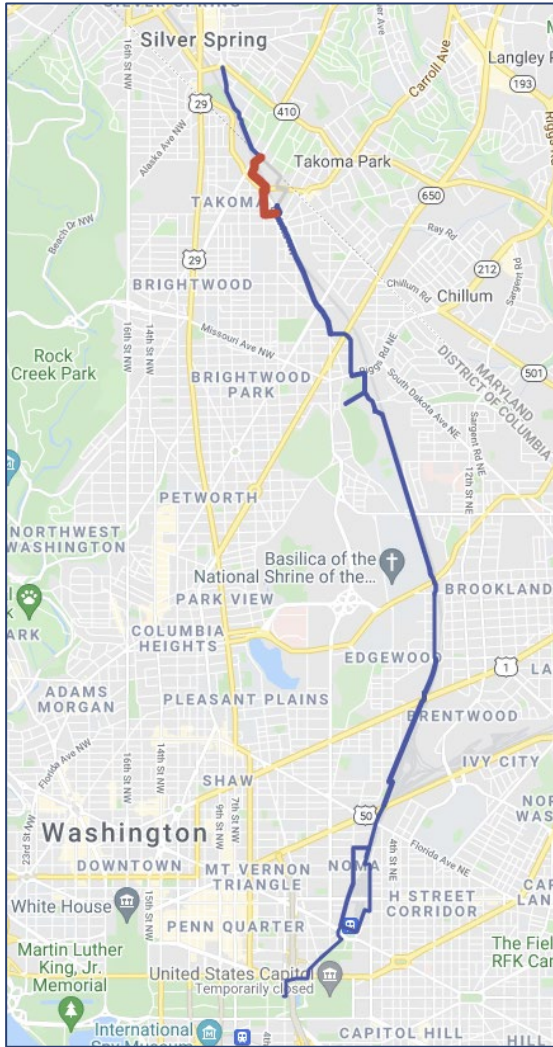
- A planned network of over 850 miles of trails throughout the region
- Will connect to the Capital Crescent Trail and Anacostia River Trail
- It's an important transportation route, providing connections to homes, work, and play

Capital Trails Coalition Vision:

- *The regional trails network will transform public life by providing healthy, low-stress access to open space and reliable transportation for people of all ages and abilities.*



Project Background



Project Background

Updates on Proposed/Designed MBT Segments

Eastern Avenue and Brookland to Fort Totten: Open to the public

Piney Branch Road to Blair Road:

- In Final Design phase
- Final link to complete the Met Branch Trail

Van Buren Street:

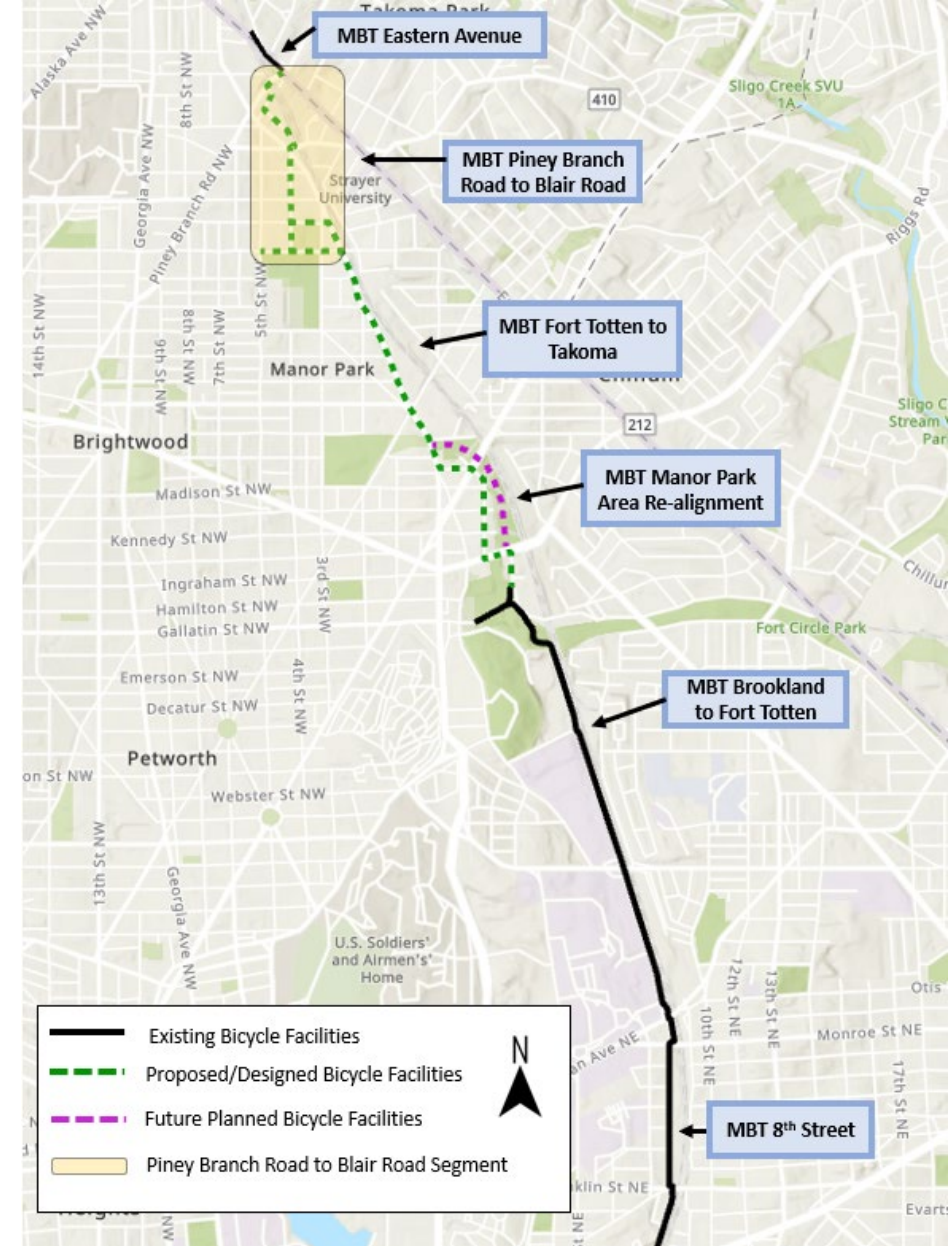
- Planning in 2024
- To be developed in coordination with Piney Branch Road to Blair Road segment

Fort Totten to Takoma:

- Construction began summer 2023
- mbt-forttotten-takoma.ddot.dc.gov

Manor Park Area Off-street alignment: Future environmental analysis between Riggs Rd and Oglethorpe St NE to begin in 2024

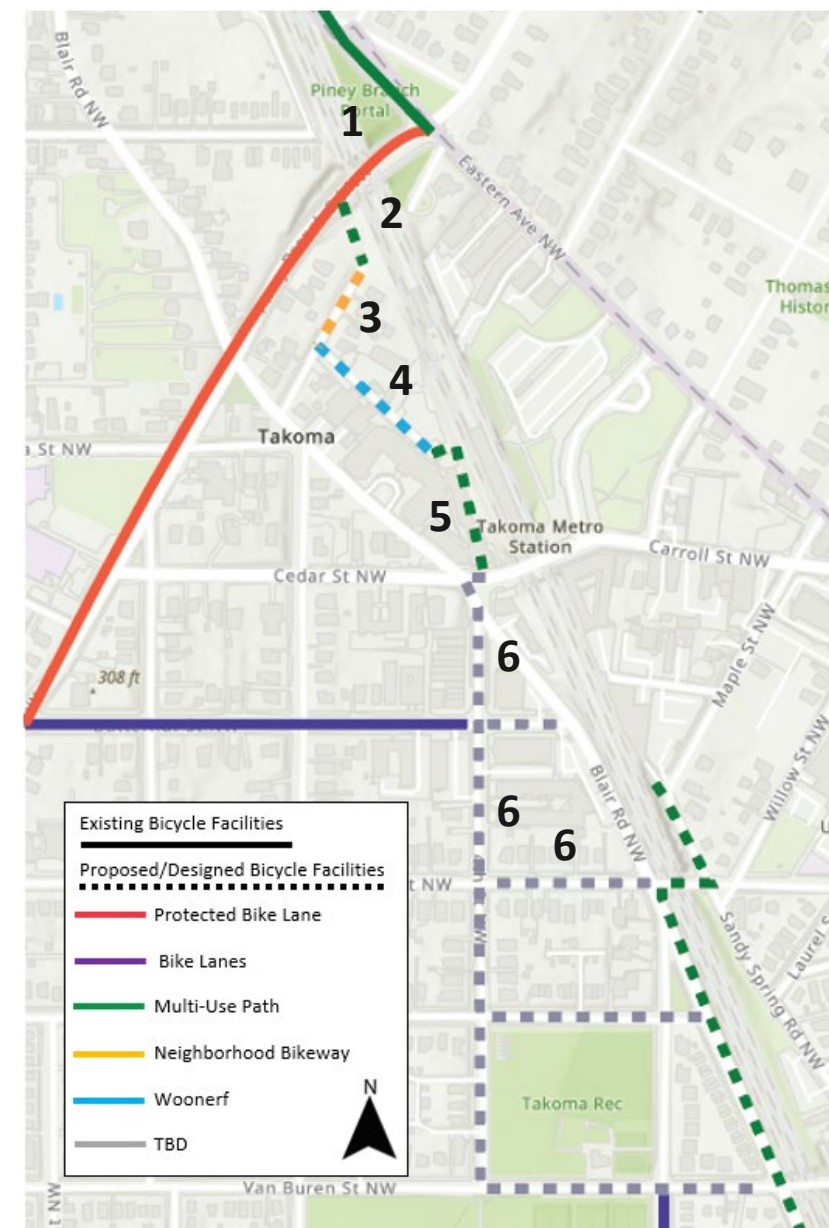
8th Street NE: Open to the public



Project Limit

To develop 100 percent design for trail sub-segments:

- Segment 1: Piney Branch Road
- Segment 2: Piney Branch Road to Chestnut Street
- Segment 3: Chestnut Street
- Segment 4: Spring Place
- Segment 5: 343 Cedar Street
- Segment 6: 4th Street and Whittier Street



Process & Schedule for 100% Design

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

Alternatives analysis

30% design

65% design

100% design

We are here

Acquire WMATA properties

Previous Engagement & Analysis

December 2021 Public Meeting

- Presented design alternatives for each segment
- Gathered segment-by-segment feedback in breakout sessions
- Facilitated online survey (281 responses)

May 2022 Preliminary Engineering Report

- Analyzed design alternatives for each segment
- Considered measures of effectiveness, such as:
 - User ease, comfort, and safety
 - Effects to traffic and parking
 - Feasibility and cost

June 2022 Public Meeting

- Presented recommended alignments for each segment
- Facilitated questions and answers

November 2022 ANC 4B Update

- Provided map of preliminary design and project fact sheet
- Facilitated questions and answers

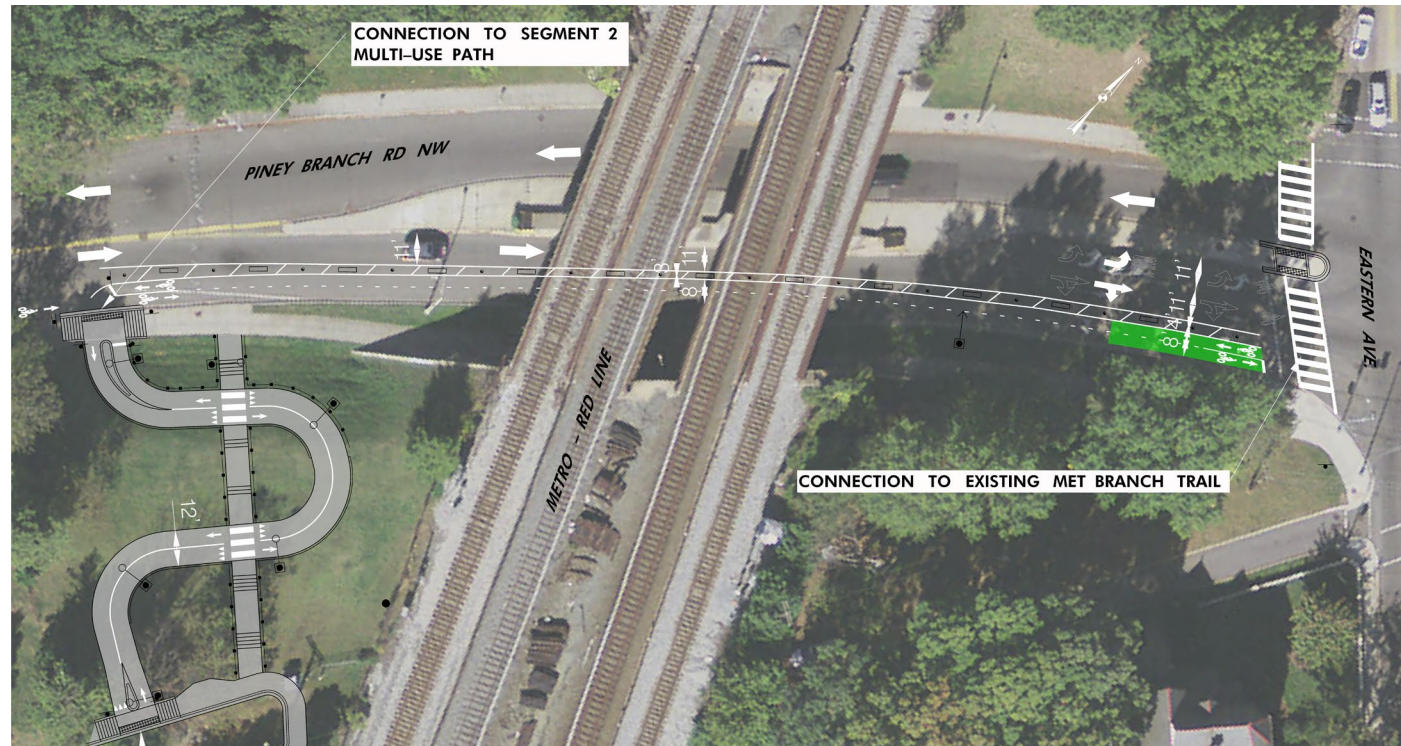
SELECTED ALIGNMENTS

Segment 1: Piney Branch Road

Existing conditions:



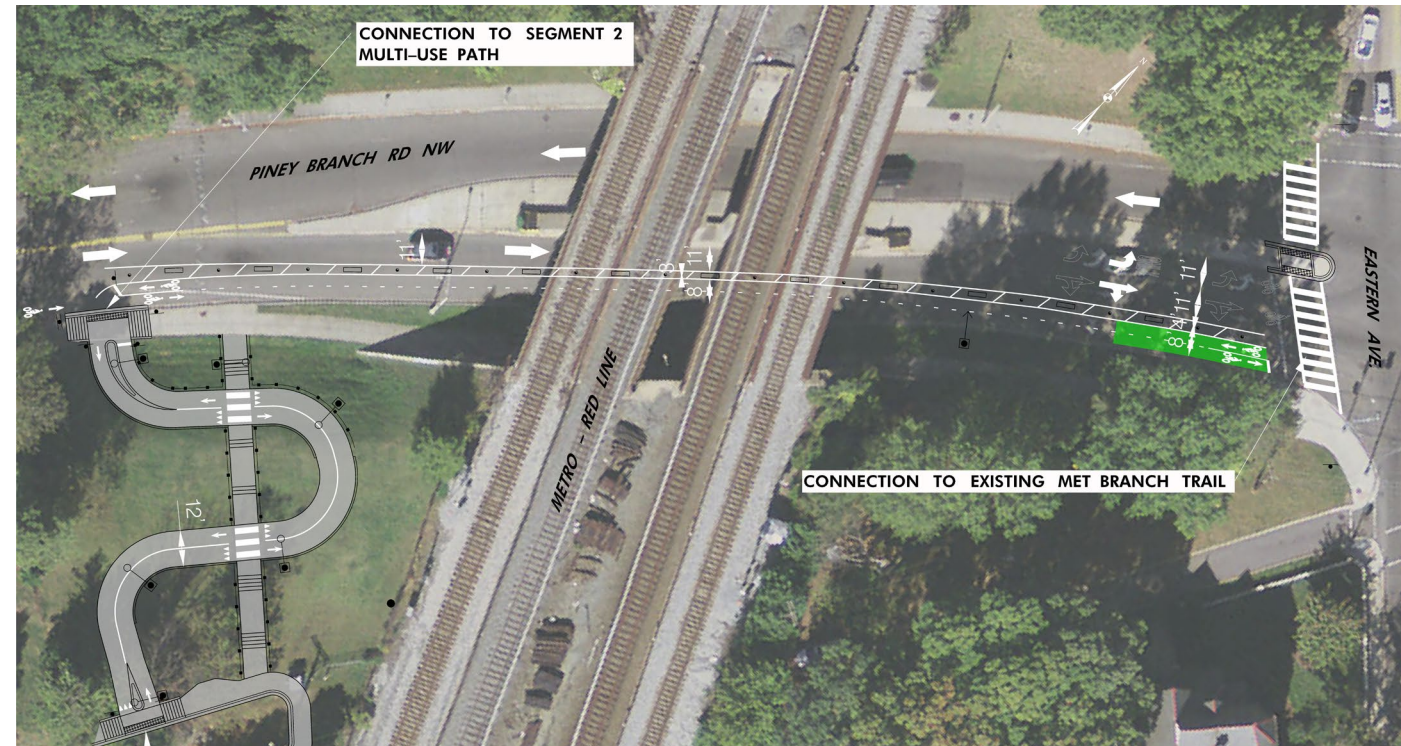
Selected alignment:
8-foot two-way protected bike lane on the south side



Segment 1: Piney Branch Road

Selected alignment:
8-foot two-way protected bike lane on the south side

- Two-way lanes increase travel options for bicyclists to connect with the surrounding bike network
- Facilitates all trail crossings at the Eastern Avenue traffic signal



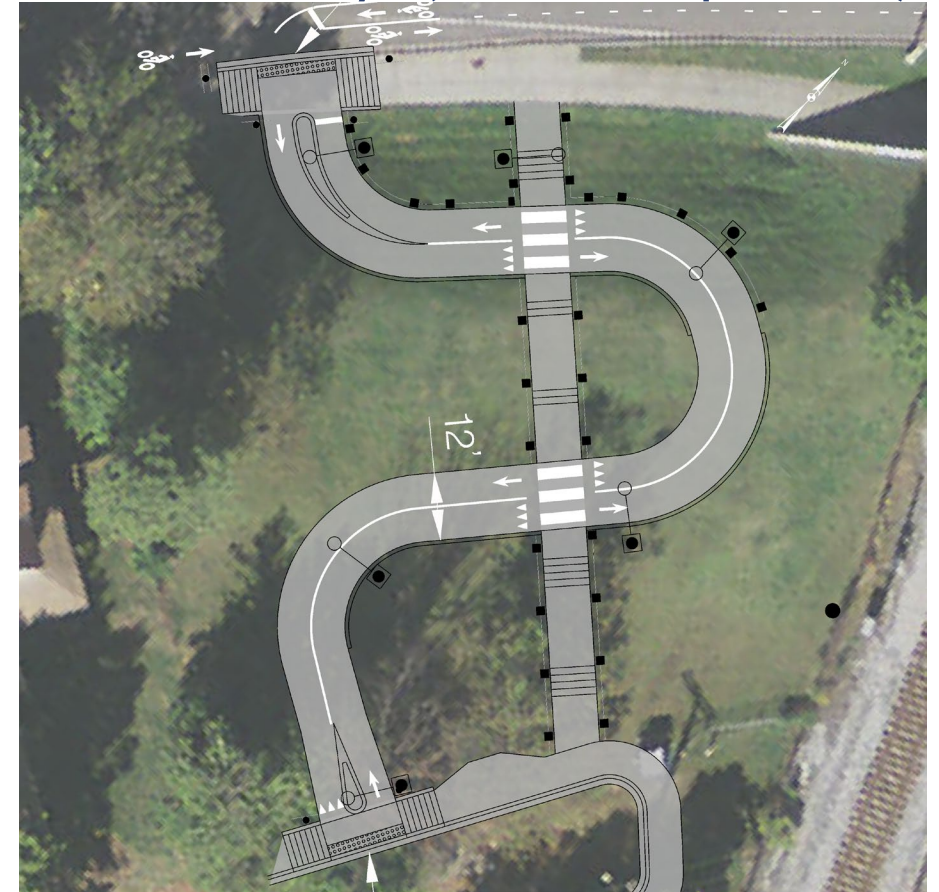
Segment 2: Piney Branch Road to Chestnut Street

Existing conditions:



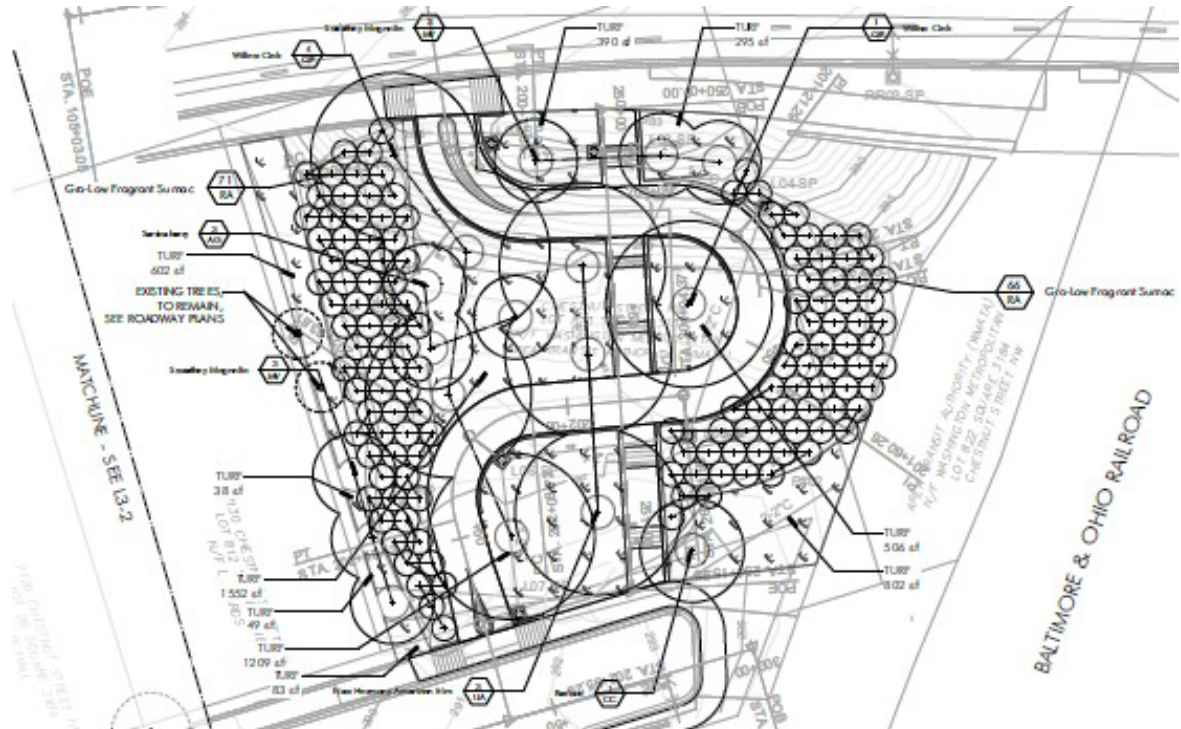
Selected alignment:

12-foot multi-use curvilinear path with stairways (3.75% slope max)



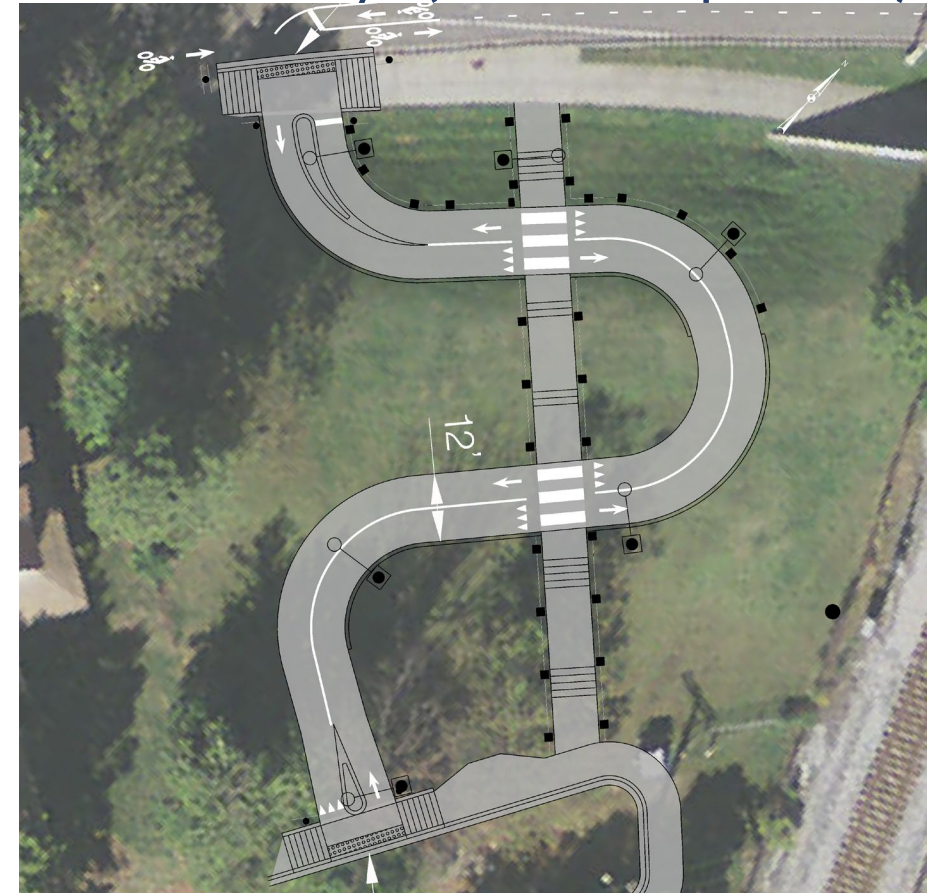
Segment 2: Piney Branch Road to Chestnut Street

- Acquiring WMATA property
- Significant tree and shrub planting



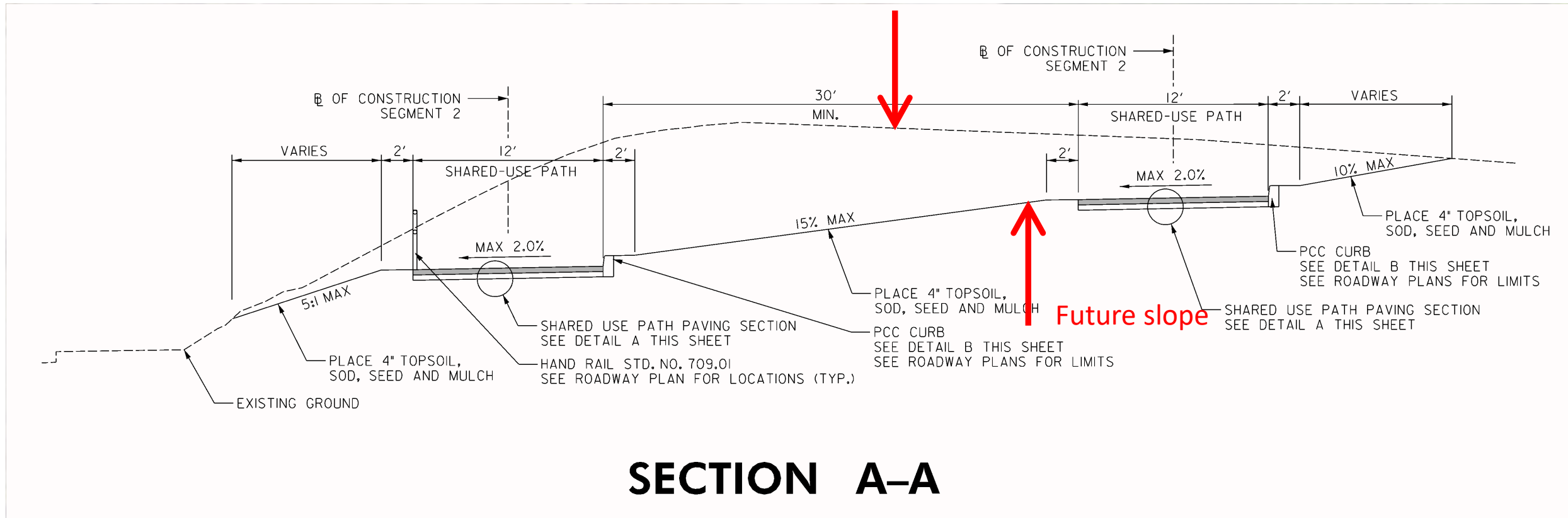
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Segment 2: Piney Branch Road to Chestnut Street

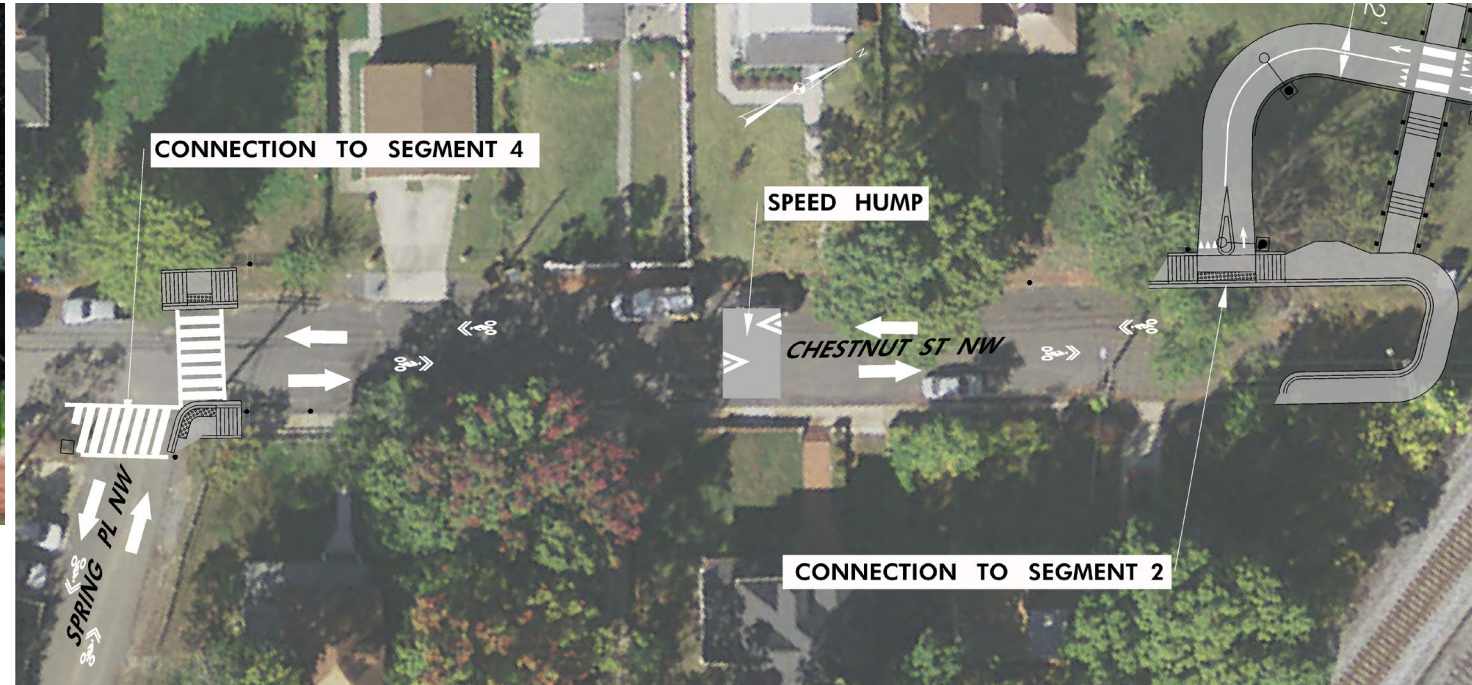
- Gentler slope from top to bottom



Segment 3: Chestnut Street

Selected alignment:
Neighborhood bikeway

Existing conditions:



Segment 3: Chestnut Street

- Low traffic volumes and speeds are compatible with neighborhood bikeway
- Speed humps will further ensure low traffic speeds
- Includes curb ramp upgrades at Spring Place

Selected alignment:
Neighborhood bikeway



Segment 4: Spring Place

Existing conditions:



**Selected alignment:
Neighborhood Bikeway**



Segment 4: Spring Place

- Low traffic volumes and speeds are compatible with neighborhood bikeway
- Woonerf/shared street not feasible due to width limitations for emergency vehicles and snow removal
- Improving drainage

Selected alignment:
Neighborhood Bikeway

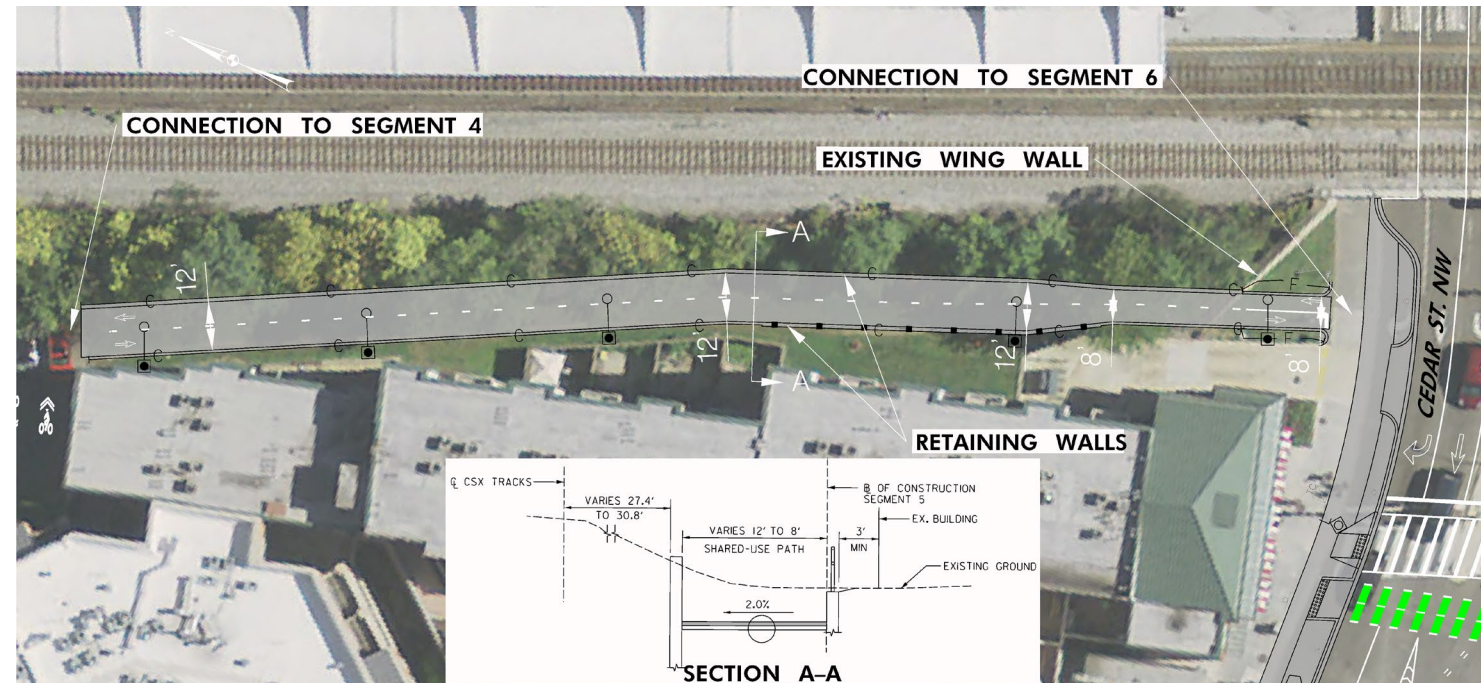


Segment 5: 343 Cedar Street

Selected alignment:

8- to 12-ft multi-use path, 5% slope max, retaining walls on both sides

Existing conditions:

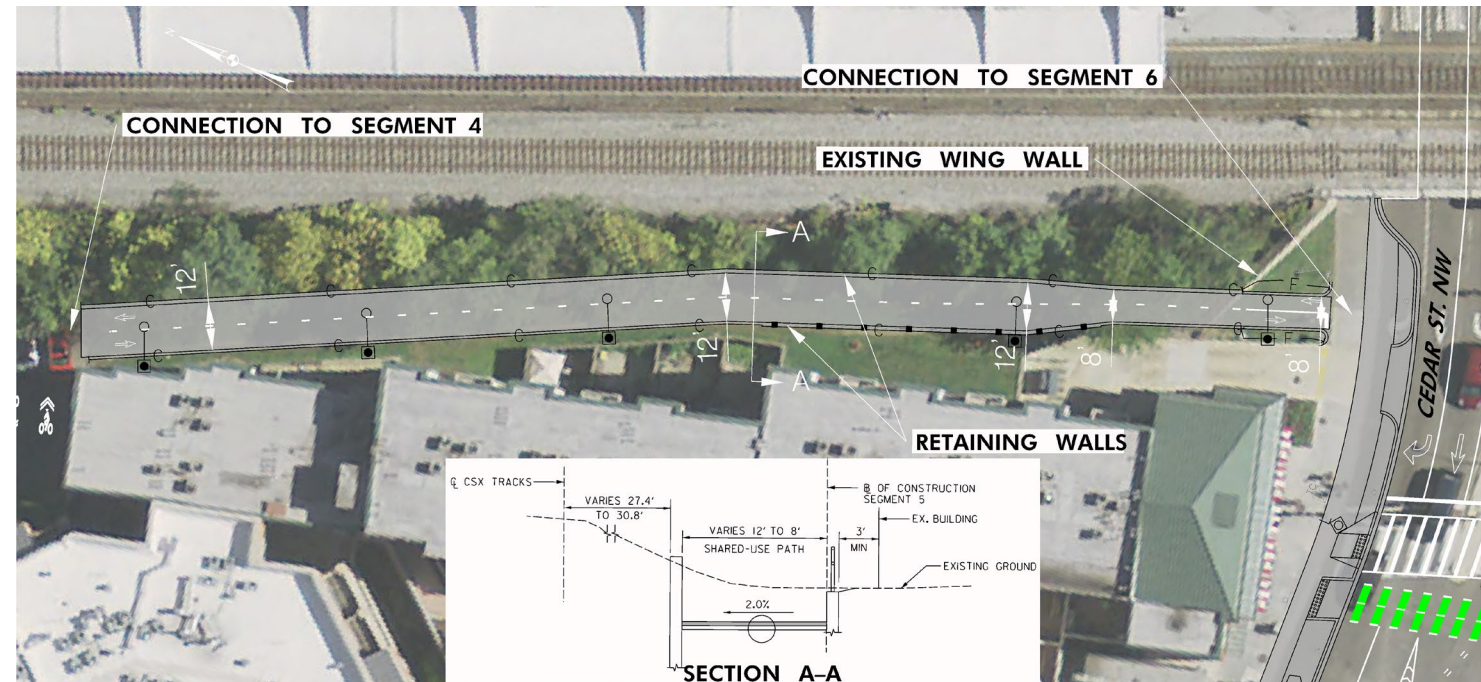


Segment 5: 343 Cedar Street

Selected alignment:

8- to 12-ft multi-use path, 5% slope max, retaining walls on both sides

- Wide trail and low grades are easiest to navigate for bicyclists
- Trail width and wall design constrained by adjacent rail
- Trail will feature new lighting

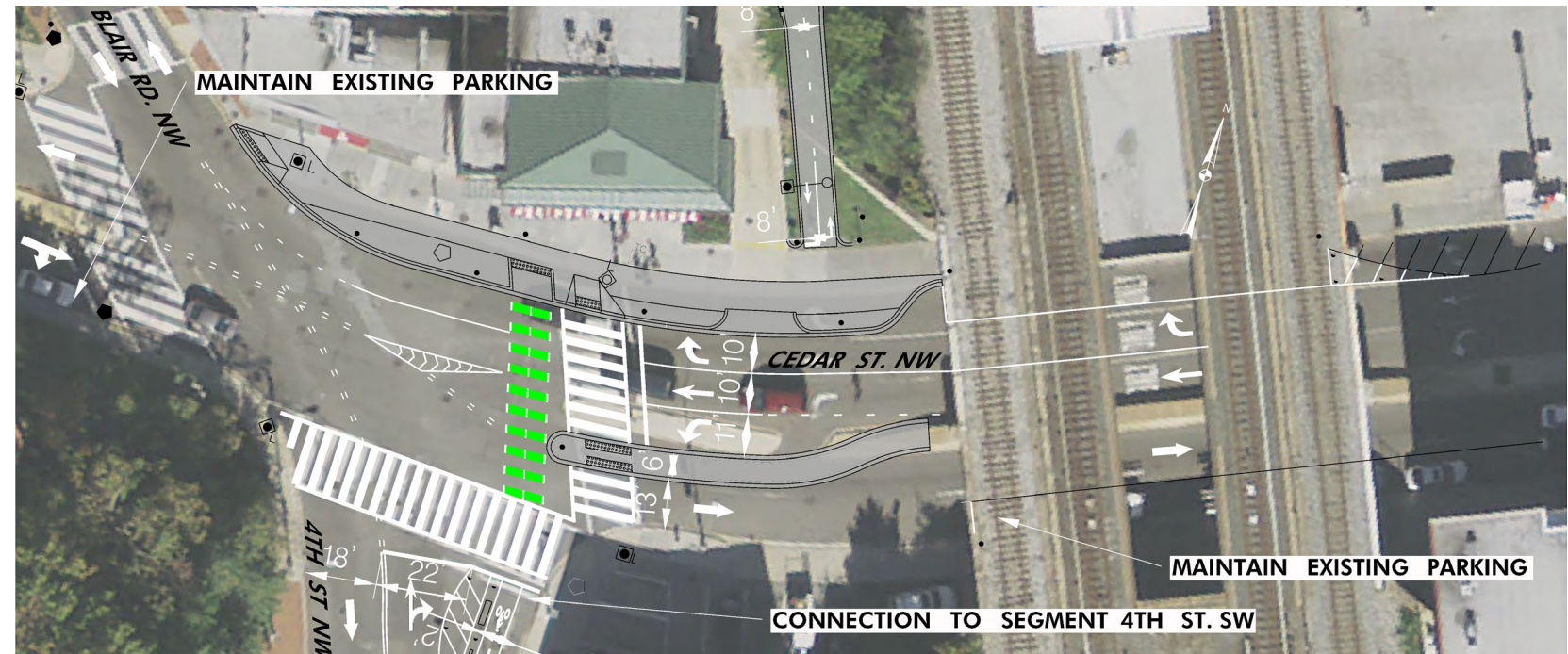


Segment 6: Cedar Street, 4th Street

Existing conditions:



Selected alignment:
Cedar Street – multi-use path
on north side, two-way crossing



Segment 6: Cedar Street, 4th Street

Existing conditions:



Selected alignment:

Two-way protected bike lane on the east side of 4th Street from Cedar Street to Butternut Street



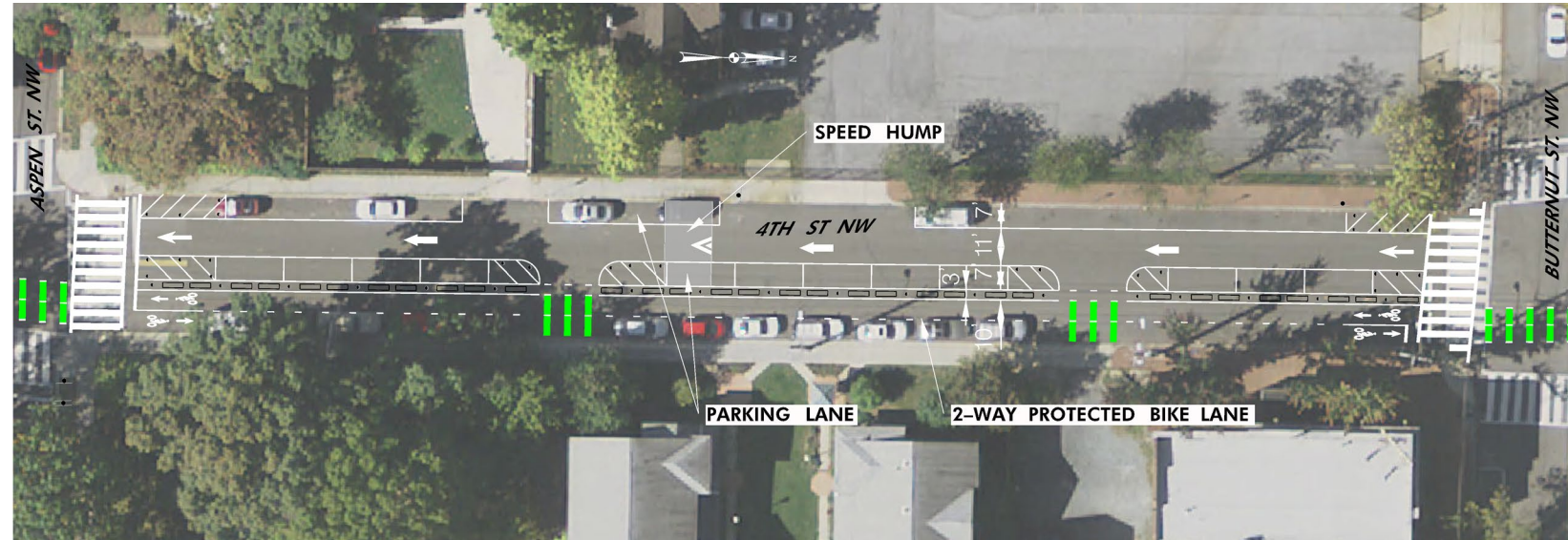
Segment 6: Cedar Street, 4th Street

Existing conditions:



Selected alignment:

Two-way protected bike lane on the east side of 4th Street from Butternut Street to Aspen Street



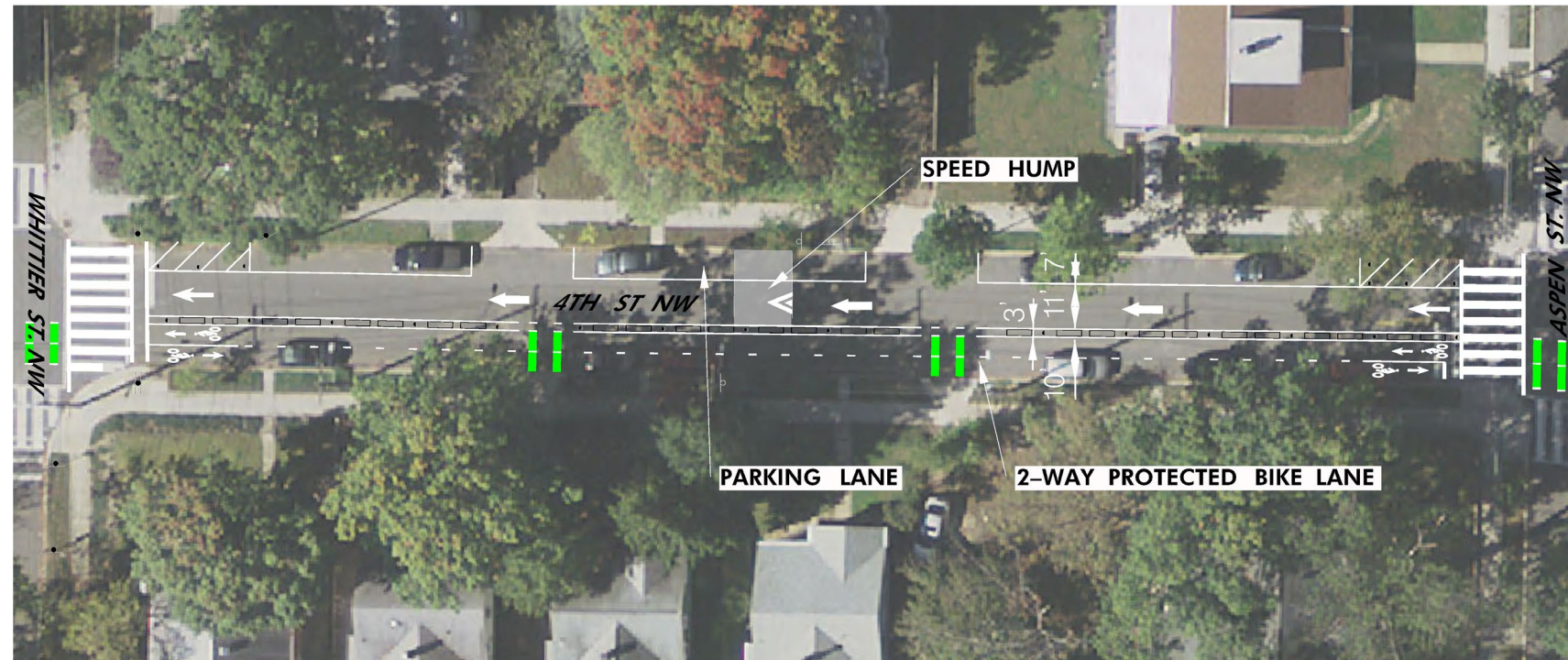
Segment 6: Cedar Street, 4th Street

Existing conditions:



Selected alignment:

Two-way protected bike lane on the east side of 4th Street from Aspen Street to Whittier Street



Segment 6: Cedar Street, 4th Street

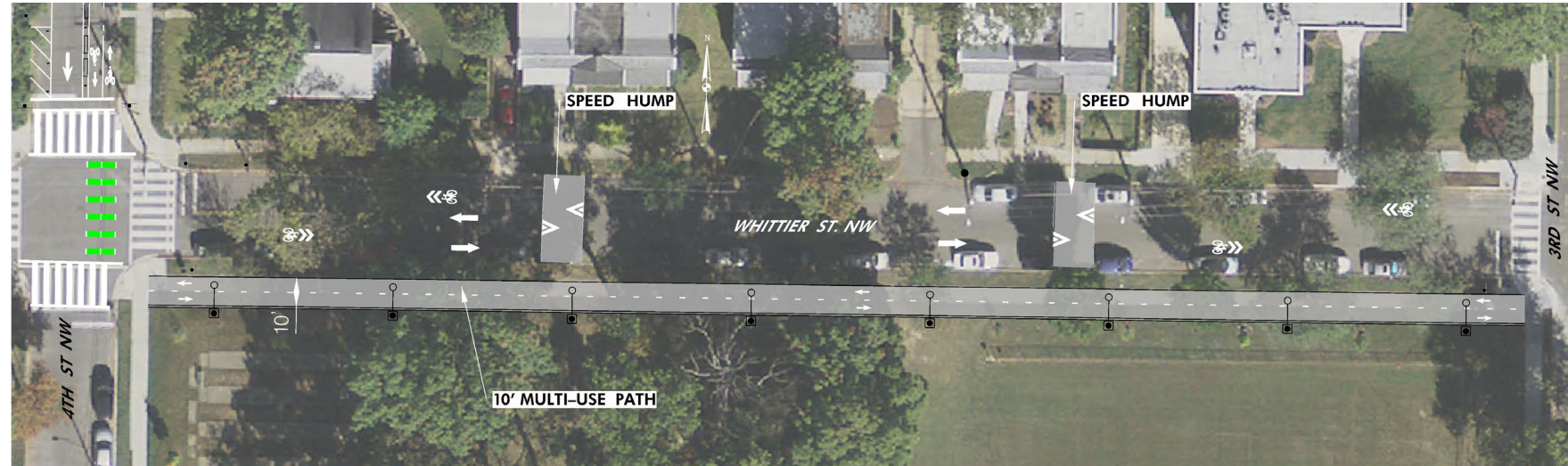
- Protected bike lanes on 4th Street provide greatest comfort and safety for all road users
- Requires two-way to one-way lane conversion of 4th Street from Butternut Street to Whittier Street

Segment 6: Whittier Street

Existing conditions:



Selected alignment:
Neighborhood bikeway and 10-ft
multi-use path on south side



Segment 6: Whittier Street

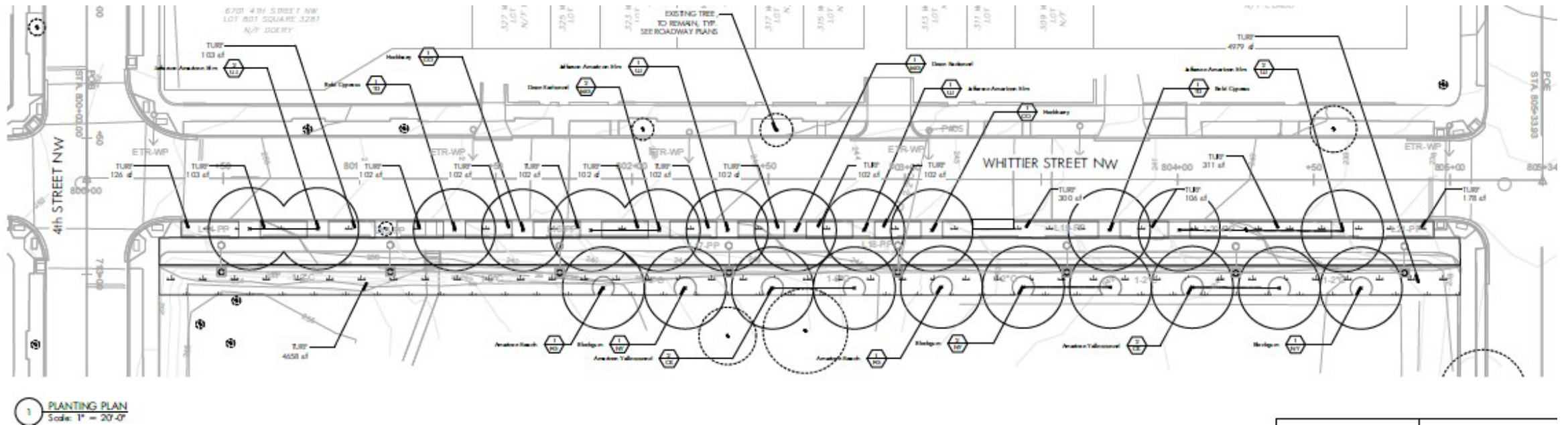
- Low traffic volumes and speeds are compatible with neighborhood bikeway
- Multi-use path creates an off-street facility for people not comfortable biking in the street

Selected alignment:
Neighborhood bikeway and 10-ft multi-use path on south side



Segment 6: Whittier Street

- Significant tree planting



Van Buren Street NW (5th Street to Blair Road)

- Considering multiple alternatives:
 - 2-way protected bike lane (north side)
 - 2-way protected bike lane (south side)
 - Protected contraflow bike lane
- May require traffic alignment change to one-way travel between 3rd Street and Blair Road
- 4th Street NW from Whittier Street to Van Buren Street is also a part of this project

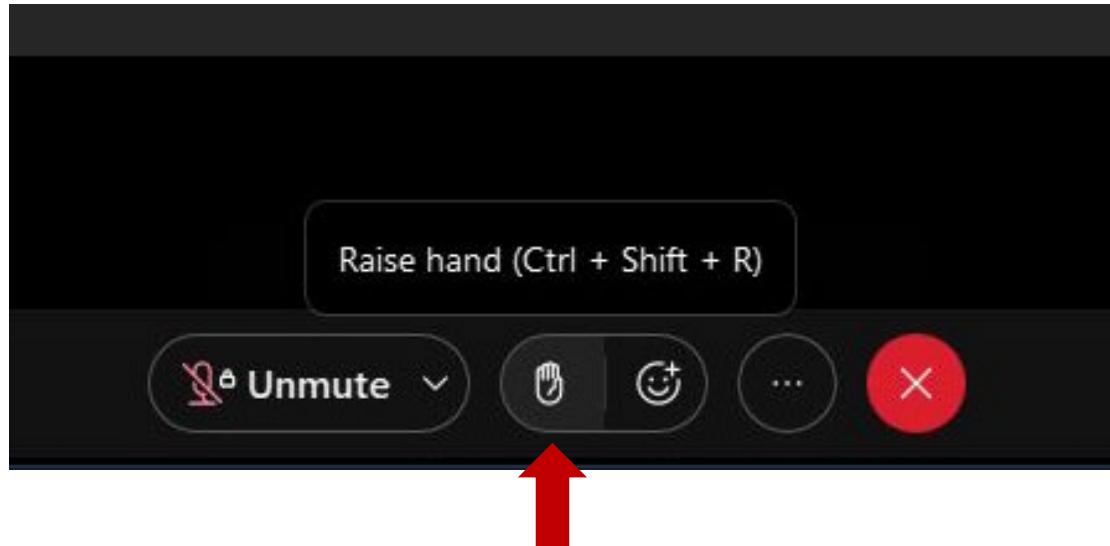


WRAP-UP

Wrap-Up

- Questions/contact: metbranchtrail@dc.gov
- Updates will be made available at metbranchtrail.com
- Next Steps:
 - Complete final (100%) design
 - Complete Plans/Specifications/Estimate package (PSE)
 - Complete procurement/fund obligation
 - Advertisement and bidding
 - Preconstruction and construction phase

Using Webex – Raise Hand



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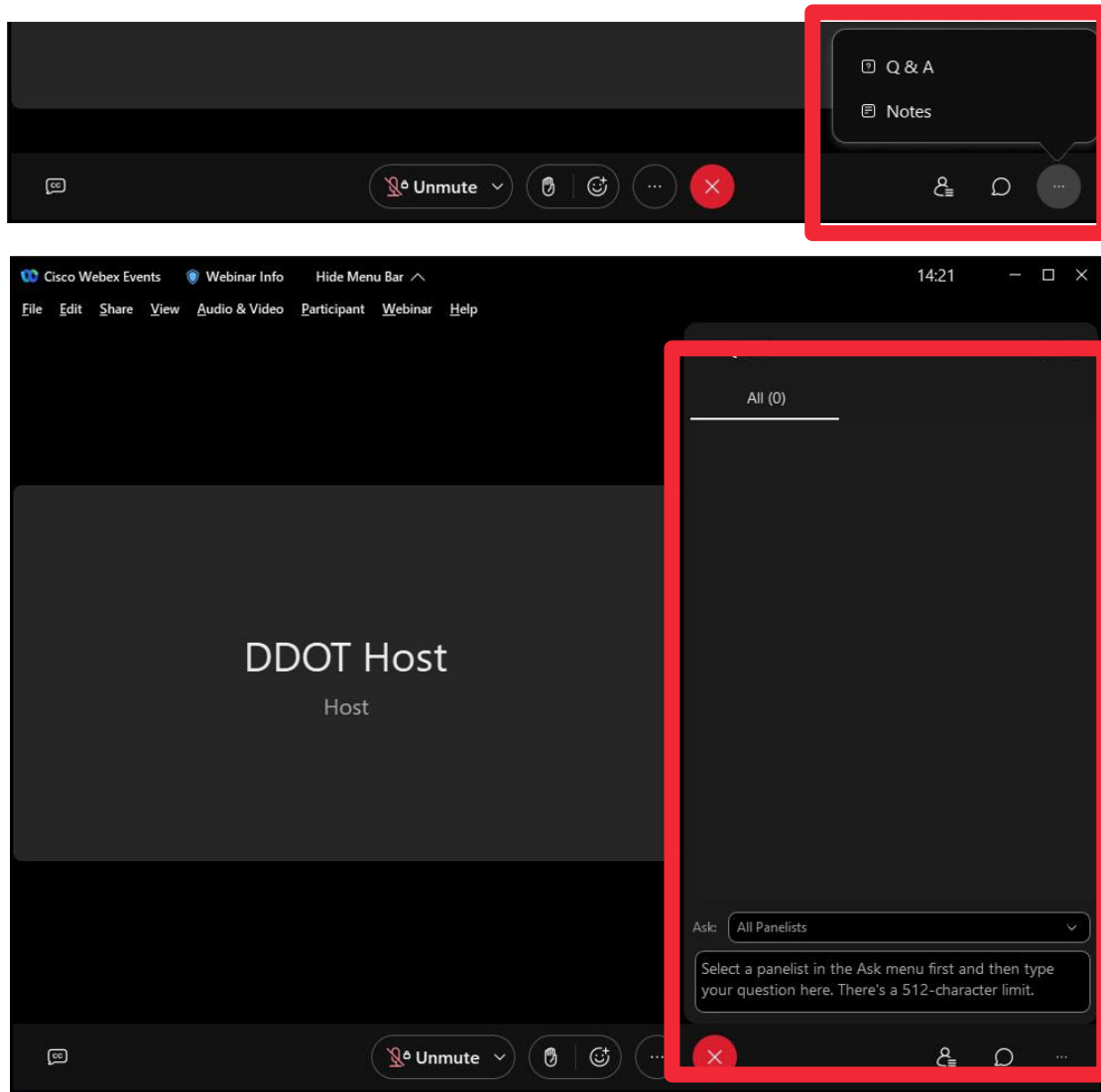
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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions/contact: metbranchtrail@dc.gov

Updates will be made available at metbranchtrail.com

Title VI – rebrand.ly/MBTBlair2PineyBranch-Comments

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Title VI Public Involvement Questionnaire

The District Department of Transportation is committed to providing all citizens, regardless of race, color, age, gender, or national origin, the opportunity to participate in and respond to transportation plans, programs, and activities that may affect their community. To help us make sure we are reaching our goal and maintaining compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all relevant federal and local nondiscrimination laws, we ask that you voluntarily complete the following information. DDOT's Title VI Coordinator will handle the information you provide with confidentiality. For more information regarding DDOT's Title VI Program, please contact DDOT's Transportation Equity and Inclusion Division at 202.671.2700 or ddot@dc.gov.

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

Project/Meeting Name & Date

Metropolitan Branch Trail Blair Rd to Piney Branch Project Update, June 7, 2022, 6:30pm-8:00pm

Was this meeting held at a convenient time?

Yes

No

[Next](#) [Clear form](#)

As a recipient of Federal assistance, DDOT must ensure that all of its programs, activities and public meetings are conducted in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This Act ensures nondiscrimination based on race, color or national origin. The Title VI Public Meeting Participant Questionnaire is used to help DDOT ensure that we are informing the public and conducting our meetings in a nondiscriminatory manner, in compliance with Title VI.

Project comments and/or concerns may also be submitted through this form. We appreciate anyone who is willing to complete the form.

Thank you for your participation.



d.

District Department of Transportation