

New Ave Identity / Future Identity

Outcomes of December 13 Public Meeting

Participants responded to questions about the **character** of the New Ave, focusing on qualities such as: sight, sound, smell, color, texture, taste, interactions/experiences and feelings.

Answer Key



Answers apply to all / any section of New Hampshire Avenue



Answers apply to Ethan Allen Gateway area



Answers apply to Takoma/Langley Crossroads area

City of Takoma Park
Housing & Community Development



Overview & Highlights

“Nothing elsewhere in Montgomery County is a model for what would feel right and thrive here.”

“I love the quirky, colorful seating at the bus stop. I would love to see that fun spirit infuse the full plan.”

New Ave Corridor

The New Ave should be a place for people of all ages, both day and night. Activity on the corridor is characterized by a range of social, consumer, recreational and creative endeavors. The New Ave is a vibrant and colorful community characterized by international musical traditions and exotic flavors.

Important commercial amenities include fresh and affordable groceries, restaurants, gas stations, and other daily necessities (banks, dry cleaning, and hardware store). Regional offices and services will close after dinner time, with gas stations and local cafes open late to activate the street at night to provide a feeling of safety and community life.

Several pedestrians walk on the New Ave and intersections are busy. More transit stops, wider sidewalks, public life/art/music, and desirable destinations would encourage more pedestrian activity.

Ethan Allen Gateway

Ethan Allen Gateway is envisioned as having a more intimate scale of activity oriented towards families and local patrons. This commercial center is not expected to serve as a 24-hour neighborhood. Pedestrian amenities are prioritized; there is a strong desire for well-designed sculpture, fountains and bike parking.

Crossroads

Characterized by longer and later periods of activity (24-hour neighborhood), Takoma Langley Crossroads serves both a regional market and local residents/shoppers. Improved pedestrian access and amenities include elements that provide shelter from the sun and wind, with provisions for adequate bike parking at more active destinations.

Social

What time of day will people come here?
Morning Commute
Day time mostly shop
Early evening commuting
24 Hours - People live and work here
6 AM to 10 PM
Early morning to late night
7 AM until 11 PM with few late night areas
What age are people during the day?
School Children
Commuters on the bus
All Ages
Although kids during school year are in School
All Ages
All ages
Senior citizens
People with young children,
Working people who work here or from home
If you get people who work from home, seniors and stay at home parents to feel comfortable everything else will follow.
What age are people at night?
Families and Friends
Young Adult
All ages
All ages
Families
Young Adults
Adults
Teens playing games
Midlifers taking in music
People leaving work of all ages
Shoppers
What time will people go to bed?
10:00 PM
10 - 11 PM During weekdays
Different times - There are cafés or places to get a coffee or drinks at night
8 PM until Midnight
Will there be events here (outdoor / indoor)?
Dining Out
Theater
Shopping
Yes
Yes, both indoor and outdoor
If Place for them - Currently no Place
Yes, Indoor event except for bocce ball, croquet, mini-golf, roof top cricket
What is here for your child?
Family Gathering to dine & Shop
Commuters
Activity centers

Parks
Outdoor community gardens
Murals
Paths
Community centers
Small Parks
Safe Sidewalk
Small Fountain
Safe Bike Route
Benches
Business aimed at children
Children clothing
Activities such as Karate, art, dance, music
Family restaurants
Safe places for teen to work
Bocce ball, croquet, kid clothing store, creekside park, bike trail field
Where do you take your dog?
Sligo Creek
Parks
Trails
Dog large park off road
Small green patch (like in Silver Spring)
Dog park on Ray road
What kind of social activities will occur here?
Family Gathering to dine & Shop
Commuters
Activity centers
Dancing
Cafes
Gardening
Community center
Radio Station
Chess in parks
Multicultural music
Café
Summer Concert
Restaurant
Sports bar
Ethnic Food
Movie theater
Small theater
Dancing
Evening hanging out
Strolling
Working on cars together
Doing laundry together
Going for walks

White = Entire Corridor

Blue = Ethan Allen Gateway

Green = T/L Crossroads

Economic

What are the 5 most important things to buy here?
Food Restaurant Services Gas Service Professional Sense of community ethnic variety
Food –fresh, healthy affordable Hardware items Bank, post office Repairs of equipments
Groceries/ Staples Fresh fruits + vegetables Coffee/ bagles Restaurants Ice cream
Groceries Gas Dry cleaning Food –take out or eat in Boutique store eg clothing, toys, books etc.
Gasoline Fresh Produced Affordable groceries Dinner out Toys Social game experiences
Until what time will businesses stay open?
11:30 PM in Ethan Allen 1:00 in Langley
Takoma Langley – 11PM Weekdays MD gateway- Have coffee shops, café’s open late
Few open 24 hrs Most 6 AM to 9 PM or 7 AM to 9 PM
Food: 10-12 Midnight (Some restaurants + Grocery Store) Small stores – 7 PM Gas - Midnight
Business serving regional market opens till 8 or 9 PM Local places open till late night
What kind of jobs do people have here?
Retail Office Service Professional

Small green manufacturing Services Retail Biodiesel Architectural Salvage Textile Sewer Microenterprise Foods Urban agriculture Farmers markets From Eastern to 410 – Solar on roofs – “ The Green Mile” Green houses + Vertical Agriculture
All kinds
Service Industry Activity services eg sports (karate, gymnastics, music, dance, theater) Small store owners Small service business (eg consulting, lawyers, doctors, dentists. Writers)
Urban farm manager Early childhood educator Car wash attendant Bank teller Grocery Clerk
Are business patrons local or regional (do they drive, walk or take the bus in)?
Ethen Allen: Local – Walk and drive Langley: Regional – Public transit, drive and walk
See Takoma Langley as regional center, Ethan Allen as Local/ Commuter center where people transfer buses Eastern Gateway- maybe more regional- attracting people from P.G., D,C, and Takoma Park
All of the above Same as old town Takoma/ Langley would draw from wider area
Specialty nodes that people from a distance know come to find special items or services. Businesses that serves bike and commuters Places where locals walk up to in evening

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Water / storm rain run-off

Where is the best / worst place to be in a storm?
Silgo Creek Pathway Do Bioswales More trees for infiltration
Parking Lot In a store Under Awning
Worst – Sligo Creek Parkway & NH- have had flooding issues; at bus stop without a shelter Best- Sheltered bus stop, walking along stores with overhangs that shelter pedestrians
Best : In Gazebo at Sheridan and NH Worst: On the roof top Cricket field
Where are the big puddles?
Pathway New Hampshire Ave. Utopia: There are none
Sligo Creek Parkway Ray Road Shopping center Parking Lots
Ray Rd because they never fixed it !
Where would you like a water feature (e.g. fountain)?
Public Plazas Opening in roads Area such as Parks or Sligo creek
In entrance to shoppers Somewhere surrounded by pedestrian, not a traffic circle Somewhere kids can play People can sit (like silver spring)
Triangle park on P.G. Ave near NH Ave Water Feature in Ethan Allen area that would attract people to hang out
Small triangle Park Prince George Ave. on both Sides I want a working hydroelectric generator on Takoma Branch at New Hampshire and Silgo Creek (maybe) at New Hampshire A cascading streamlet from Aldi downhill to the Recreation Center A fountain at NH Ave across from Shoppers (International Market)

Access / Furniture

How will people get here?
Take Buses Walk
Trolley connection from DC-Ft. Totten - Up NH to University Blvd Bus Walking Bike
Weekends : Drive, Take bus from other areas Locals: Walk, Bike Commuters: Stop here on the way to/from work
Most people walk from nearby residence Regular like routes on NH Ave or RT 410 People here at Langley Park – Commuter Traffic
Walking Biking Rapid Bus – Car Streetcar (Ft Totten – Langley cross road)
How many people are walking here? Where?
Major Cross streets for stopping & transit Lots on New Hampshire Ave
Walking to their houses on 2nd and 3rd level of mixed use To and fro from apartment and neighborhoods Enough that it is not deserted or over crowded Locals walking to shops
How often and where do people need to sit?
Every block or so- as people will like to stroll for exercise and socialize including elderly Some benches for relaxing near fountain, waiting for friends
Most people walk from nearby residence Regular like routes on NH Ave or RT 410 People here at Langley Park – Commuter Traffic
Bus stops Near natural features or added features such as fountains, sculpture
Bus stops Domino-playing tables Intimate gathering spots with sun shades and wind shelter
What are 3 things that would make you walk more on the New Ave?
Places to walk to-destinations stops close by Transit stops near by Less speedy traffic Wider sidewalks More attractive things to look at Informal open Space for jamming Open air Stage Murals on large retaining walls in southern section of New Hampshire Ave. like Philly art project quality More art, sculptures along NH
Safety More desirable destinations Beautiful trees

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Sidewalks further away from fast traffic Trees for more hospitable environment Destination such as restaurants, bars activities
Rebuild Silgo Mill road on north end as a trail to cross Takoma Branch and proceed off road into Ethan Allen gateway via Washington-Mc Laughlin Christian School, Circle Ave, Belford. Set side walks farther away from the road Narrow the traffic lanes to 10.5 feet as on Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase so vehicles go slower.
Where do you want to park your bike?
Major shopping centers Destination locations In front of stores Apartment buildings
Cool bike rack
Well designed bike racks near my destination
At the pub, Silgo Creek Pkwy and New Hampshire Ave At the international market across NH from Shoppers At Aldi

Senses

If you were going to have an event in this commercial area, what kind of music would you play?
Different cultural events provides variety of opportunity
Latino Latin upto the university Blvd World music Classical R & B
Live Acoustic
Latino West African Folk Jazz
Fusion of African and Bluegrass in Spanish
What are 3 tastes / flavors that you would associate with this area?
South American Central American African
Curry Salsa BBQ
Spicy Thai Chicken
Ethiopian Jamaican Nigerian
What 3 colors would you associate with this area?
Green Blue Brown

Red Blue Yellow
Green Turquoise Yellow
Green Blue Pink
Royal Blue Orange Brick Red
What do you call this place? What would you like to call this place?
Takoma Junction –Ethan Allen Takoma Langley at University Home
Ethan Allen Gateway World Home

Additional Thoughts?

New Ave report has suggestions around MD Gateway which focuses on this is a border area, gateway, doors, bridges, lots of immigrants. Commission sculpture form greatest African Scluptor (exhibited at Smithsonian) El – Anatsui – who uses recycled materials to make social commentary – do a walk sculpture park up down New Hampshire Ave. tucked into green spaces. Nothing elsewhere in Montgomery County is a model for what would feel right and thrive here.
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