

Mount Vernon Square District Project 11-2010

PRIORITY PROJECT

The Square

1

Draft

Program and design Mount Vernon Square and the Carnegie Library Building to become a dynamic place that includes public park functions, cultural uses and events space, restaurant/café/vending, visitor and other destination-type uses; address design deficiencies of paths, edges and pedestrian amenities within the Square.



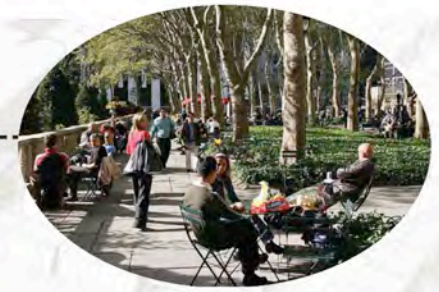
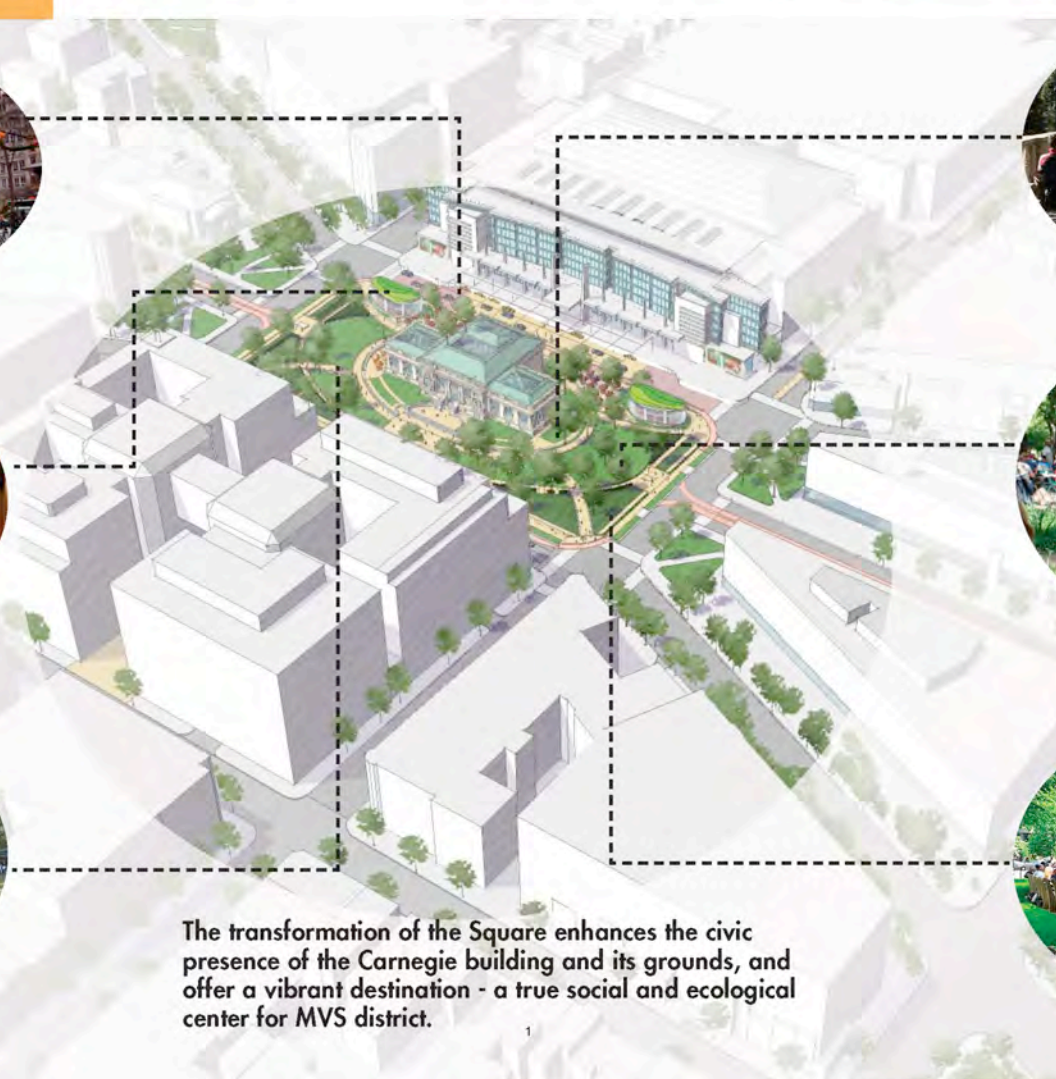
Paved Outdoor Areas



Glassy Pavilions



Inner Pathways



The Parterre



Inner Gardens



Outer Gardens

The transformation of the Square enhances the civic presence of the Carnegie building and its grounds, and offer a vibrant destination - a true social and ecological center for MVS district.

PRIORITY PROJECT

8th Street as Flexible Event Space

2

Draft

Develop the former 8th Street right-of-way between I and K Streets as a flexible events space and restore pedestrian crossings between 8th Street and the Square and between the Carnegie Building and the main entrance of the Convention Center.



PRIORITY PROJECT

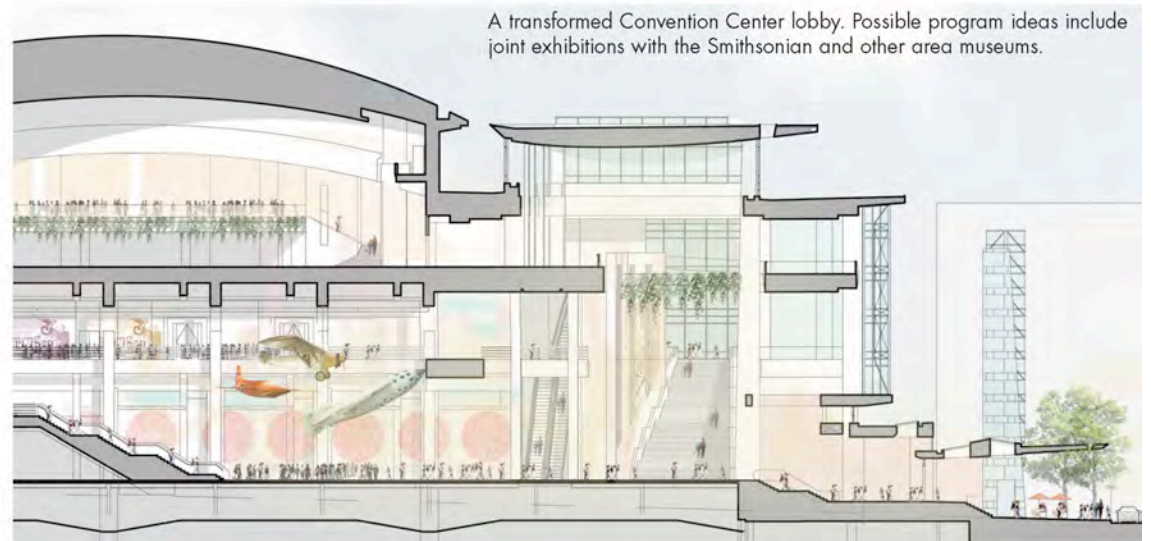
Convention Center

3

Draft

Transform the front hall of the Convention Center to a truly public place. Analyze ways to accomplish this through the development of a restaurant, café or other retail function and by creating a mini-Smithsonian or other visitor functions.

Additions to the corners of the Convention Center will bring active uses to Mount Vernon Place. The corner additions will reinforce the pavilions at the northwest and northeast corners of Mount Vernon Square.



Enhanced retail frontage along the Convention Center's facade on 9th Street will contribute greatly to 9th Street's success as a Main Street.

PRIORITY PROJECT

The Streetcar

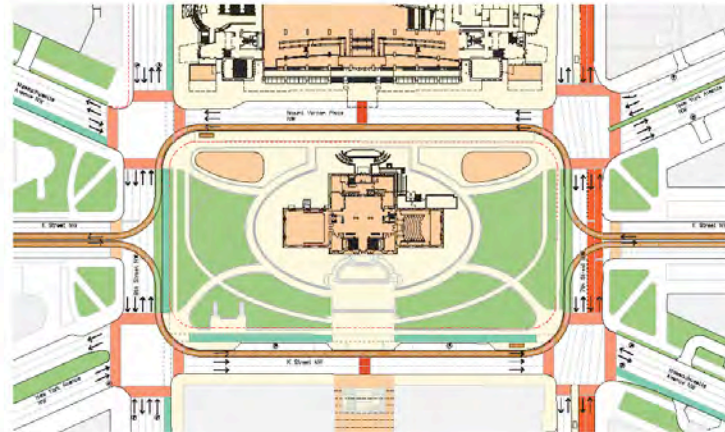
4

Draft

Build upon the streetcar project, capitalizing on the alternatives analysis and other studies as a means to showcase transit and enhance place-making. Major decisions about the Square and circulation around it --- whether on foot, bicycle, in transit or a motor vehicle --- will be influenced by the generation of additional pedestrian traffic associated with the streetcar. The streetcar project and the K Street transit way project are likely to necessitate implementation of the longer term traffic circulation changes around the Square. Hence, major physical infrastructure investment in the Square itself will most likely take place at that time.

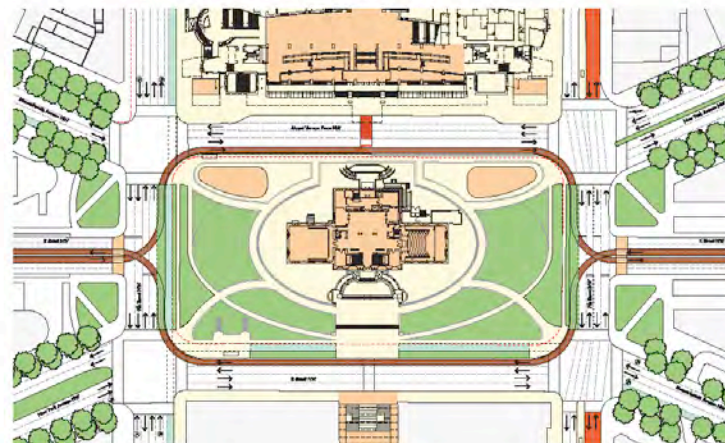


- Streetcar tracks
- Dedicated bus lane
- Cycle track
- Enhanced pedestrian crosswalks



Left: Streetcar track alignment alternative 1.
One-way circulation north and south of the Square on Mount Vernon Place NW and K Street NW.

Circulation on 7th and 9th Streets NW is flexible - either two-way or a one-way configuration.



Left: Streetcar track alignment alternative 2.

This alignment alternative allows two-way circulation on Mount Vernon Place NW, K Street NW, 7th and 9th Streets NW.

The streetcar runs in a 'cross-over' fashion.

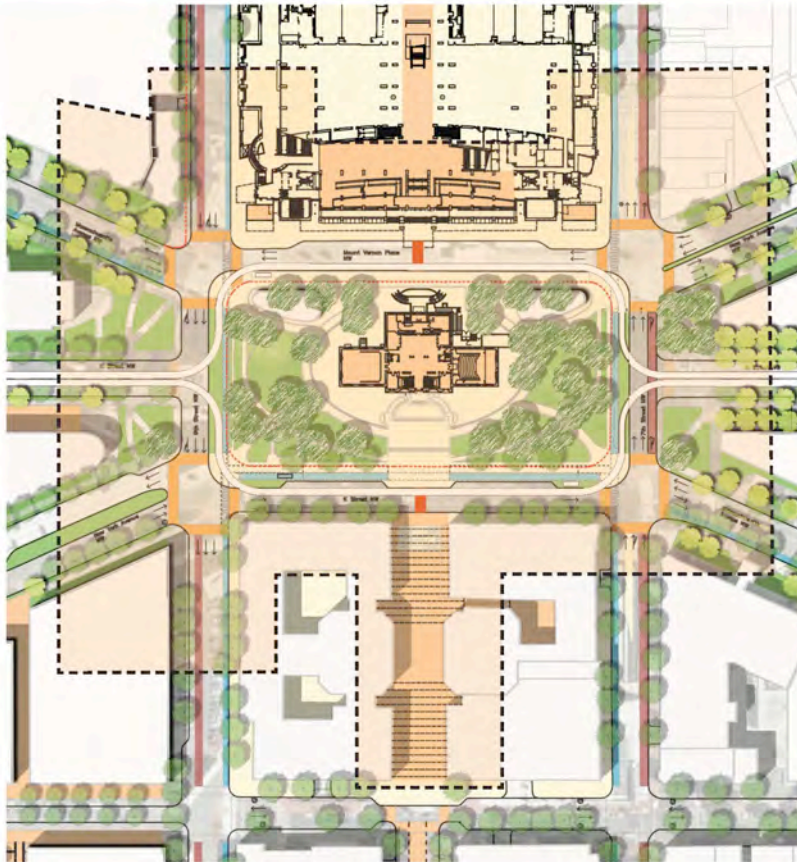
PRIORITY PROJECT

Zoning Regulations

5

Draft

Enact zoning to ensure active-street uses in buildings framing the Square. Zoning regulations should be developed requiring active ground floor uses, transparent facades, front doors and lobbies and help activate the frame (sidewalks and building frontages) of Mount Vernon Square.



Zoning overlay district shown in dotted lines. Regulations should require active ground floor uses, transparent facades and front doors to retail establishments, office lobbies and other uses.



PRIORITY PROJECT

The Carnegie Library Building

6

Draft

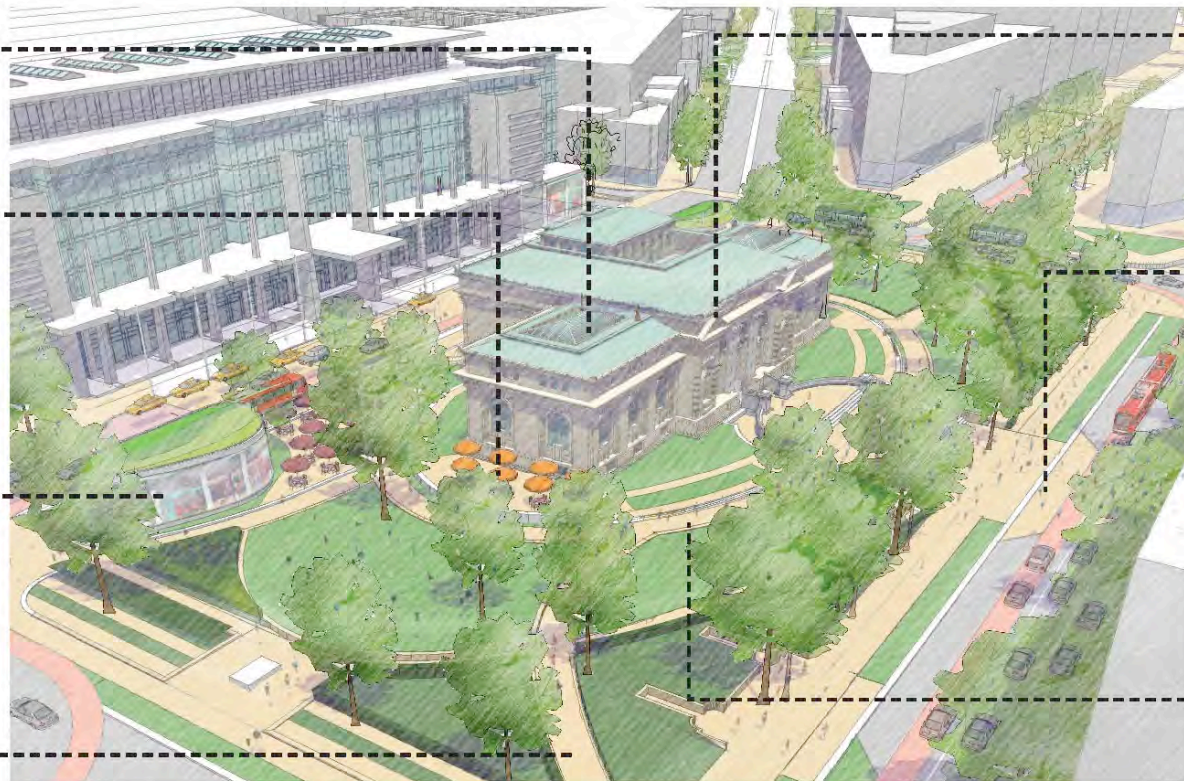
Expand the opportunities of the Carnegie Library Building, via a public space management and development partnership that includes the District government, the Historical Society of Washington DC, the Downtown BID, the Mount Vernon Triangle CID, the Washington Convention Center and Sports Authority, and other necessary entities. Promote creative uses and development potential that turn the building and surrounding grounds into a valuable asset for the city.

New program in the west wing of the Carnegie Library building - possible uses include a destination restaurant.

A new parterre addition expands the amount of usable fair-weather space of the building.

Add pavilions with active program - potentially food and vending - to the corners of the Square to create a stronger draw for the building.

Make pathways more inviting, so pedestrians are encouraged to walk through Mount Vernon Square, thereby increasing the visibility and exposure of the building's program.



Expand access to the central atrium of the Carnegie building through additional visitor related functions; expand revenue generating potential of the atrium by more effective event management and programming.

Make pedestrian access to the building convenient by adding a midblock crossing at 8th and K Streets NW.

Reinforce the image of the building by adding paths and other landscape elements that are harmonious and do not detract from the historic frontage of the building.

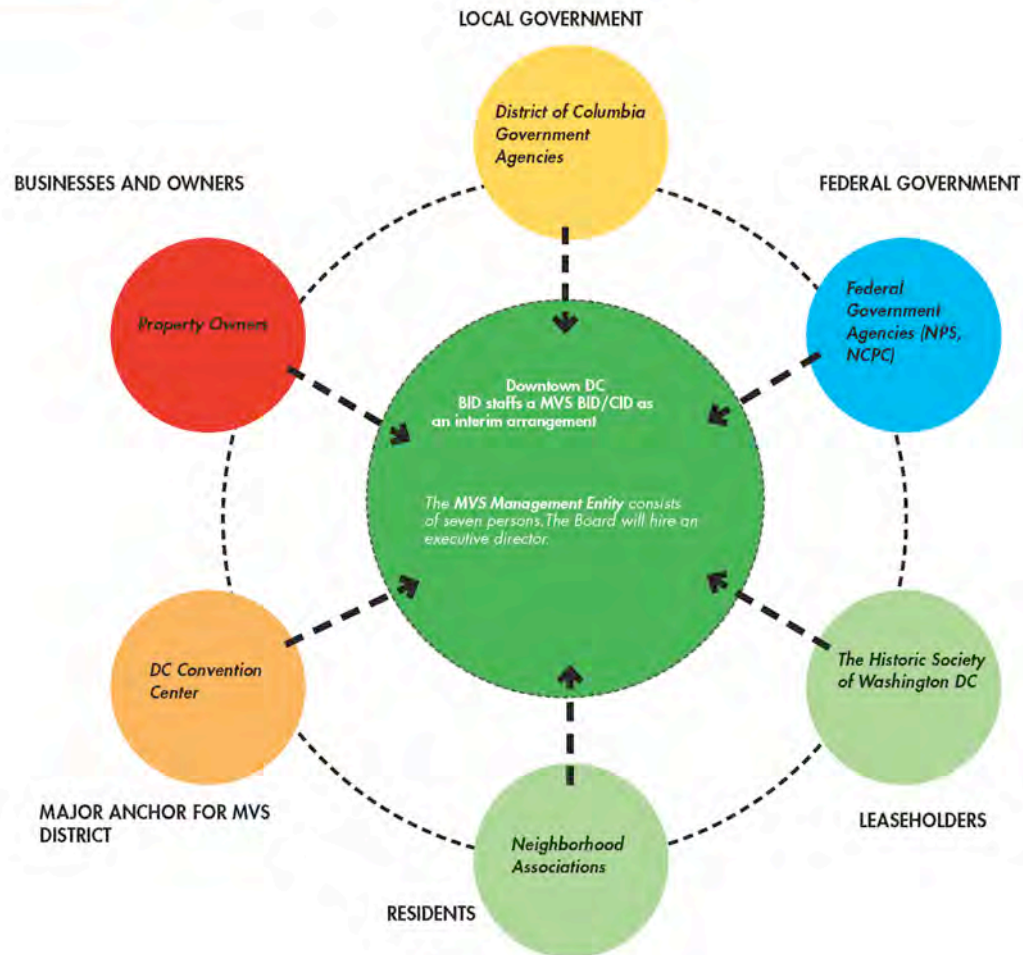
PRIORITY PROJECT

Public Space Stewardship

7

Draft

Form a financing and management entity for the Square and all the parks in the Mount Vernon Square District, including those controlled by the National Park Service and those controlled by the District, to improve them as neighborhood amenities with high quality design, adequate funding, maintenance, and programming. Transfer all bow-tie, parks, and the open space of MVS to the District.



A potential Mount Vernon Square management entity, with representation from key stakeholders.

PRIORITY PROJECT

9th Street North of the Square

8

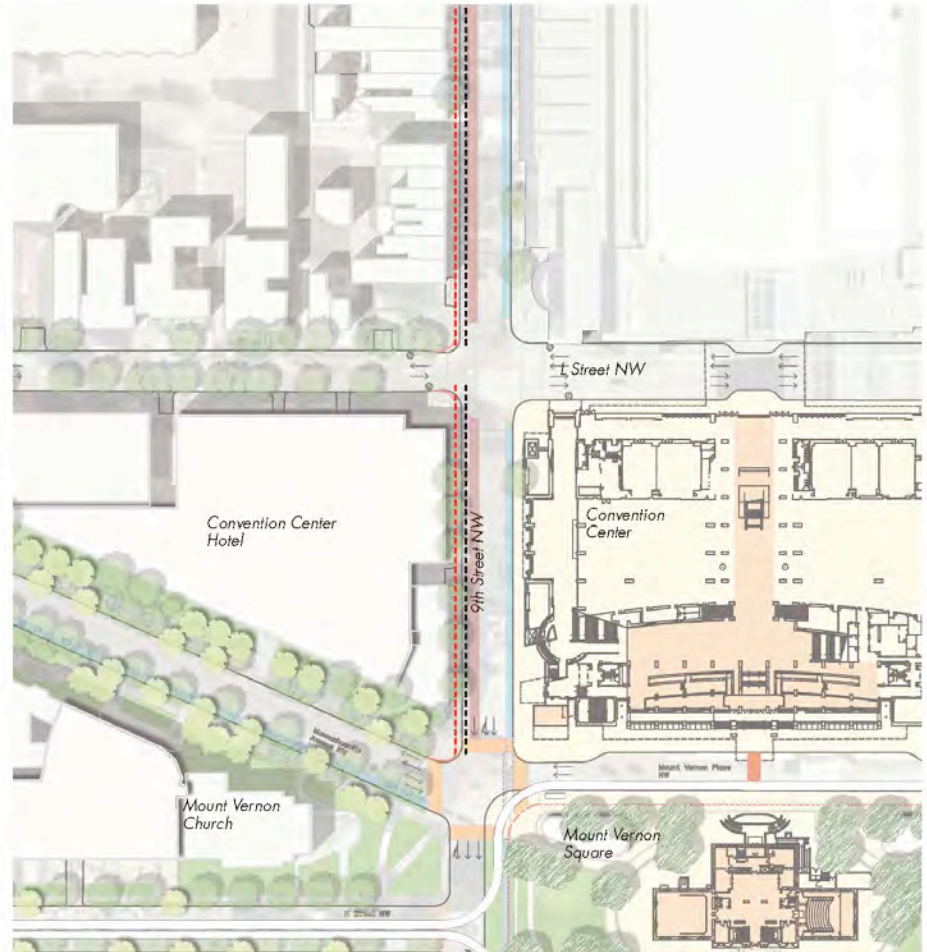
Draft

Re-imagine 9th Street north of the Square into a street that supports neighborhood retail, by widening the sidewalk on the west side of the street and by increasing the visibility and identity of the retail located within the Convention Center on the east side of the street.



A transformed 9th Street NW, looking north- an expanded sidewalk offers pedestrians more room to maneuver, businesses more space for display and spill out and additional space for landscape treatment.

- Existing curb impedes pedestrian movements.
- Relocated curb line gives additional space for sidewalk on west side of 9th Street NW.






PRIORITY PROJECT

Circulation at the Square

9

Draft

Make a legible system of movements for all modes around the Square, including motor vehicles and pedestrians moving through the Square. Undertake transportation modelling in order to identify short term improvements. The circulation system should alleviate current traffic and transportation issues while also accommodating future changes (such as the streetcar).

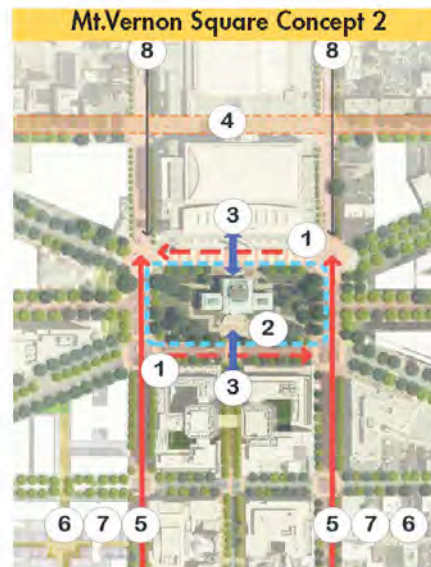
-  An expanded square
-  7th, 9th K Streets NW and Mount Vernon Place NW (one-way circulation)
-  Mid-block crosswalk



A COMPLETE ONE-WAY LOOP FOR MOUNT VERNON SQUARE, 7TH AND 9TH STREETS NW

LEGEND

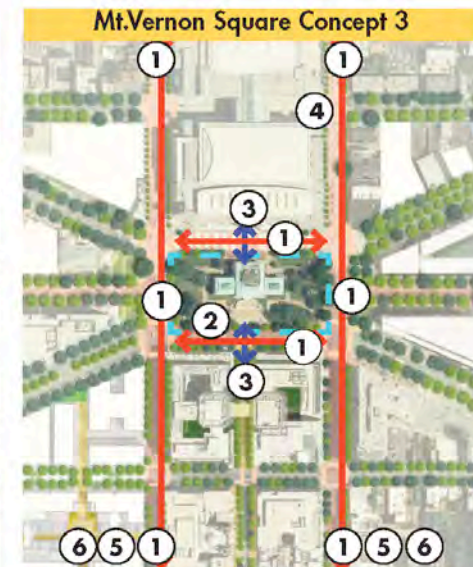
1. One-way circulation around Mount Vernon Square
2. Widened sidewalks
3. Mid-block crosswalk
4. One-way pair circulation (7th and 9th Street, south of the Square)
5. Traffic calming
6. Two-way cycle tracks
7. Curbside bus-only lanes
8. Curbside parking
9. One-way circulation (7th and 9th Streets NW, north of the Square)



A PARTIAL ONE-WAY LOOP FOR MOUNT VERNON SQUARE, 7TH AND 9TH STREETS NW

LEGEND

1. One-way circulation
2. Widened sidewalks
3. Mid-block crosswalk
4. Traffic calming
5. Two-way circulation
6. Bus lanes on 7th Street/bike lanes on 9th Street
7. Rush hour restricted parking on 9th Street; parking on 7th Street limited at locations due to bus stop median.
8. Two-way circulation



A TWO-WAY LOOP FOR MOUNT VERNON SQUARE, 7TH AND 9TH STREETS NW

LEGEND

1. Two-way circulation
2. Widened sidewalks
3. Mid-block crosswalk
4. Traffic calming
5. Bus lanes on 7th Street/bike lanes on 9th Street
6. Rush hour restricted parking on 9th Street; parking on 7th Street limited at locations due to bus stop median.

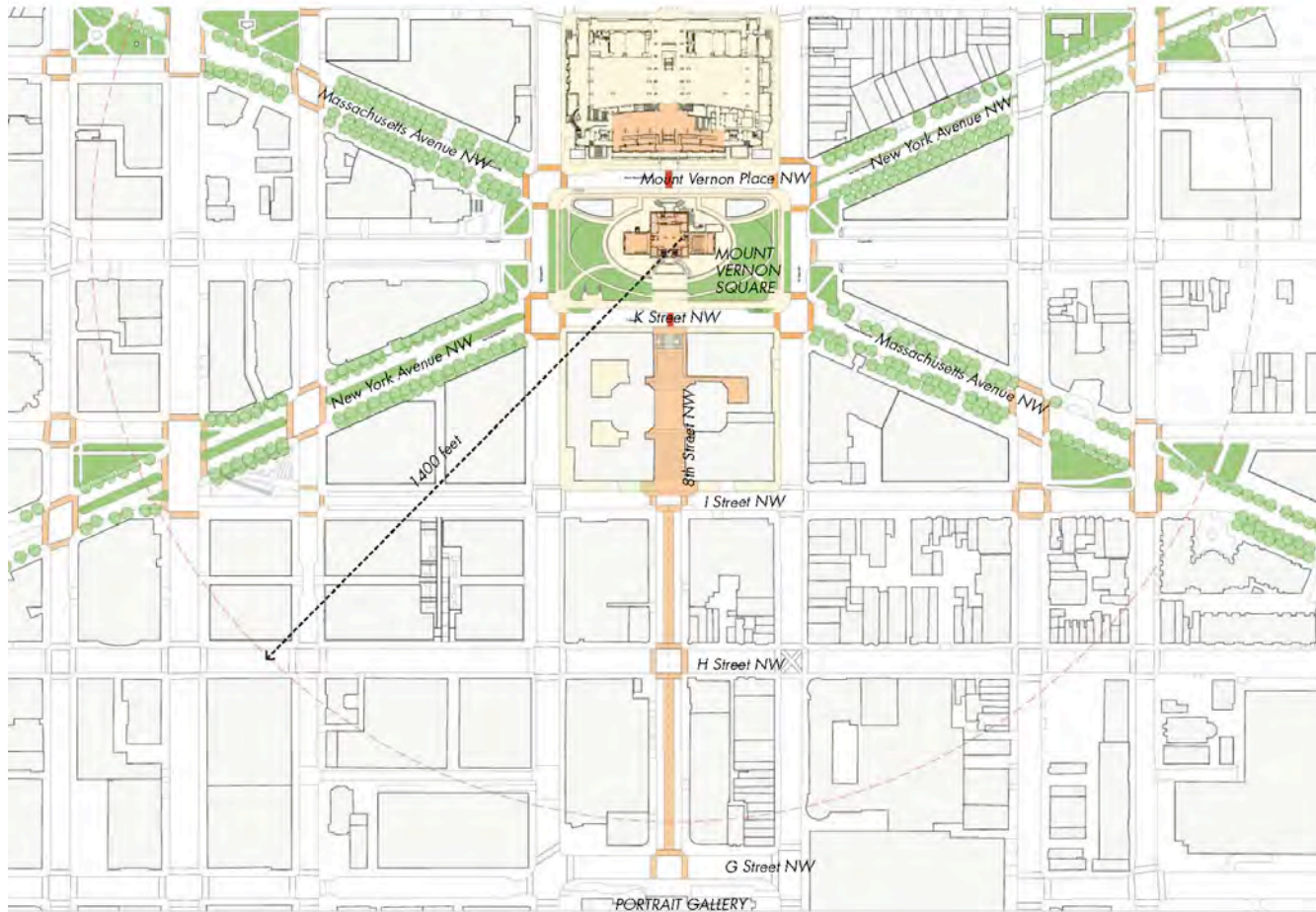
PRIORITY PROJECT

Crosswalks

10

Draft

Create an enhanced pedestrian environment throughout Mount Vernon Square district. Clearly mark pedestrian crosswalks, ensure that signal timing is optimized for safe pedestrian crossing at each location and create a dense tree canopy along major streets and avenues. Use pedestrian signage and crosswalks patterns that are clearly visible to pedestrians *and* motorists.



Enhanced crosswalks at the corners of the Square, mid block crosswalks at Mount Vernon Place and K Street south of the Square

Reconfigured pathways within the square

Restriped crosswalks around the Federal Reservations (the bowtie parks)

A 24' wide median on 8th Street NW

Space for seating and performances on 8th Street NW between K and I Streets NW

Dense tree canopies on New York and Massachusetts Avenues