The concept of developing a bicycle and pedestrian trail along the New York Avenue corridor dates back at least a decade when it was included in the District’s 2005 Bicycle Master Plan, a framework for improving and increasing bicycle facilities in the city. Existing and planned residential and commercial development in Ward 5, particularly along New York Avenue, has prompted renewed interest in the idea of bicycle-oriented transportation. A multi-use trail along New York Avenue is an essential component to improving mobility options and enhancing connectivity between and through Northeast D.C. neighborhoods and is a critical east-west link in developing a city- and region-wide interconnected trail system.

In June 2015, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy produced a draft concept plan for developing a 2.5-mile multi-use trail to seamlessly connect the Metropolitan Branch Trail near the NoMa/New York Avenue Metro station and the U.S. National Arboretum. The project is temporarily referred to as the “New York Avenue Rail-with-Trail” because it is predominantly located between New York Avenue and an active railroad corridor that has served as one of the main gateways into D.C. for more than 100 years. Although this project was identified several years ago, the concept plan is the first effort to formally provide recommendations for trail alignment and design, identify opportunities and challenges, and provide guidance for future trail maintenance and operations. The following pages include a brief summary of select findings and recommendations included in the full report, which were developed with support from Douglas Development Corporation and input from the District Department of Transportation and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6C06.

**DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN SUMMARY**

Rough Cost Estimate: Based on an average cost of $2 million/mile for comparable urban trails with similar design characteristics.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is a national nonprofit headquartered in Washington, D.C. Since 1986, we have worked from coast to coast, supporting the development of more than 22,000 miles of rail-trails for millions to explore and enjoy.

In partnership with:

**Rails-to-Trails Conservancy**

For more information, email: railtrails@railstotrails.org.
The New York Avenue Rail-with-Trail will stretch from L Street and 2nd Street, NE, to the U.S. National Arboretum and is a combination of on- and off-street bicycle facilities. At approximately 2.5 miles, the proposed trail will serve as a direct, largely traffic-free facility for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling through Northeast D.C. and along New York Avenue.

The recommended alignment is mostly located in city and Amtrak-owned rights-of-way but intersects three small properties that are privately owned. The addition of a pedestrian bridge or elevated trail (e.g., New York City’s High Line) across Florida Avenue is illustrated as a preferred trail alignment, but existing and planned on-street bicycle facilities could also serve as trail connectors.

Improved street crossings and development of on-street bike facilities from New York Avenue at Fenwick and 16th Streets, NE, will provide safer, more accessible conditions for non-motorized connections to the U.S. National Arboretum.

View the full report at: railstotrails.org/NYAvRWT.
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