

NCSC MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2024 MEETING ARLINGTON COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLETE STREETS COMMISSION

Draft 3.16.24
Approved 4.15.24

The **NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLETE STREETS COMMISSION** convened its in-person and virtual meeting at **7:03 p.m. on February 12, 2024.**

PRESENT (IN-PERSON) NCSC Member Elisa Ortiz (Chair) (At-Large)
NCSC Member David Ansell (At-Large)
NCSC Member Margarita Brose (At-Large)
NCSC Member Catherine Lewis (At-Large)
NCSC Member Aaron Schutz (Bicycle Advisory Committee)
NCSC Member Steve Wardell (At-Large)
NCSC Member Robert Gerber (At-Large)
NCSC Member Richard Gibson (At-Large)

PRESENT (VIRTUALLY)

ABSENT NCSC Member Giles Crimi (At-Large) due to travel

STAFF Brian Shelton

GUESTS Takis Karantonis, Arlington County Board Member
John Kirkpatrick, ArNAC Chair
Laura Simpson, ANP Program Manager

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

NCSC Chair's Report

Chair Elisa Ortiz opened the meeting noting that no one was present for general public comment. She then asked for approval of the minutes of the last meeting, December 11, 2023. Margarita Brose moved to approve; Steve Wardell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ortiz then shared her report that there had been a response from a County Board Member to the Chair's letter regarding the existing fire code blocking our efforts to complete projects, but that we await a full answer to our issue. She also reminded the commissioners that we need to continue to recruit new members, as we currently have 5 or 6 vacancies, including representatives from ArNAC, the Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Transportation Commission. She noted that the meeting was our planned meeting in the community, rather than our usual meetings in the County Building at Courthouse.

Guest: Liaison to the Arlington County Board, Takis Karantonis

Chair Ortiz introduced our board liaison, County Board Member, Takis Karantonis. Mr. Karantonis shared a number of observations and priorities from his time on the County Board. He noted that half of the letters received by the County Board relate to public safety; responses to these requests needed thought and perhaps innovative ideas. Safe Streets continue to be a focus; however, two years of bad crashes indicate there is still work to be done. Mr. Karantonis shared that he thought that Vision Zero needed to be reconsidered, that is, what is the definition of safe streets? He noted that parking used to be a big issue with the county residents, but now “walkability” is the top topic. He believes we are in the midst of a culture change regarding transportation.

Mr. Karantonis addressed the fire code issue raised by the NCSC. Since 2003, the County has been working with the 20 ft width for emergency vehicles. He cited over 100 projects that are ongoing to address issues with this requirement. The Fire Marshal is in charge of the final decision, and has been looking for solutions, but there has not yet been a decision made.

Mr. Karantonis said he supports the Arlington Neighborhood Advisory Council (ArNAC) attempts to get consensus on approaches to managing car speeds in the neighborhoods (including speed bumps, chicanes, etc.) He noted that the state requires us to follow the Fire Marshal (the Dillon Rule), but there is some adaptability in the approach. Our county Master Transportation Plan says that a 14 ft width is sufficient for our streets, but it’s not clear that is enough to satisfy the state Fire Marshal.

Question re safety/traffic calming – Mr. Karantonis said that congestion mitigation was the number one priority previously, but bills to give the county control over speed limits did not pass in Richmond (during the legislative session). He noted that roundabouts work to calm traffic, but there is a lot of opposition to them.

Arlington Neighborhoods Program (ANP)/Arlington Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ArNAC) Presentation

John Kirkpatrick, ArNAC Chair and Laura Simpson, Arlington Neighborhoods Program Manager, shared a presentation on the work of ANP and ArNAC. The presentation covered a review of the neighborhoods program, ArNAC membership, ANP projects, the ArNAC “implementation framework” and the group’s 2024 priorities. The group is looking forward to coordinating with the NCSC, and shared that two members of ArNAC will be joining our commission. ArNAC is similar to NCSC, in that its projects focus on roads, sidewalks, and similar elements in the neighborhoods.

Presentation: [attached]

New Project Candidates

Michelle Stafford, NCS Program Manager, shared a program update and three potential new projects to the commissioners for their review and prioritization. After the presentation and discussion, Commissioner Schutz moved (and Commissioner Ansell seconded) to prioritize the proposed projects in this order:

1. N Oakland from 5th to 6th (Phase 2)
2. 8th Rd N from Kensington to Jefferson
3. N Oakland from Pershing to 5th (Phase 1)

The motion was passed unanimously.

Presentation: [attached]

MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES

Commissioner Brose moved to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023 Commission meeting.

- Commissioner Wardell seconded the motion.
- The Commission unanimously supported the motion.

Meeting adjourned at **8:47 p.m.**

Presentation on Arlington Neighborhoods Program and Advisory Committee (ANP & ArNAC)

February 12, 2024

Laura Simpson, ANP Section Supervisor
John Kirkpatrick, ArNAC Chair



Agenda

ANP Overview/Organization

ArNAC Membership

ANP Projects

2019-2021 Program Review

ArNAC “Implementation Framework”

ArNAC 2024 Priorities

Questions



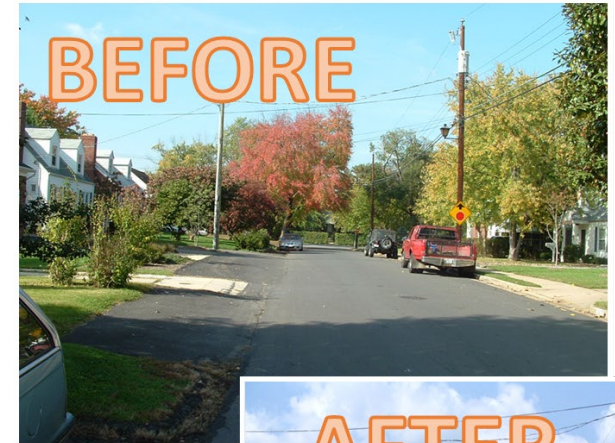
ANP Overview

The Arlington Neighborhoods Program (formerly Neighborhood Conservation Program) helps improve and enhance Arlington neighborhoods.

An important goal is to empower residents by having them come together to discuss and share ideas for improving their neighborhoods.

Today, the program provides funding & construction of:

- ❖ sidewalks
- ❖ curbs and gutters
- ❖ streetlights
- ❖ neighborhood signs
- ❖ park improvements
- ❖ neighborhood art
- ❖ beautification



Implementation Framework efforts are underway to address recommendations made in the 2019 - 2021 Program Review



History

1964 – Neighborhood Conservation Program is created

Residents coming together to address neighborhood issues in collaboration with their county government

- Neighborhood Plans
- Neighborhood Projects

First three participating neighborhoods

- Arlington View (1965)
- Maywood (1965)
- High View Park (1965)

1977 – Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee is created



Organization

ANP within the Arlington County government structure

Department:

CPHD

CPHD Mission Statement

Promoting the improvement, conservation and revitalization of Arlington's physical and social environment.

DES

DES Mission Statement

To make Arlington County a vibrant, accessible and sustainable community through strategic transportation, environmental and capital investment projects, while providing excellent customer service, operations and maintenance in a safe and healthy environment for all.

Division:

**Neighborhood
Services (NSD)**

Transportation

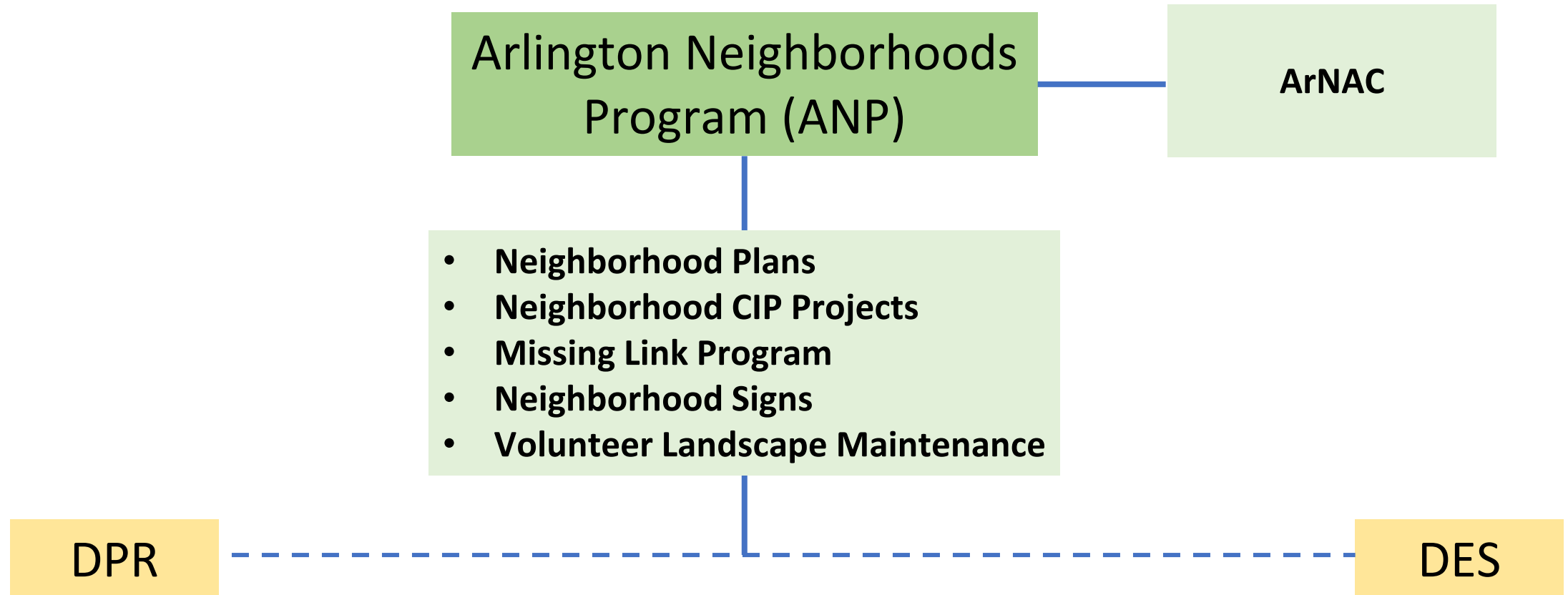
Program:

**Arlington
Neighborhoods
Program (ANP)**

**Neighborhood
Complete Streets(NCS)**



ANP Structure





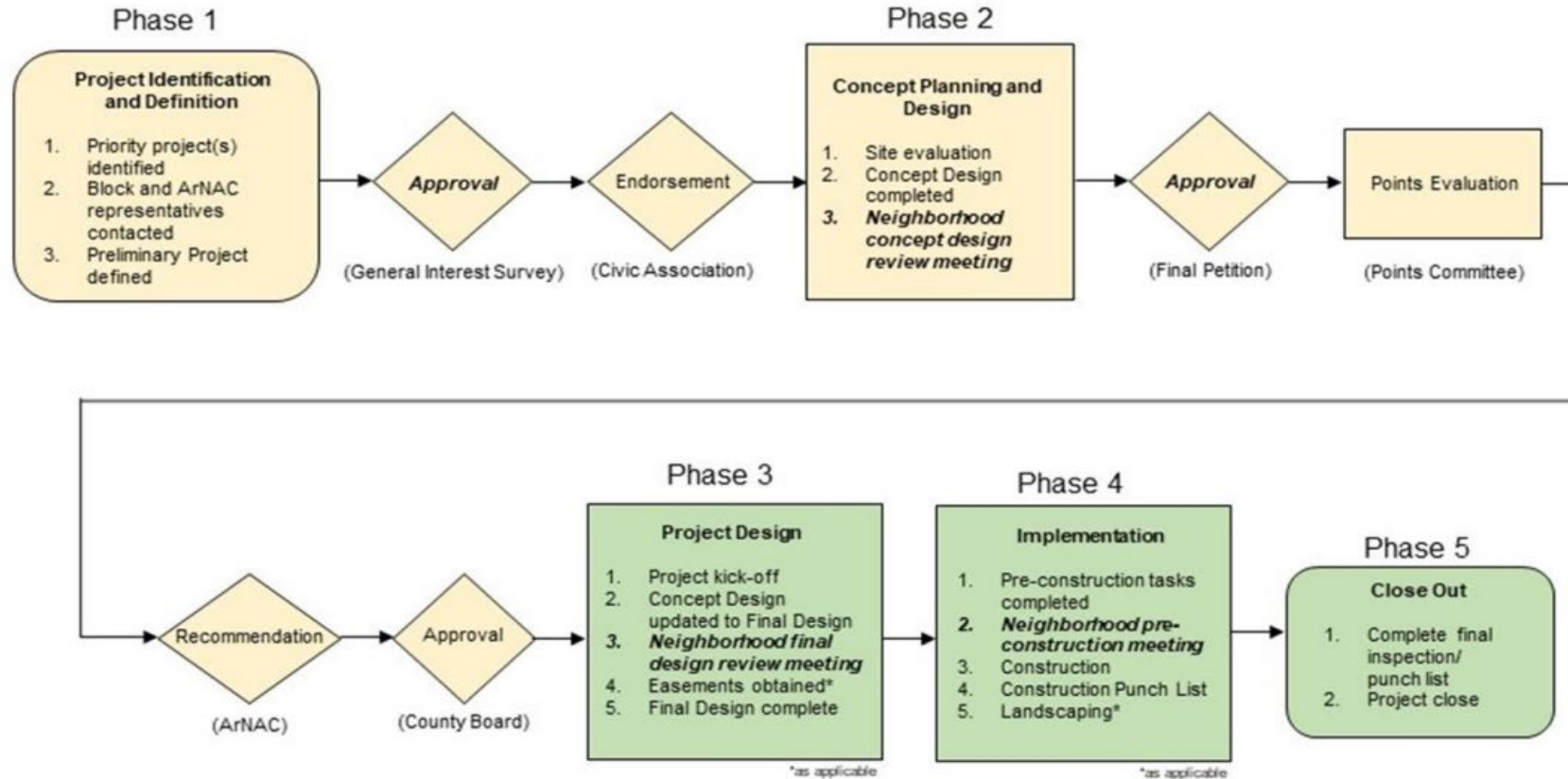
ArNAC Membership

- All Arlington Civic Associations may become voting members by selecting a representative and providing a “Letter of Commitment” to ANP.
- An accepted ANP Plan qualifies the neighborhood to seek ANP funds for specific projects.
- Current active membership includes 45/62 C.A.’s (75%).
 - 3 (5%) are currently inactive; 14 (23%) have never participated
- Executive Committee
 - Two-year terms for each position; officers move up to next position each term
 - Chair: John Kirkpatrick (*Columbia Forest*)
 - Vice Chair: David Litman (*Aurora Highlands*)
 - Deputy Vice Chair: Liz Weir (*Old Dominion*)
- Meets monthly except August (in-person, hybrid, virtual)
- Two funding cycles – June and December – at which ArNAC votes to recommend qualified neighborhood CIP projects to the County Board for funding



ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM – STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROCESS

(Refer to the Spring & Fall Funding Session Schedules for Specific Dates)



SYMBOL KEY		PROJECT STATUS KEY		PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT KEY	
	Start/End		Decision		Process
	Proposed		Active	<i>Bold Italics</i>	Neighborhood involvement/collaboration



ArNAC Fall 2023 Funding Round

1	Waverly Hills	Woodstock Park	Park Improvement	25	70			QUALIFIED
2	Cherrydale	N. Quebec St 17th St N to 20th St N	Street Improvement	30	60			QUALIFIED
3	Arlington Ridge	S. Kent St 20th St S. to 21st St S.	Street Improvement	25	70			QUALIFIED
4	Boulevard Manor	N. Montague St & 1st St N.	Intersection Improvement	25	70			QUALIFIED



ArNAC – Neighborhoods’ 1st Priority List

SPRING 2024 PRELIMINARY PROJECT LIST

Points	Proposed Project Number	Neighborhood	Location	Project Type	New/Update NC Plan (35)(30)(25)(20)	Number of rounds with an unfunded project (10-70)	1st project after a brand new NC plan (5)	Alt. funding source written commitment (5)	Small project bonus \$50K or less (10) \$50K-150K (5)	Follow-on projects identified at the outset of an initial project (5)	Phase of large project/prev. design funded(5)	SW project w/ing existing sw on either side w/traffic volume of 1500 cars/day (5)	SW project which abuts any Arterial(5)	SW project within 1/4 mile of any school(5)	Park Project (5)	POINTS TOTAL	
1	Douglas Park	18th St S - S Nelson St to S Quincy St - Z309	Street Improvement	35	70	5										5	120
2	Long Branch Creek	2700 Blk S. Troy St - S. Glebe Rd to S. Uhle St - Z282	Park Improvement	35	70	5											110
3	Bellevue Forest	N. Pollard St - N. Oakland St to Roberts Lane - Z229	Street Improvement	30	70				5							5	110
4	Foxcroft Heights	Foxcroft Heights Park - 801 S. Oak St - Z317	Park Improvement	30	60											5	95
5	Yorktown	25th Pl N & 25th Rd N - N George Mason Dr to N. Emerson St - Z299	Street Improvement		70							5	5	5			85
6	Donaldson Run	23rd St N - N Vacation Lane to N. Loroom Lane - Z311	Street Improvement		70							5	5	5			85
7	Shirlington	Shirlington Park (2601 S Arlington Mill Dr) - Z326	Pedestrian Safety	20	60											5	85
8	Bluemont	N. Lexington St & Wilson Blvd - Z320	Intersection Improvement	30	50												80
9	Aurora Highlands	21st St S - S. Ives St to S. Joyce St - Z292	Street Improvement		70											5	75
10	Barcroft	S. Pershing Dr. - 4th St S to 6th St S - Z303	Park/ Beautification		70											5	75
11	Leeway Overlee	N John Marshall Dr - 22nd Rd N to 23rd St N - Z291	Street Improvement		70												70
12	Arlington Heights	1st Rd S - S. Glebe Rd to Glebe Rd - Z298	Intersection Improvement		70												70
		800 block of S. Arlington Mill Drive -															



NC Program Review

- In 2019, the County undertook a review of the Arlington Neighborhoods Program, per direction from the County Board.
- Review was led by a County Manager appointed community member and staff working group.
- Review primarily focused on the following areas:
 - ❖ Evaluated how well the program is meeting its core mission
 - ❖ Explored opportunities for process and implementation improvements
 - ❖ Considered the potential role of innovation, and
 - ❖ Investigated ways to better leverage the program's civic engagement components
- The working group completed its review in early 2021.
- The Final Report* was presented to the County Manager in February 2021.

*Arlingtonva.us>Arlington Neighborhoods Program Review



NC Program Review Key Takeaways

- The Arlington Neighborhoods Program is a Valuable Asset
 - ❖ Its bottom-up nature complements other County programs that select projects through different methods and are pursued on the County’s timeline
 - ❖ The Program offers a means for residents to:
 - surface needs through resident-led planning
 - implement their community’s goals through neighborhood improvements
 - ❖ ArNAC serves as a conduit between County leadership and the community, and AN Plans offer “on the ground knowledge” for other planning efforts
- ANP Projects have made a significant impact across the County.
- The number of projects and level of investment are generally spread across the County.
- ANP projects are no more expensive from start to finish than comparable DES projects designed and built by the County.



NC Program Review (NCPR) – areas for improvement

- Available funding to the program is not keeping pace with increased project costs, severely limiting the production rate.
- Program name is misleading and evokes a sense of neighborhood protection and preservation.
- Program design generally favors homeowners.
- Projects are susceptible to stalls, changes, or stops from opposition by residents directly adjacent to project locations.
- Neighborhood Plans don't necessarily influence or align with County planning and infrastructure development efforts, and they take several years to complete.





NC Program Review (NCPR) Equity Considerations*

Who Benefits from ANP projects?

AN Program projects are evenly distributed across the County, **except** over the last 10-20 years there has been less even distribution in areas with a concentration of **households with the most limited resources**.

Homeowners - BIPOC households are much more likely than White households (70% vs. 50%) to be renters than homeowners.

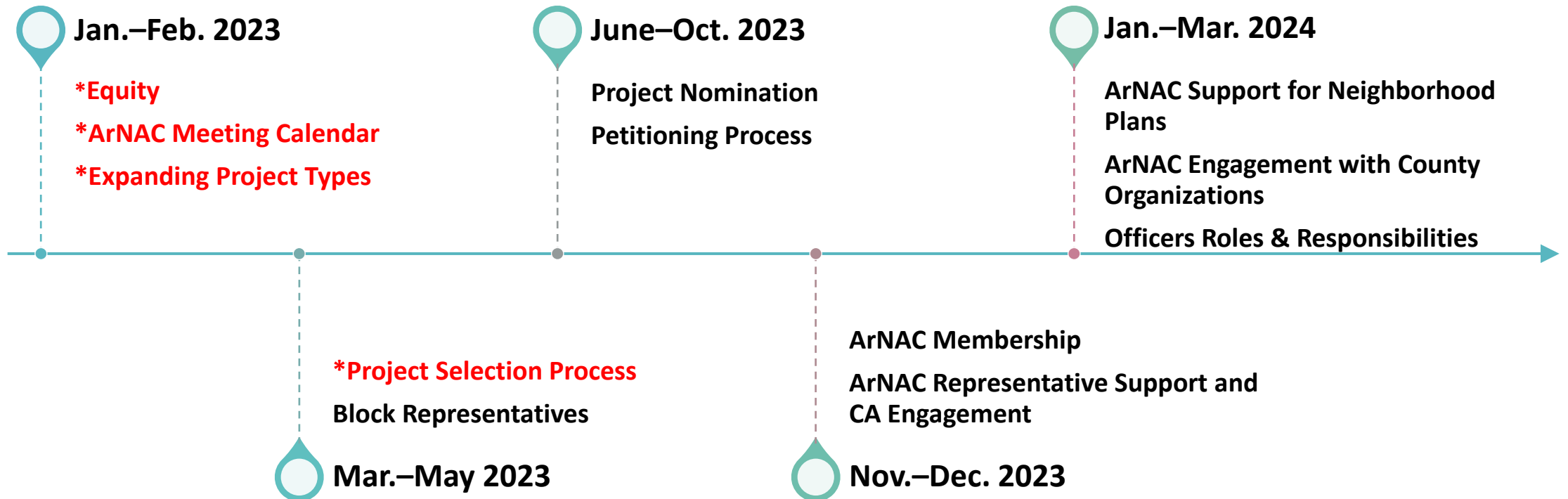
Approximately two out of every three people living in areas with a high concentration of households with limited resources are BIPOC (64%).

**At the time of the NCPR, Arlington Neighborhood Program was CPHD's pilot program to undergo racial and social equity analysis.*



ArNAC – ANP Program Review “Implementation Framework” efforts

*ArNAC IF efforts have been led by David Litman, currently the ArNAC Vice Chair
Preliminary process ideas have been presented to ArNAC for most of the items below.
Framework progress was impacted in 2023 by unanticipated staff changes.*



***2023 Focus**



ArNAC – “Expanding Project types”

- Non-capital projects; will not replace existing capital project types
- Gathered input from ArNAC and community
 - Presentations, brainstorming, on-line feedback form, in-person event
 - 200 people, 39 neighborhoods participated
- ArNAC reviewed and narrowed to 9 categories:
 - Clean-up and Beautification
 - Art
 - Environmental Impact and Plants & Trees
 - Stormwater
 - Road Safety
 - Public Safety
 - Small Structures
 - Pedestrian and Bicyclist Amenities
 - Neighborhood Resources, Information, Communication
- ArNAC feedback currently under review by ANP staff

Arlington Neighborhoods Program New Projects Brainstorm FEEDBACK OVERVIEW

Online Feedback Form

From March 22 to April 5, Arlington County collected ideas from the community to brainstorm potential projects to be offered through the Arlington Neighborhoods Program.

In-Person Feedback

In April, ArNAC, civic association leaders, and other commission representatives attended an open house to flesh out ideas received in the online feedback form and see which might be possible through the Arlington Neighborhoods Program. Participants could access interactive and educational stations during the event to provide additional feedback.

Comments and project ideas fell into eleven categories:

- Home Improvements
- Stormwater Management
- Road Safety
- Public Spaces
- Small Structures
- Art
- Lighting
- Clean-up & Beautification
- Plants & Trees
- Pedestrian & Bicyclist Amenities
- Communication/Information/Resources

Categories with most interest at the open house:

- Plants and Trees
- Road Safety
- Pedestrian Bicyclist Amenities

Who participated?

213 participants in the online feedback form

37 external attendees at in-person event

Of the feedback form responses, **83%** were from Arlington residents:

39 neighborhoods were represented between the two opportunities to engage.

Online comments with the most upvotes:

- Encourage planting more trees and enhancing the tree canopy and green spaces around all residential area. 87
- Offer more stadium lights over grass parks and fields like the tennis courts, baseball fields, and turf fields. 72
- Bird and BAT boxes! Bats eat mosquitoes and finding some places to put bat boxes would benefit the overall population. 69
- Work with churches to reforest their large grounds, which are now typically in lawn grass. Reforestation with native vegetation would restore habitat for native pollinators while improving stormwater functions. 68

To learn more or share new ideas, contact your neighborhood's ArNAC representative.

2024 ArNAC Priorities

Refine Equity Approach

Finalize Project Selection Process

Focus on remaining IF items

ArNAC subcommittees



Questions

NCSC – Staff Updates

February 12, 2024

Michelle Stafford – NCS Program Manager



NCS Portfolio Summary

Program Successes

Completed - 4 Pilot Projects

Completed - 2 Capital Projects

In Progress - 2 Capital Projects

In Design – 5 Capital Projects

~\$4.25m in CIP funds spent or allocated to approved projects



Effects on NCS Top Ranked Streets

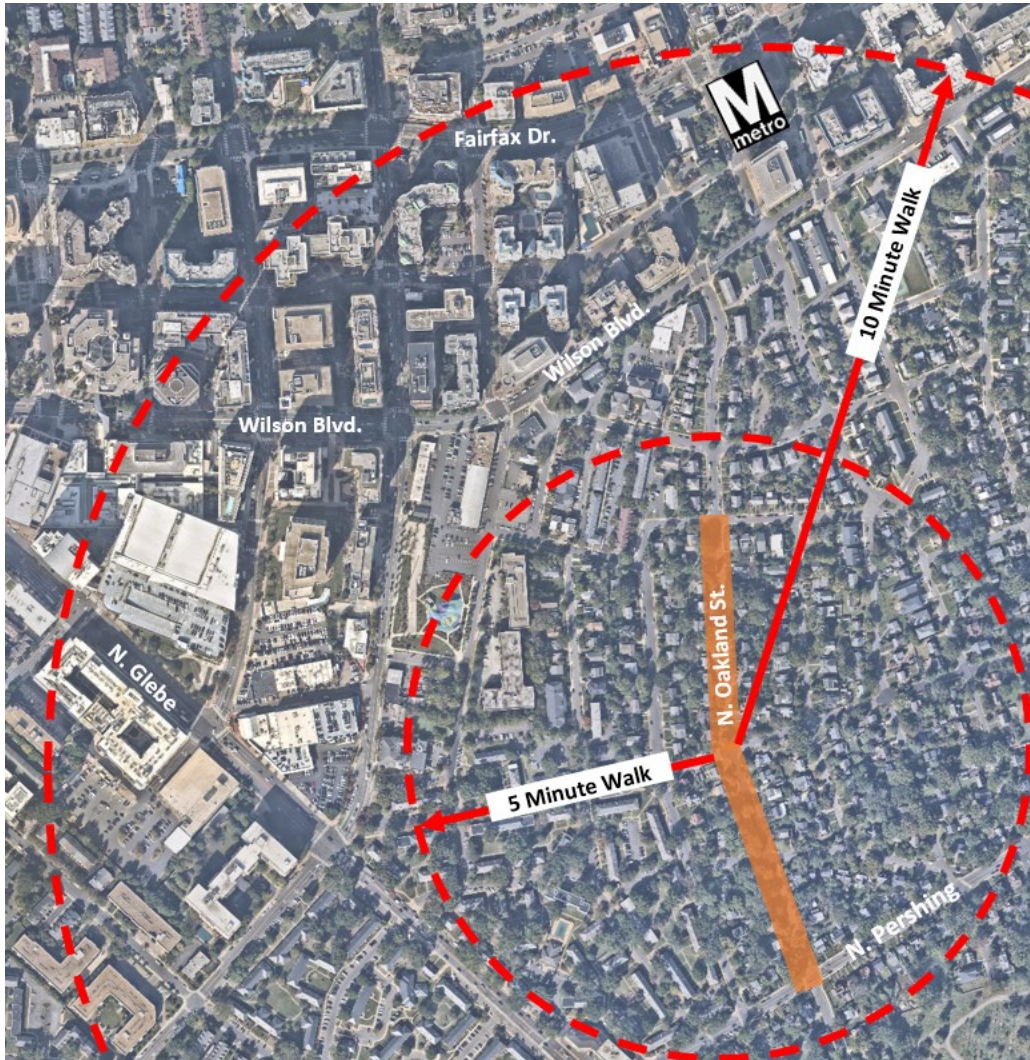
Street Name	From St	To St	Neighborhood/CA	ROW	Exist. St Width	Total Score	Within Walking Distance
N Oakland St	N Pershing Rd	6th Rd N	Ashton Heights	50'	32'	53	Virginia Square & Ballston
N Quinn St	21st St N	Langston Blvd	North Highlands	41-50'	29-34'	50	Rosslyn
S Dinwiddie St	Walter Reed Dr	George Mason Dr	Claremont	49-70'	34-40'	46	Wakefield HS
N Wakefield St*	Wilson Blvd	Carlin Springs Rd	Bluemont	30'	26'	45	Ballston
8th Rd N	N Jefferson St	Kensington	Bluemont	49'	34'	45	Ashlawn ES, Bluemont Park
12th St S*	S Glebe Rd	Walter Reed Dr	Douglas Park	40'	25'	45	Columbia Pike, USPS, Drafthouse
13th St N	N Kansas St	N Quincy St	Ballston - Virginia Square	42-46'	27-34'	43	YMCA, GMU, Virginia Square, W&L
N Van Buren St	18th St N	19th Rd N	Arlington East Falls Church	50'	27'	42	AEFC Metro, Benjamin Banneker Park
N Trinidad St	26th St N	Little Falls Rd	Arlington East Falls Church	58-61'	43'	42	Bishop O'Connel HS, Tuckahoe ES
18th St N	N Quantico St	N Ohio St	Highland Park - Overlee Knolls	50'	33-36'	42	AEFC Metro, Benjamin Banneker Park
N Quantico St	Washington Blvd	18th St N	Highland Park Overlee Knolls	45-50'	23-31'	42	AEFC Metro, Benjamin Banneker Park

Blue locations are missing sidewalk

* Shared Street Pilot Project

Full list: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/2/commissions/documents/ncsc/ncs-nomination-scoring-matrix-jan-2024.pdf>

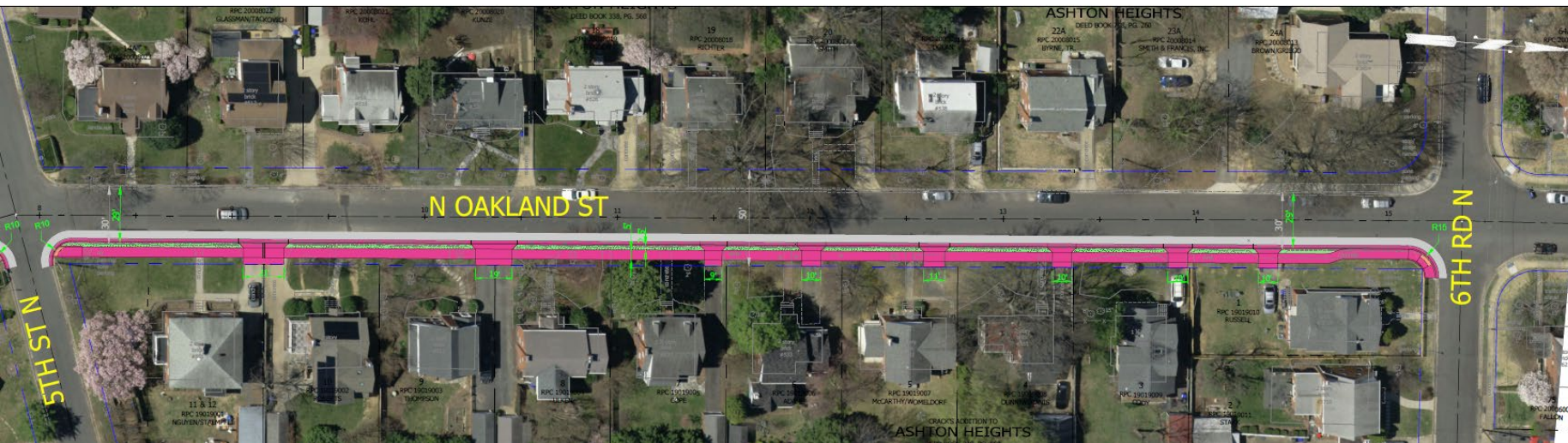
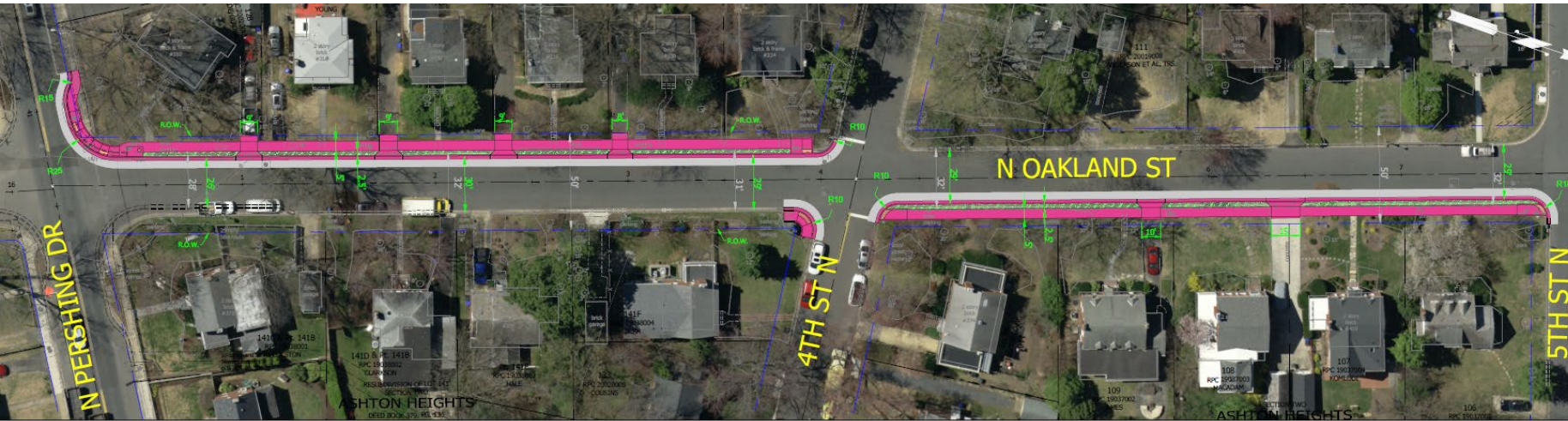
N Oakland Street – N Pershing Dr to 6th Rd N



- N. Oakland Street is within walking distance to
- Virginia Square Metro and Transit stops
 - Parks
 - Museums
 - Rosslyn-Ballston and Ballston Quarter Shops



N Oakland Street – N Pershing Dr to 6th Rd N



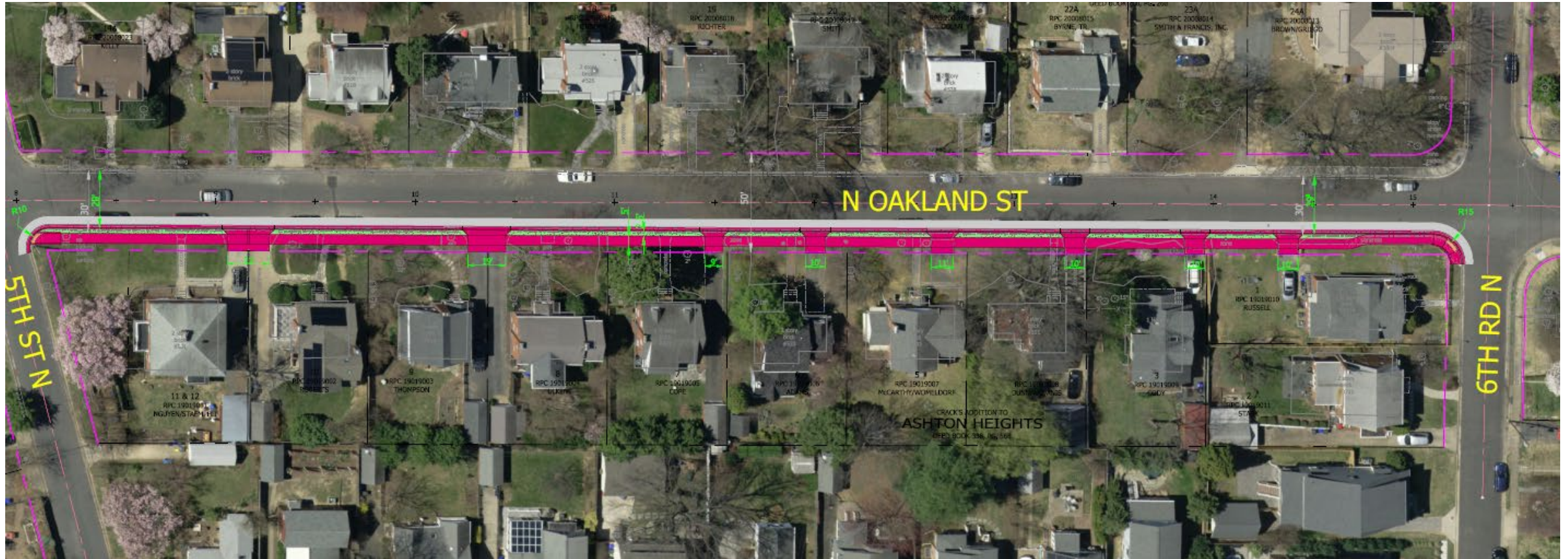
- Existing conditions: 50' ROW, 32' street width, 18' clear width, 2-way street, parking on both sides
- NC proposed sidewalk 2014: 29' wide/15' clear width (failed final petition)
- NCS considered in 2023 & updated design concept
- \$1.635M cost estimate (did not advance the project)

Phased Option 1: Pershing to 5th St N



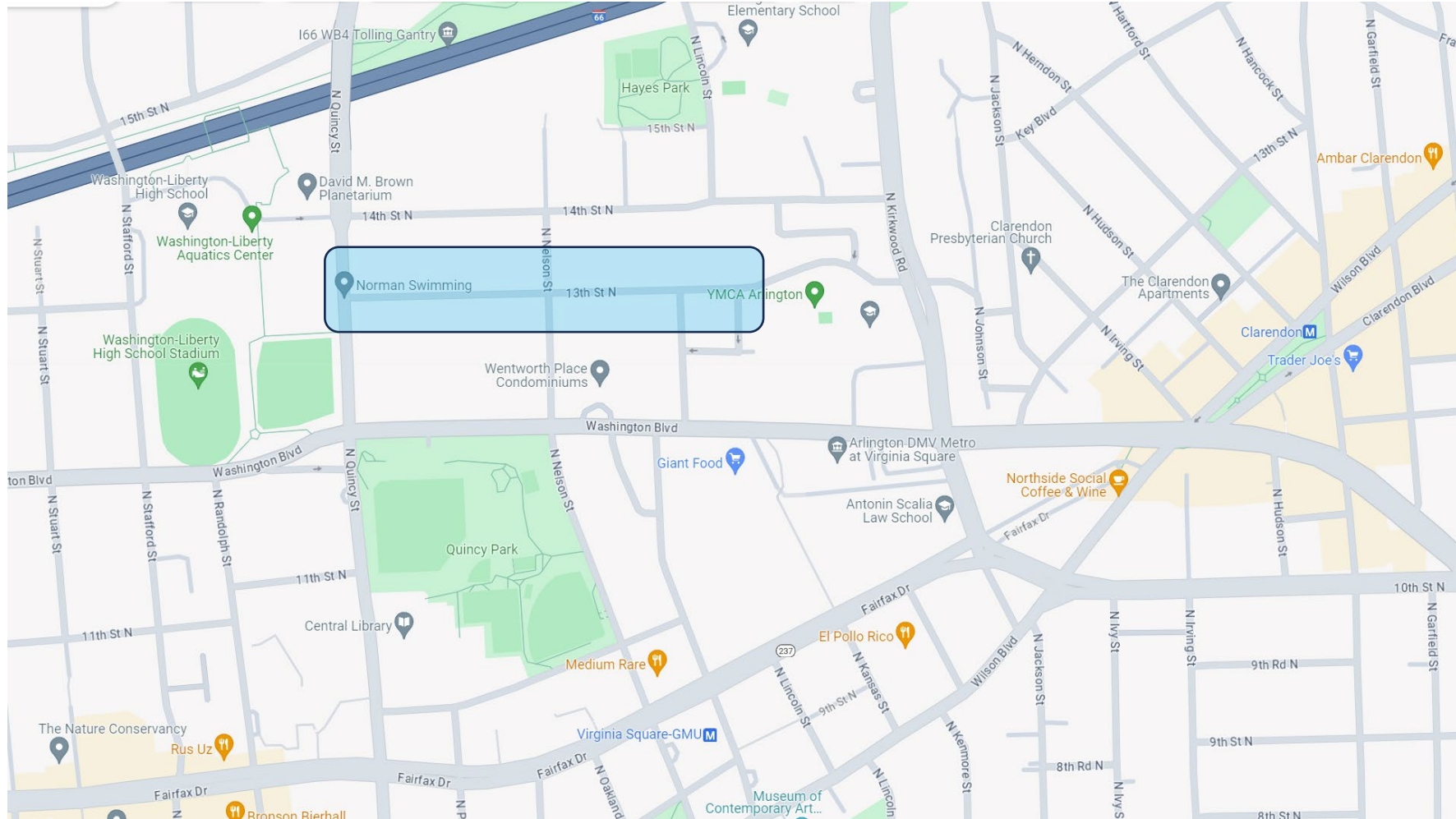
- Preliminary cost estimate: \$1,280,000

Phased Option 2: 5th St N to 6th Rd N



- Preliminary cost estimate: \$970,000

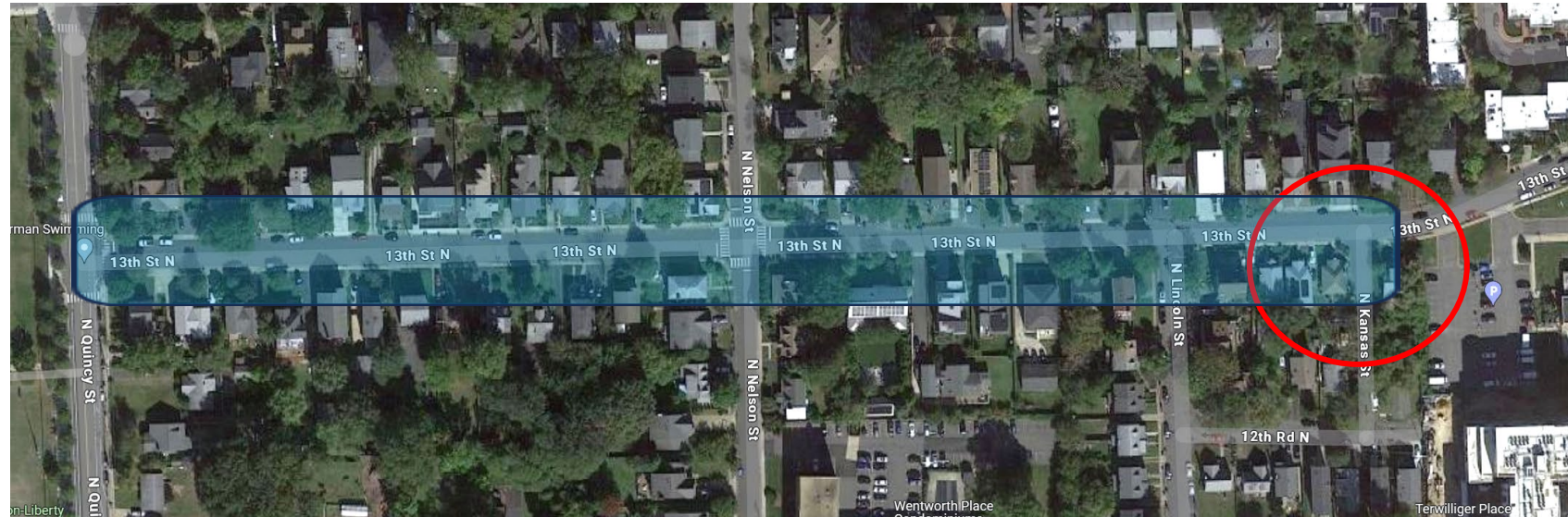
13th St N – N Quincy St to N Kansas St



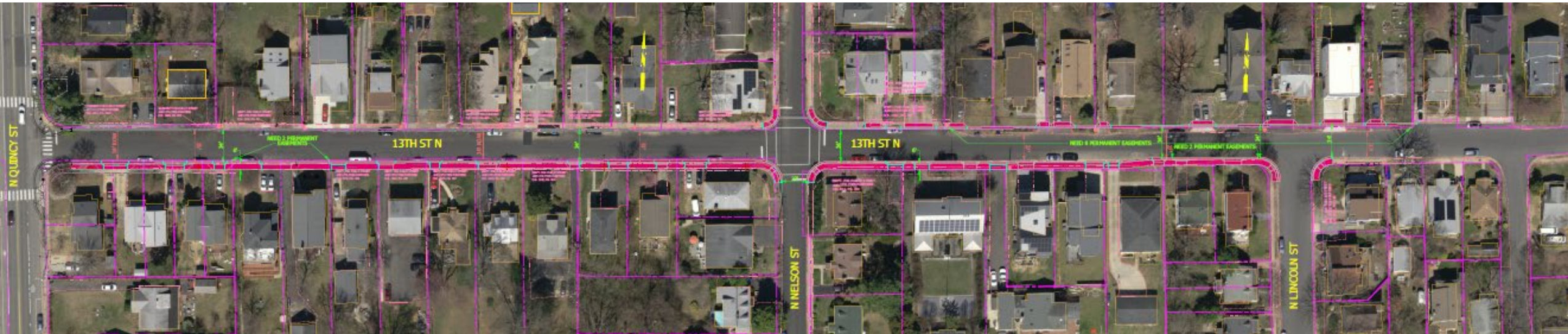
- Located close to W&L, parks, Clarendon and Virginia Sq Metro, Washington Blvd and Wilson Blvd, GMU and the Custis Trail
- Complete S/W with obstructions on south side of street, partial S/W with obstructions on N side
- Colonial streetlights between Nelson & Quincy. Cobras between Kansas & Nelson

13th St N – N Quincy St to N Kansas St

- YMCA redevelopment site plan in the pipeline
- Could include changes to alignment of N Kansas St - recommend avoiding this block, but could keep on the list
- Improvements could focus on N Lincoln to N Quincy St, sidewalk accessibility improvements on the south side of the street

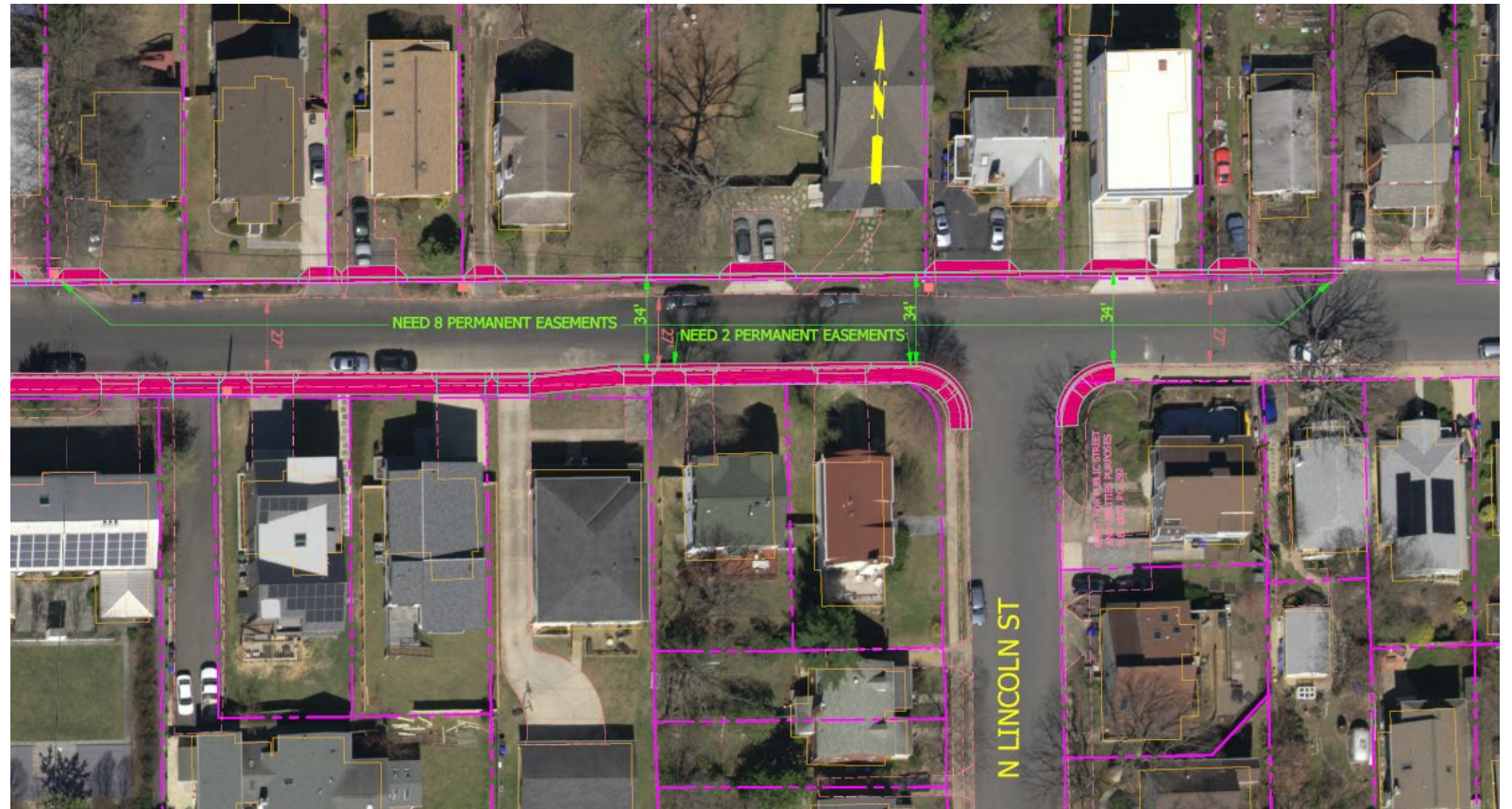
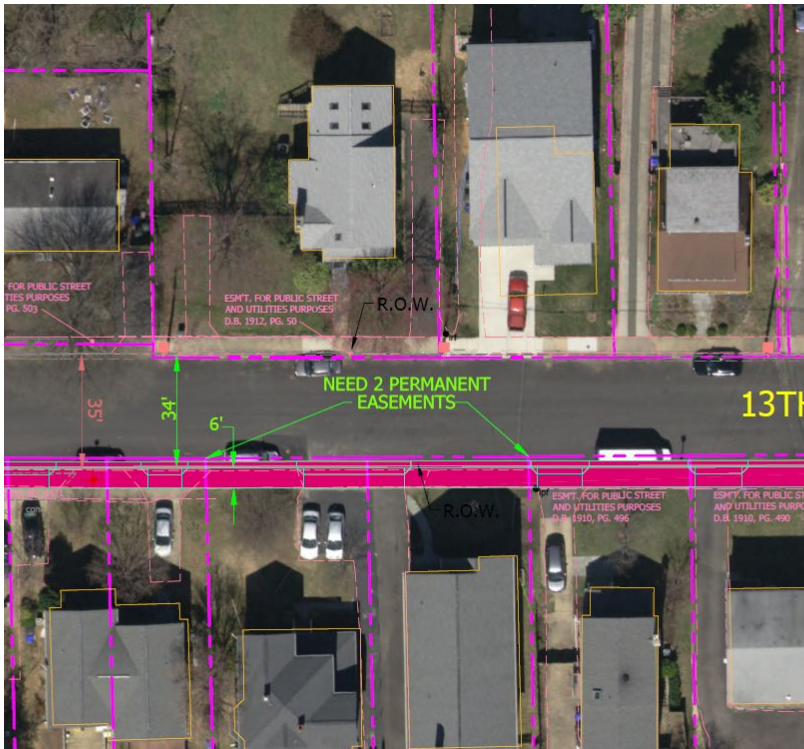


13th St N – N Quincy to N Lincoln St



- Not possible to move existing colonial lights into curb extensions similar to S Irving St design (eliminated much of parking, defeating the purpose)
- New accessible sidewalk proposed on south side of the street with potential need for 4 permanent easements. Replaces colonial lights with new LED cobras mounted onto existing utility poles. Potential parking reduction
- Option to pursue completing the curb and gutter on the north side of the street which would help to widen the street into consistent alignment, but may involve 8 additional permanent easements

13th St N – N Quincy to N Lincoln St

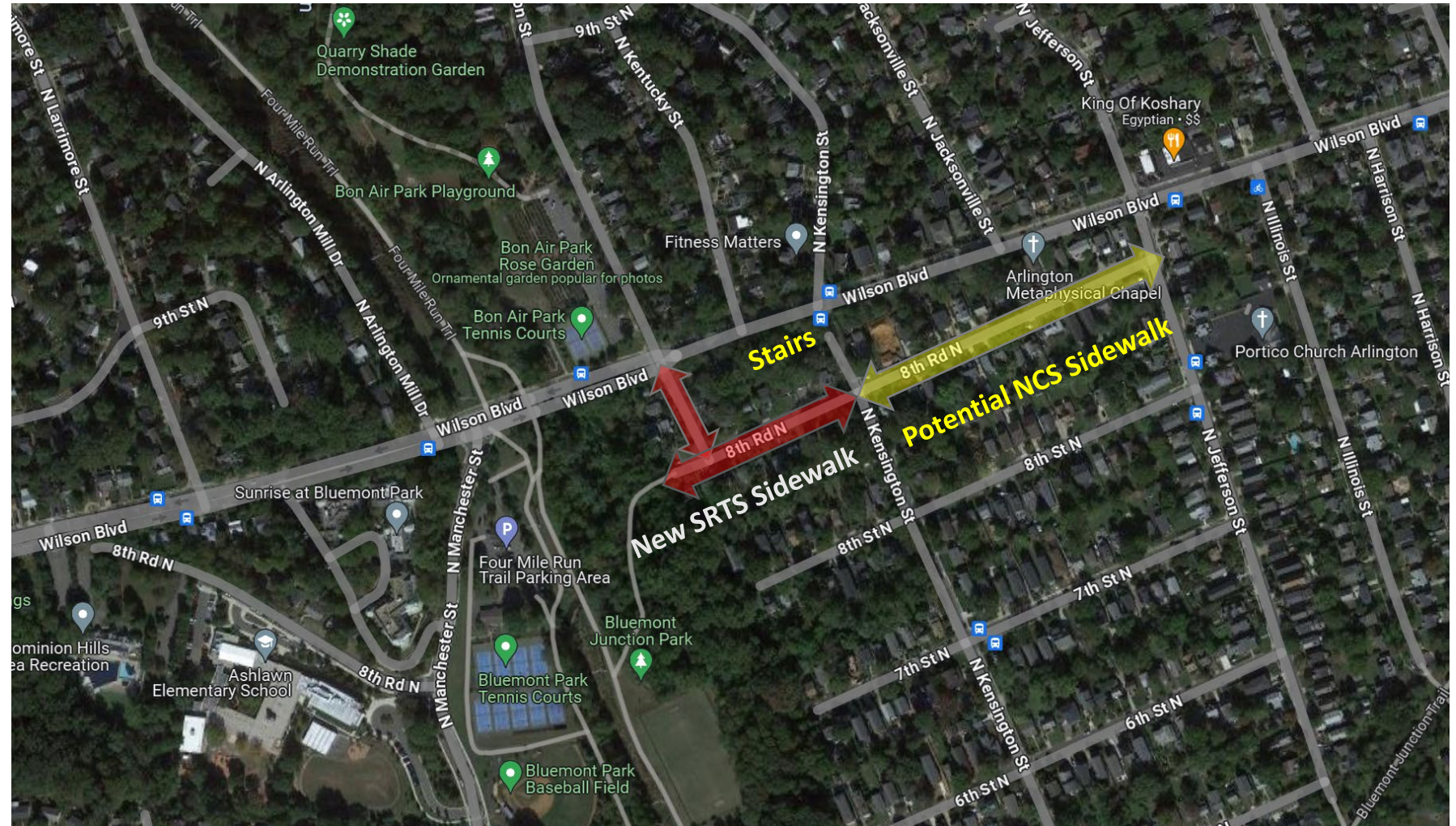


■ Preliminary cost estimate:

- \$694,000 south side of street/sidewalk only
- \$1,024,000 south side sidewalk + north side curb & gutter completion

8th Road N – Jefferson to Kensington Streets N

- Continuation of recent SRTS project from Kensington to Lexington and to Wilson Blvd
- Close to Ashlawn ES, Bluemont & Bon Air Parks, 4MR & Bluemont Junction Trails
- No sidewalk on either side



8th Road N – Jefferson to Kensington Streets N

- Potential tree issues could impact design: alter side of the street designated for sidewalk, width of sidewalk, materials or methods around one tree in particular



8th Road N – Jefferson to Kensington Streets N



- Preliminary cost estimate: \$843,000

NCS Financial Summary

Project #	Current Project "Account"	Current Funding Remaining
NS	NS Holding	\$ 21,000
NSXX	For tactical and pilot projects	\$ 316,000
NS08	S. Irving St. (from 6th St. S. to 7th S in Arlington Heights)	\$ 588,000
NS09	28th St S to S Meade St Ped Improvements	\$ 752,000
NS10	N Fairfax Dr from Arlington Blvd to N Barton St	\$ 78,000
NS11	9th Street S - Highland and Walter Reed	\$ 31,000
NS12	14th Street N - McKinley to N Ohio St Improvements	\$ 451,000
NS13	8th Road S - S Dinwiddie St to S Frederick St Improvements	\$ 423,000
NS14	S Irving St - 2nd Street N to 6th Street N Improvements	\$ 405,000

Project Option	Preliminary Cost Estimate
North Oakland Street Phase 1	\$ 1,280,000
North Oakland Street Phase 2	\$ 970,000
13 th Street North	\$ 694,000
13 th Street North + curb	\$ 1,024,000
8 th Road North	\$ 843,000

FY23-FY32 Approved CIP	Estimated Funding*
FY2025	\$ 1,305,000
FY2026	\$ 1,335,000

*Based on approved FY2023-2032 CIP & includes carryover funding for NS12, NS13 & NS14
 Also doesn't include cost savings from completed projects, or any potential increases in the request

Capital Projects Updates

- **S Irving St** (sidewalk) Plans are close to 100% design submittal; coordinating with the owners who will have new retaining walls to receive their approval. If all goes well with the easement agreements, we anticipate construction to begin Summer 2024. <Zuhra Malik>
- **28th St S** – Signed final plans and LDA permit approved, have signed temporary easements from property owners (Park Ridge I and II) approved by the County Manager’s office. On call contractor assigned. Primary goal is to get a PO by the end of March, which is when the current contract expires (prices likely to increase with contract extension). Anticipate construction to begin in June/July. <Zuhra Malik>
- **14th St N** – In 30% design with scope expanded to include all four corners of 14th & McKinley. Working on securing one necessary easement. Currently targeting spring 2025 construction. <Kyle Kling>
- **8th Rd S** – assigned to a designer who is working on developing the 30% plans <Rene Harris>
- **S Irving St (Streetlight/curb extensions)** - no changes to report, in design with the Engineering Bureau <Rene Harris>
- **N Fairfax St** – markings completed, only tree planting remains for the spring
- **9th St S (driveway apron)** – WSS crew assigned but unable to construct due to staging of materials/equipment by Washington Gas. Working to find a time when the materials can be relocated

NCSC – Staff Updates

February 12, 2024

Michelle Stafford – NCS Program Manager

