

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF PLANNING



Van Ness Vision Framework

Van Ness Vision Framework Description

The Office of Planning (OP) has initiated a visioning process to complement a series of projects undertaken by the Van Ness Vision Committee. The Van Ness Vision Framework is a strategic planning initiative where residents, local businesses, institutions, and property owners will work together to articulate a vision for the future of the Van Ness commercial core. The project will focus on retail, urban design, public realm and sustainability.

This will be a focused, community-based project that consolidates recommendations and goals into a single, easily understood graphic framework that will guide development in the coming years. The Vision Framework will build on insight from previous planning studies of the retail market and streetscape to articulate a realistic development approach to achieve a **more diverse retail environment and vibrant public realm**.

Study Area

The Van Ness Vision Framework will focus on the areas along Connecticut Avenue from Van Ness Street NW to Albemarle Street NW. This area is the Van Ness Commercial Core centered on the Van Ness UDC metro station. The study area is home to several institutions including the University of the District of Columbia, Fannie Mae, and WAMU. Retail tenants include a range of business including Giant, Starbucks, Bread Furst, Acacia Bistro, and Zips Dry Cleaners. The area is surrounded by a diversity of housing including high rise apartments, single family homes, and condos.



Project Goals and Objectives

The Van Ness Vision Framework will produce an actionable roadmap to foster a more diverse retail environment and vibrant public realm. First, the project team will conduct an existing conditions analysis and highlight the findings in a *Van Ness Profile/Playbook*. The *Profile/Playbook* will establish baseline about the community's market position, development opportunity areas, urban design, and retail management opportunities. A Community Workshop, an interactive and highly participatory event, will be held on January 31, 2015, where the basis of the Vision Framework will be developed through a facilitated process. After the workshop, the Office of Planning Project Team will build on the Workshop's conclusions to produce a draft *Vision Framework* document. This document will be reviewed by the project's stakeholders and their comments will be incorporated into a final *Vision Framework* document.

Community Engagement

Over the coming months, community members and stakeholders will have a range of forums to share their vision for the future of Van Ness. The most comprehensive forum will be a Community Workshop on January 31st, where stakeholders will be encouraged to share their perspectives on Van Ness's future. Additionally, a series of office hours will be held in the weeks preceding the workshop. Finally, stakeholders are encouraged to provide input throughout the entire process online at vanness.mindmixer.com. All input collected will be used to craft the "Van Ness Vision Framework".

1. Community Workshop: 1/31/2015
2. MindMixer: <http://vanness.mindmixer.com/>
3. Web Page : <http://planning.dc.gov/vanness>
4. Office Hours:
 - a. Friday December 12th, 2014, 10am-noon, at Bread Furst
 - b. Wednesday January 14th 2015, at Acacia Bistro 4-7
 - c. Thursday January 15th 2015, 10am-noon at the Van Ness Starbucks
 - d. Thursday January 22nd 2015, at UDC 4-7

For more information Contact:

Ryan Hand

Ward 3 Community Planner | DC Office of Planning

1100 4th Street SW, Suite 650, Washington DC 20024

p:(202) 442-7619 | e: ryan.hand@dc.gov