

VAN NESS

COMMERCIAL DISTRICT ACTION STRATEGY

The study area follows **Connecticut Avenue** from **Van Ness Street NW** to the south and **Albemarle Street NW** to the north. The study area focuses on the **Van Ness Commercial District** anchored by the **Van Ness Metro Station**.

Objective

To provide a forum for residents, local businesses, institutions, and property owners to work together on a vision and implementation strategy to realize a vibrant and successful commercial district with more diverse retail, improved public space, and enhanced environmental sustainability.



Van Ness Commercial District Action Strategy Boundary

The Office of Planning (OP) launched the Van Ness Commercial District Action Strategy to build on prior Office of Planning initiatives and to complement a series of efforts undertaken by the Van Ness Vision Committee, an offshoot from ANC 3F. The project is a strategic planning initiative where residents, local businesses, institutions, and property owners will work together to form a vision for the future of the Van Ness commercial district. The project focuses on the following topics: retail, public space / streetscape, sustainability, and commercial opportunities.

The Vision Framework is a community-based initiative that consolidates and builds upon the recommendations and goals from previous studies including, the Vibrant Retail Streets Toolkit and Van Ness - UDC Commercial Corridor Enhancement Study. The Framework is complemented by a concurrent Green Infrastructure study from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. The Green Infrastructure study that will be a vessel for early implementation of Vision Framework.

To view the plan and learn more visit <http://planning.dc.gov>





Project Process and Deliverables

The Van Ness Vision Framework will produce an actionable roadmap to improve retail, enhance sustainability, and foster a more vibrant public realm along the Van Ness Commercial Core. An Advisory Committee comprised of ANC Commissioners, residents, business owners, UDC representatives, and property owners has guided the project's development and outreach.

This project has three primary deliverables: a community profile, a workshop, and a Vision Framework document.

The community profile is a synthesized existing conditions report that is graphically depicted. The profile was used as the "text book" for a community workshop held in Van Ness on January 31st. At the workshop, community stakeholders provided feedback on approaches to improving the streetscape and public space, sustainability, and retail. Feedback from the workshop combined with information gathered through a series of four community "office hours" and an on-line engagement website will be used to produce the Van Ness Vision Framework. The Vision Framework expresses the community's vision and an implementation framework for achieving the vision. The advisory committee and the community more broadly will be encouraged to provide comments on a draft of the Vision Framework before the final document is published.