



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
George Washington Memorial Parkway

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# Memorial Circle Transportation Plan and Environmental Assessment

## Conceptual Drawings from Charrette Public Comment Period from March 3 to 10, 2015

On February 25 & 26, 2015 George Washington Memorial Parkway staff hosted a design charrette (a drawing workshop) as part of the Memorial Circle Transportation Plan and Environmental Assessment project development process. On Tuesday March 3, 2015 the park hosted an open house to display the results of the charrette. The park is also posting the conceptual drawings from the charrette for public comment from March 3 to 10, 2015.

The charrette included stakeholders from National Park Service, National Capital Region, Federal Highway Administration, Virginia Department of Transportation, National Capital Planning Commission, Commission of Fine Arts, Arlington County, City of Alexandria, and the Arlington National Cemetery. The participants formed four groups with a variety of professional expertise in each group. The conceptual drawings from the charrette include direct responses to public scoping comments submitted to the park in August-September 2014.

In Spring 2015, these concepts will be subjected to additional analysis to ensure that all the ideas that move forward meet the project goals and address concerns from the public. The concepts that move forward will be developed into draft alternatives. The draft alternatives will be presented to the public for comments as part of the NEPA compliance process. We expect the public review of the draft alternatives to occur in Fall 2015.

The below is a list of the image numbers associated to the concepts along with explanations of the key and unique items in each image file.

### **Group 3**

Img\_0771

- Low build option
- Lane reductions
- Addition of lighting at trail crossings
- Focus on trail crossing locations and rapid flashing beacons
- Increase trail width
- Addition of textured pavement in the circle

Img\_0772

- Group goals

#### Img\_0773

- Removal of 50 N bypass
- Widen trail under bridge
- Add slip lanes at circle
- Two way traffic in existing GW Parkway S corridor
- Add traffic signal (low and out of view shed)

#### Img\_0775

- Minimal build option
- Add slip lanes at circle

#### Img\_0776

- Realigned traffic entering the circle
- New circulation to align with circle
- More traffic enters circle to navigate around
- MVT north side connection with tunnel
- Two way traffic in existing GW Parkway S corridor

#### Img\_0777

- Lengthen N bound 50 merge ramp
- 50 N bound merges with mainline of GW Parkway earlier
- New MVT north and south trail connections

#### Img\_0778

- Working drawing that led to Img\_0776

#### Img\_0779

- Remove 50 N bypass lane
- Widen trail under bridge
- Add illumination at crossings
- Realign trail connection on S side to MVT
- Remove one lane and narrow crossing

## Group 4

#### Img\_0780

- Realign entrances to circle on N and S sides
- Remove 50 N bypass lane
- Widen trail under bridge
- Create trail connection along 110 to Pentagon
- Create grade separation connections to MVT

#### Img\_0781

- Southbound GW Parkway & Rt 27 realign to go through circle
- Create more open space
- Remove 110 exit ramp up to Memorial Ave
- Simplify crossing to MVT under bridge with traffic calming device

Img\_0782

- Create trail connection along 110 to Pentagon
- 2 grade separation connections to MVT
- Cross walk controls at circle
- Simplify flow
- Add slip lanes at circle

## Group 2

Img\_0783

- Reduce speed in area
- Significant vehicle realignment at circle– pull vehicles away from river
- Provide MVT access on both sides of bridge
- 110 ramps reconfigured – give real estate back to cemetery

Img\_0784 - 0787

- Group goals

Img\_0788

- Realign roads with most traffic going through circle
- Bike/Ped tunnels
- Remove 110 exit to Memorial Ave
- MVT extended into next arch span of Memorial Bridge

Img\_0789

- Low build option
- Add rubble strips at crossings
- Add cobbles in pavement
- Add lane identification on pavement
- Realign some merge points/ramps
- Change 110 intersection to a hard right turn

Img\_0790

- Medium build option
- Realign N bound GW and 50 merges on both sides of circle
- Simplify trail on south side of circle and connection to MVT

Img\_0791

- Low build option
- Speed reduction
- Bollard lighting
- Differing surface treatments for trails/sidewalks/motorways
- Minor trail realignment to slow speeds at crossings

Img\_0792

- Significant road realignment with new entry points into/out of circle
- Grade separation trail connections to MVT
- Open space created along river

Img\_0793

- Overpasses to get to MVT on both sides of Memorial Bridge
- Redesign of circle, similar to 1940's design with an oval
- Remove 110 exit ramp to Memorial Ave

## **Group 1**

Img\_0794

- Experiment in what would circle look like if there were only GW Parkway and Memorial Ave

Img\_0795

- Reduce speed
- Add pavement markings
- Automated traffic enforcement
- Educate public on social trail damage
- Restore planting elements to historic landscape plans
- Improve signage

Img\_0797

- Working drawing to pay tribute to historic designs with oval to relieve pressure on circle

Img\_0798

- Realign traffic coming into and exiting circle
- Grade separation of trails at circle and to MVT on the south side of bridge
- Reduce travel lanes under bridge and widen bike trail

Img\_0799

- Experiment removing all roadways and reconnecting the roads entering and exiting the site

Img\_0801

- Enlarge circle and align all roads/traffic to go through circle
- Grade separation of trail at circle

#### Img\_0802

- Concept that can be applied to all solutions
- Change in material in entire site
  - Roadways to concrete
  - Trail to asphalt
  - Circle to cobble
  - Crossings material change
- Monument signs as you enter this zone along parkway
- Area lighting at crossings
- Reduced speed

#### Img\_0803

- Working drawing with focus on tunneling crossings

#### Img\_0804

- Road realignment to make more traffic go through circle.
- Circle traffic has priority
- Refuge islands for multiple lane crossings
- MVT connection on north side with new road bridge

#### Img\_0805

- Enlarged circle to handle more volume
- GW Parkway south bound and 27 merge from the north before circle
- GW Parkway north bound and Washington Blvd/50 merge from the south before circle