

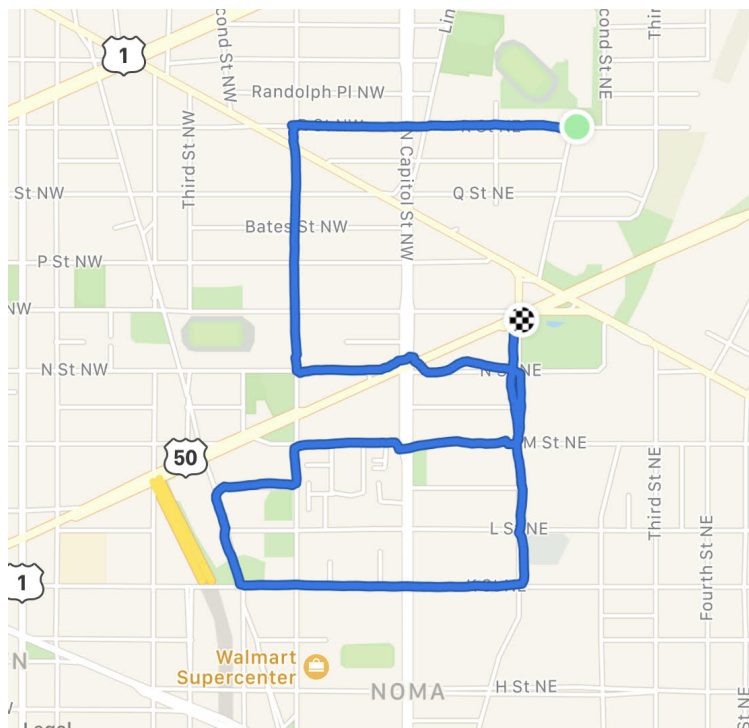
BAC Facilities Committee October Ride - New York Ave and North Capitol Street Crossings

Ride Attendees:

Gregg Adams, BAC rep for Anita Bonds (at-large)
Patricia Braley, DC resident
Gordon Chaffin, DC resident
Mike Goodno, DDOT Bicycle Program Specialist
Jeff Johnson, BAC rep for Silverman (at-large)
Emily Oaksford, BAC rep for Nadeau (Ward 1)
Jeanie Osburn, former BAC rep
Steve Szibler, DC resident

Date:

October 29, 2019; 5:00-6:30pm



Tuesday evening FAC Route

The October Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC) Facilities Committee ride focused on the existing bicycle routes that connect the Northeast and Northwest quadrants of the city across North Capitol Street near New York Avenue. This area includes portions of Eckington and Noma neighborhoods.

The ride crossed North Capitol Street at K Street, M Street, N Street, and R Street, and crossed New York Avenue on N Street, 1 Street NW and New Jersey Avenue. The ride also included a portion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail, which bridges over New York Avenue.

Crossings:

K Street NW – North Capitol Street crossing: With fast-moving traffic, multiple lanes, this road may be uncomfortable for cyclists during rush hours. Groups have been advocating for bike lanes on K Street, and this will become a very viable option for crossing North Cap when they arrive. However, because K Street is located farther south, a mid-alphabet crossing (M or N) is critical to improve as well.

M Street – North Capitol Street crossing: This is a pretty streamlined crossing, however it is only possible to travel east, because the street is one way. The moveDC bike plan proposes an extension of the M Street cycletrack, which bikers all agreed would be a great improvement in this Near Northeast neighborhood.

N Street NW/NE – New York Avenue and North Capitol Street crossing: As an alternative to M Street, riders will travel westbound on N Street, through slip lanes and via pedestrian crosswalks to cross both streets at the same time. Unfortunately, these slip lanes include vehicles that are focused on accessing/exiting these fast-moving street, and thus are not as aware of bicyclists in these areas. A more permanent and fluid crossing should be explored for westbound traffic.



N Street is a two-way road, and it crosses New York Avenue and North Capitol Street at the same time, making it a tricky intersection to cross currently. (N Street and First Street NE)

R Street NW/NE – North Capitol Street crossing: The bike lane on R Street NE ends at Eckington Place NE, and there is no bike lane for riders crossing North Capitol Street. Due to a number of serious car accidents here lately, the Eckington Civic Association has asked for traffic safety improvements here, and DDOT has proposed a bike box to protect cyclists while waiting at the intersection light. The bike box would run between North Capitol and Lincoln and would require the removal of several parking spaces. The group riding supported these proposed improvements.

First Street NW – New York Avenue crossing: First Street NW is a very narrow, two-way street, and bikers agreed that it is slightly uncomfortable to ride on the road because there is little room for bicycles to pass or be passed by cars, however traffic does move slower because of the road width. First Street crosses New York Avenue and can be an effective for riders that are comfortable with sharing road space with cars.

New Jersey Avenue – New York Avenue crossing: New Jersey Avenue is [currently under construction](#), and new bike lanes are proposed for the section of New Jersey between H and M Streets NW. Bike lanes on this road will certainly open up a new roadway that previously even experience bicyclists would avoid. It was noted, however, that some southbound bicyclists may prefer to ride on lower volume streets and avoid New Jersey Avenue. Additionally, since a bike lane is not provided in [the plans](#) between M and N Streets NW, a southbound contra flow bike lane on 4th Street NW (a lower stress roadway) between N Street NW and New York Avenue NW could provide additional bicycle connectivity in this area.



New Jersey Avenue NW is currently under construction. Plans can be found online and will include bike lanes for a large portion of the construction area.