

ANCC Trail Connector

Project Status Update

Department of Environmental Services
Transportation Planning – Capital Projects Management

Winter 2022-23





Project Overview

Where Are We?

Project Timeline





2022

- ✓ April: Virtual public meeting to share preliminary design concepts
- ✓ April-May: Public comments via online feedback form
- ✓ Summer-Fall: Analysis of public comments informing design development
- ✓ Winter: Project Status Update posted to the project webpage

2023

- Spring-Summer: Concept design public engagement
- Complete the design & finalize construction documentation

2024

- Spring: Procurement & contracting
- Summer: Start of construction (estimated duration of 18-24 months)

What We Shared

Design Concepts



What We Shared...

Existing Conditions

- Sudden grade change
- Limited space available
- Ambient traffic noise
- Perceived seclusion
- Mixed native species
- Prevalence of invasives
- Potential Drainage Issues
- Cost of construction
- Maintenance challenges



What We Shared...

Concept I : Walled Trail

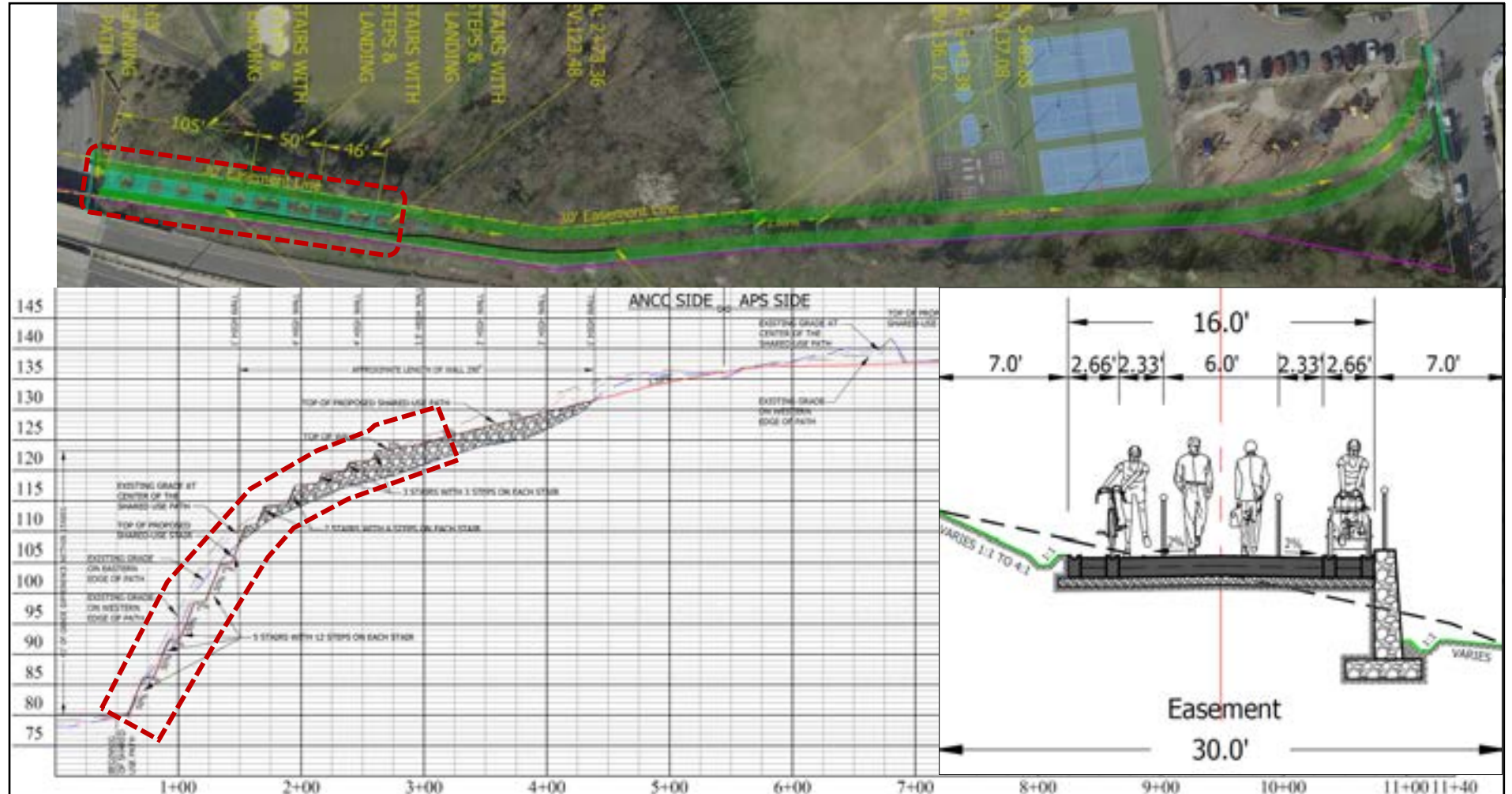
- Steep trail, shallow landings
- High retaining walls
- Reduced user visibility
- Perceived lack of safety
- Higher speeding potential
- Higher collision potential
- Reduced amenity
- Higher risk of vandalism



What We Shared...

Concept 2 : Stairs & Runnel

- Shallow stairs, deep landings
- Lower retaining elements
- Improved user visibility
- Enhanced sense of safety
- Lower speeding potential
- Lower collision potential
- Increased amenity
- Lower risk of vandalism

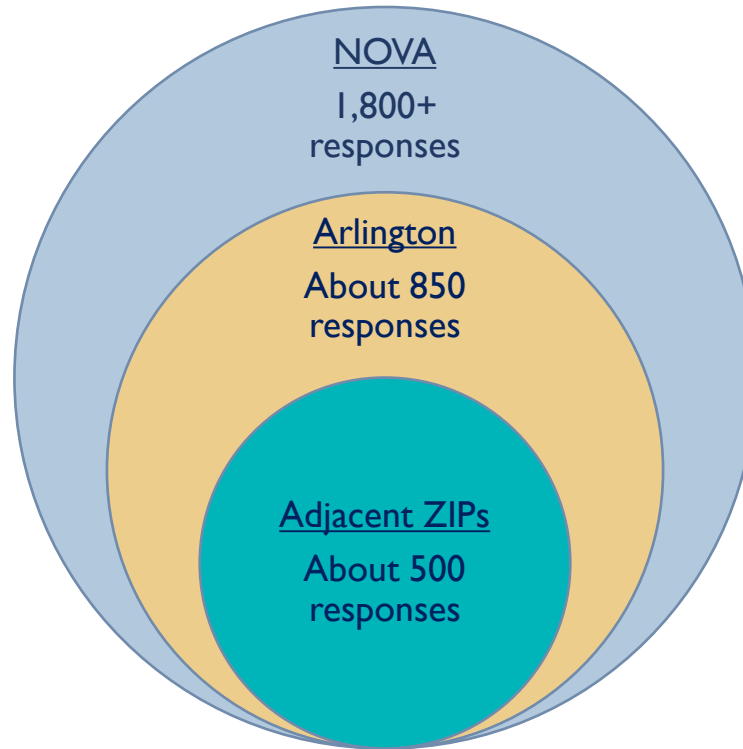


What We Heard

Online Feedback Results



What We Heard...



- Overall low favorability for Concept 1 (High Walls + Steep Trail)
- Overall high favorability for Concept 2 (Stairs + Runnel)

What We Heard...

“...[H]ow comfortable would you feel using the ANCC Trail Connector if implemented as shown?”

Nearly 850 responses from across Arlington showed:

Arlington Respondents = 849 (All ZIP Codes)	Concept 1 (Steep Walled Trail)	Concept 2 (Stairs + Runnel)
Comfortable or Very Comfortable	220/849 (26%)	620/849 (73%)
Neutral or No Response	129/849 (15%)	107/849 (13%)
Uncomfortable or Very Uncomfortable	500/849 (59%)	122/849 (14%)

What We Heard...

“...[H]ow comfortable would you feel using the ANCC Trail Connector if implemented as shown?”

About 500 responses from adjacent ZIP codes showed:

Site-Adjacent Respondents = 501 (22202, 22204, 22206 ZIP Codes)	Concept 1 (Steep Walled Trail)	Concept 2 (Stairs + Runnel)
Comfortable or Very Comfortable	159/501 (32%)	348/501 (69%)
Neutral or No Response	78/501 (16%)	78/501 (16%)
Uncomfortable or Very Uncomfortable	264/501 (53%)	75/501 (15%)

What We Heard...

In response to public feedback, the team has developed the following key principles to guide our design development work now underway:

Comfort Level

- Incorporate shade and rest elements

Difficulty Level

- Reduce the slope further for even more manageable stairs
- Incorporate deeper landings as rest opportunities

Amenity/Aesthetics

- Raise the overall quality of finish and furnishings
- Incorporate benches, seat-walls, and other focal elements

Safety/Visibility

- Optimize retaining elements to maximize visibility
- Provide comprehensive, high-quality lighting
- Incorporate a spacious transition area along Memorial Drive

Sustainability

- Utilize native plantings for lower water requirements
- Use novel methods to manage drainage (e.g., rain gardens)

What Happens Next...

- ❖ The County design team is advancing work on a refined, “hybrid” of the Stairs + Runnel concept.
- ❖ Our hybrid approach will draw the strongest insights from our concept engagement work and apply a comprehensive suite of core design principles to create an even safer, more appealing and comfortable facility for this unique and challenging location.
- ❖ As we’ve shared in previous public engagements, this project will help advance key objectives of the County’s adopted Master Transportation Plan and Public Space Master Plan.

Watch for another public engagement for this and related projects in the Spring/Summer of 2023!



Stay Tuned!