

# New Hampshire Avenue and Ethan Allen Gateway Study

Takoma Park, Maryland



## Client

City of Takoma Park  
TND Planning Group, *Lead Planner*

## Dates

Summer 2007

## Program

1.5 Mile Arterial Corridor  
New Mixed Use incl. Housing  
Street & Transit Improvements

## Relevance

Corridor Transportation  
New Urbanism  
Pedestrian Safety

## Services

Urban Design  
Town Planning  
Project Graphics

## Team

MASTER PLANNER  
TND Planning Group  
John Moynahan Urban Design & Planning  
180 Degree Design Studio  
RETTEW Associates, Inc.  
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS  
Randal Gross  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
Kathy Poole

## Project Description

Located on Washington DC's metro line and just outside the district boundary is the historic streetcar suburb of Takoma Park, also Washington DC's first suburb. Characterized by comfortable streets lined with various types of old homes and numerous public places, one side of Takoma Park is defined by a major arterial road—New Hampshire Avenue—which connects Washington and its beltway. See image left. Changes in area demographics, most notably an increase in Latino population and their use of public transit, have highlighted the deficiencies in the function of New Hampshire Avenue and the uses along it especially concerning danger to the increase in pedestrians. Recognizing the need for a detailed plan of the 1.5 mile long corridor, the City of Takoma Park hired a New Urbanist based design team (of which John Moynahan UDP was designer) to undertake a public planning study of the gateway and corridor, the results of which will be used to secure sources of funding for transit and road improvements, as well as define and document the public's desired future for this major roadway as a safe, desirable place with reformed neighborhood services.

In a seven-day design charrette, John Moynahan and the team studied multiple design solutions that included environmental, transportation, architecture, economic, implementation and urban design considerations that resulted in a plan brought about through community consensus.

## Project Challenge

Defining the southern end of New Hampshire Avenue as the Eastern Gateway of Takoma Park; making a safe, rational and pleasant roadway; enhancing existing open space and strengthening natural areas; stimulating economic development including the needs of latino residents; and improving public transit while providing a realistic and flexible blueprint for future development made for a complex design problem. The diverse expertise of the team exhausted multiple design solutions that comprehensively studied these aspects. Added complexities included inherent high housing costs and the long-term expansion of Metro transit to a nearby node.

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Eastern Gateway before improvement.



Eastern Gateway proposed improvement.



Major Node on New Hampshire Avenue



Redevelopment Showing Mixed-Use Along  
Multi-Lane Boulevard.



Redevelopment of New Hampshire Ave &  
East West Highway.