

SOUTH CAPITOL STREET CORRIDOR

Frequently Asked Questions



THE ANACOSTIA WATERFRONT
www.theanacostiawaterfront.com

What is the South Capitol Street Corridor?

The South Capitol Street Corridor is a five-mile corridor that runs from the DC-Maryland line in Ward 8 to the US Capitol in Ward 6. The Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, otherwise known as the South Capitol Street Bridge, was built in 1949. With the exception of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge rehabilitation and lowering in 2007, no significant changes have been made to the corridor since the 1970s.



Traffic Oval connecting South Capitol Street, Potomac Ave, and Q Street, SW

Why is the District undertaking this project and when did it begin?

Today, South Capitol Street lacks any characteristics of its historic and gateway appeal. The transportation infrastructure is in poor condition and does not connect pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, or motorists to established or emerging destinations. Realizing the vision for the Anacostia Waterfront includes transforming South Capitol Street from its current configuration of an urban highway into a grand gateway boulevard into Washington, DC. The District Department of Transportation began the planning process to re-create the corridor in 2002.

What are the Project's goals?

The project has four main goals:

- **Improving mobility for all modes of travel**
Critical roadway connections are missing and facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists are lacking.
- **Improving safety**
The design and deteriorating condition of infrastructure in the corridor creates the need for improvements.
- **Improving accessibility or the ability to reach destinations easily**
Grade separations and intersection configurations limit community access.
- **Supporting economic development**
Development in the area will add thousands of jobs and create new residential neighborhoods.

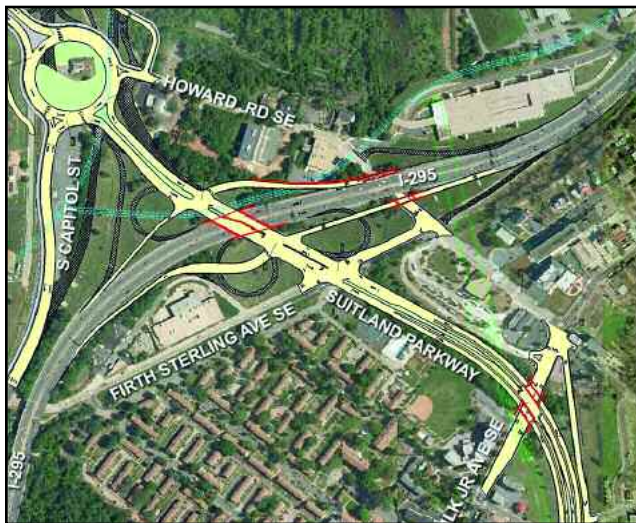
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What improvements will be key features of the new South Capitol Street Corridor?

- The main improvement will be the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge. The new arched bascule bridge, which would include an opening span for the existing navigation channel, will be an architecturally significant structure for the Anacostia Waterfront. [Note: The new streetcar line will not cross the river on South Capitol Street.]
- The eastern section of South Capitol Street in Ward 8 would provide an at-grade traffic circle at Suitland Parkway; a reconstructed Suitland Parkway/I-295 interchange; and a new interchange at Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue and Suitland Parkway.
- The western section of South Capitol Street in Ward 6 will be completed as a six-lane boulevard similar to South Capitol Street near Nationals Ballpark. It will feature an at-grade traffic oval connecting South Capitol Street, Potomac Avenue, and Q Street, SW. The new boulevard will have a new streetscape and improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities.



West Section - South Capitol Street rebuilt as a six-lane boulevard



East Section - Traffic circle at Suitland Parkway

What is the project timeline?

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be circulated in July 2009. The Record of Decision (ROD) is expected by fall 2009. A preliminary design is anticipated to be completed by fall 2010.

Will the South Capitol Street Corridor meet environmental standards?

Yes. The South Capitol Street Corridor will be a green urban corridor. Green roadway design principles will be used to improve water quality in the Anacostia watershed by reducing untreated storm water runoff and providing on-site filtration. Design features such as subsurface storm water and sewer systems will improve water quality by intercepting pollutants from the streets and preventing them from entering the Anacostia River and its tributaries.

