

MEMORIAL CIRCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

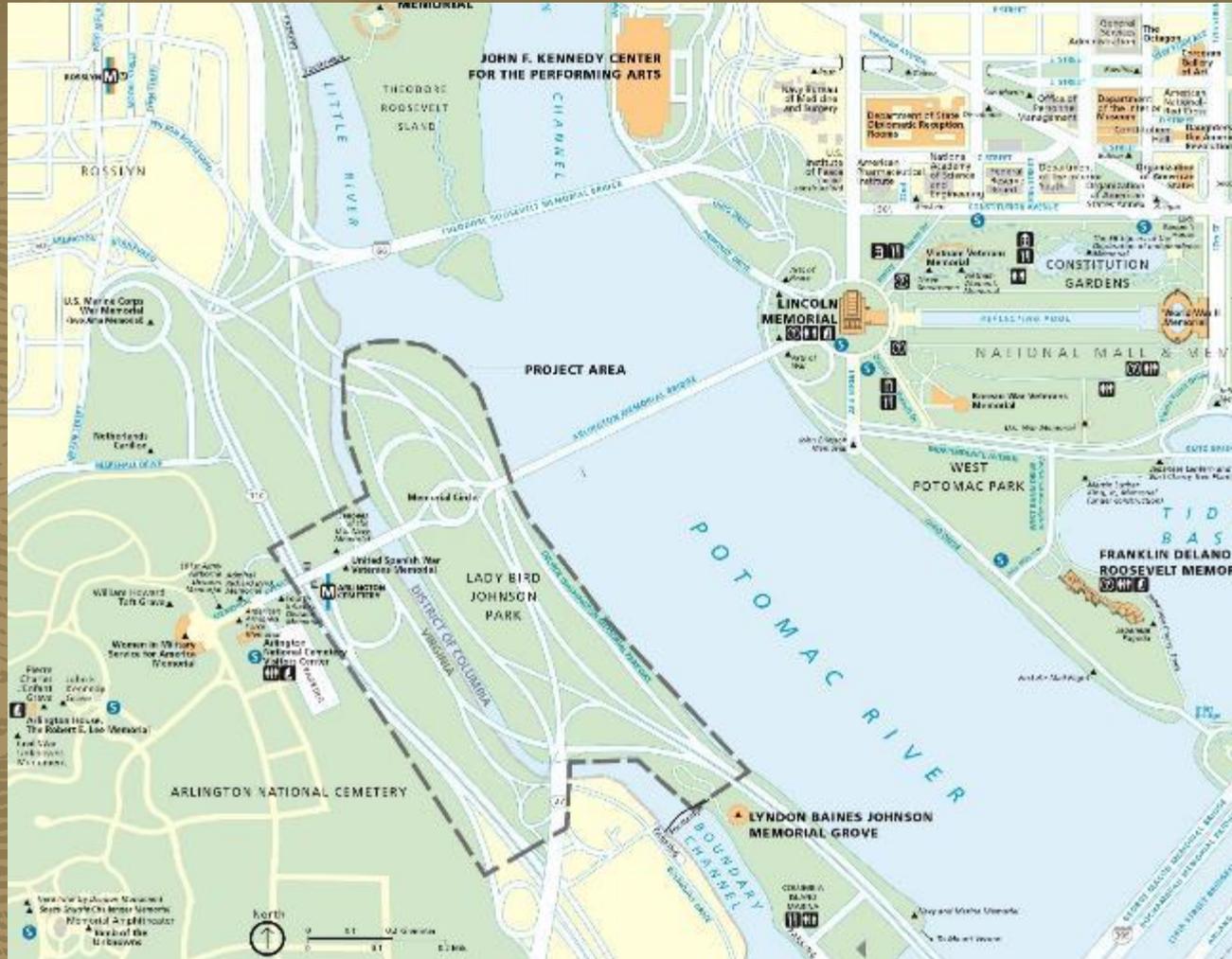
GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY

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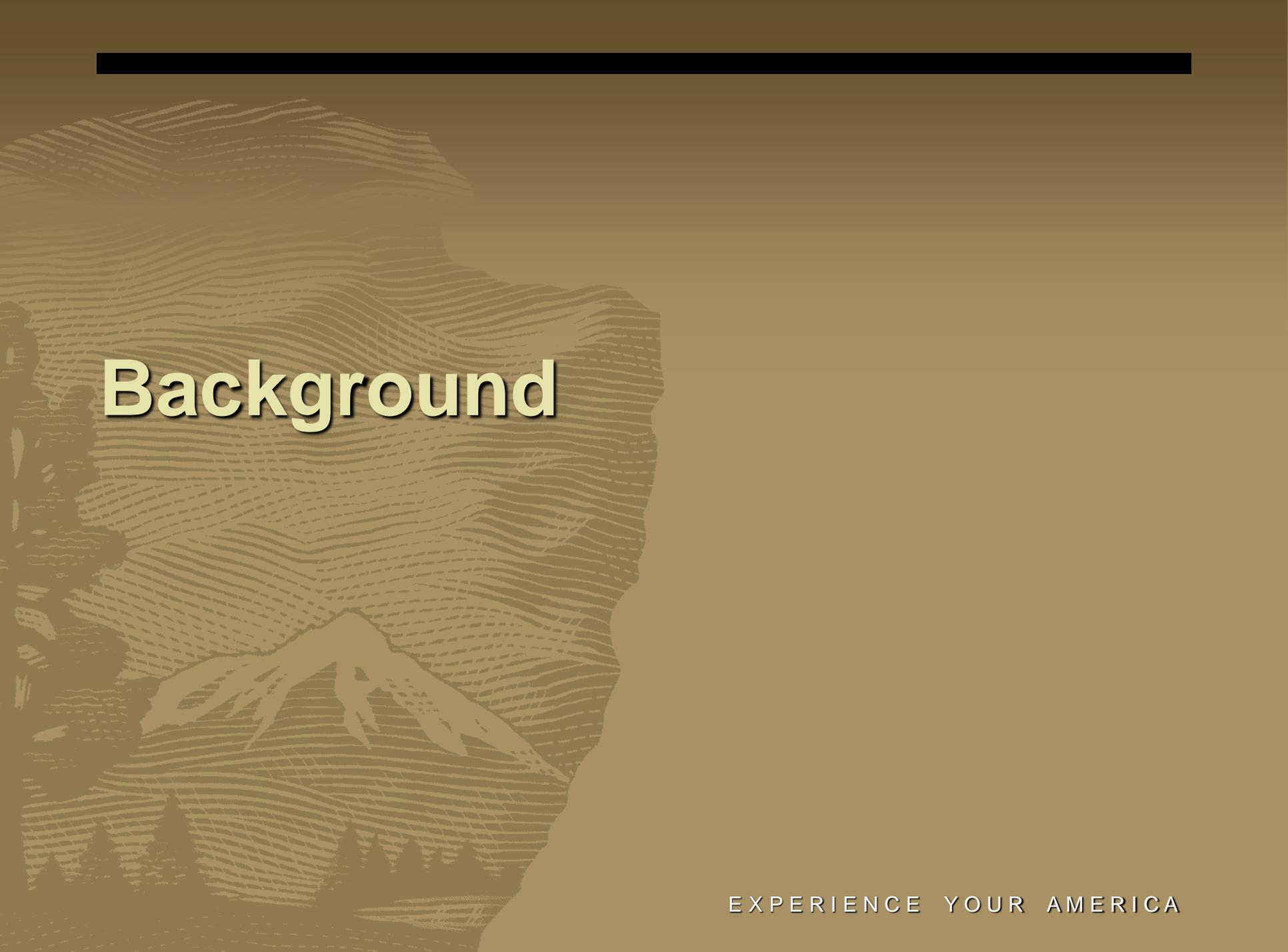
Introduction

- The NPS is proposing to improve Memorial Circle with the purpose of reducing conflicts between trail, walkway, and roadway users and to increase overall visitor safety, while maintaining the memorial character of the area and improving mobility for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles.
- We are conducting public scoping to gather your thoughts and ideas at the inception of the planning and EA process.

Project Area



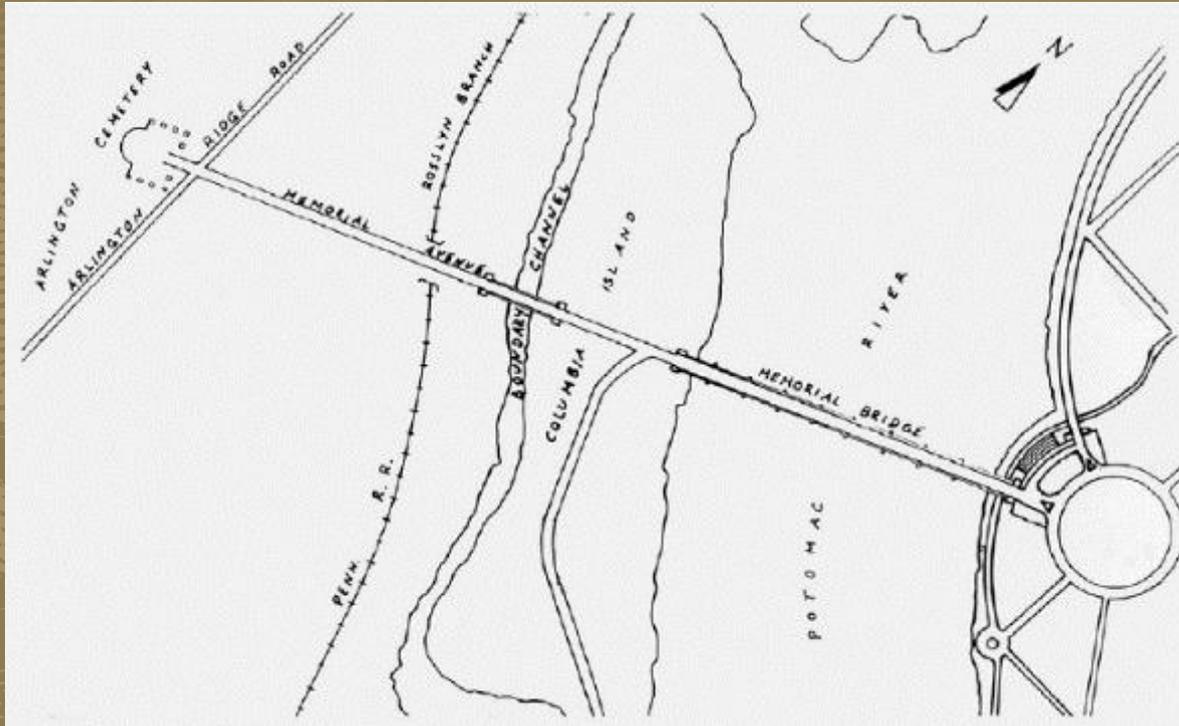
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Background

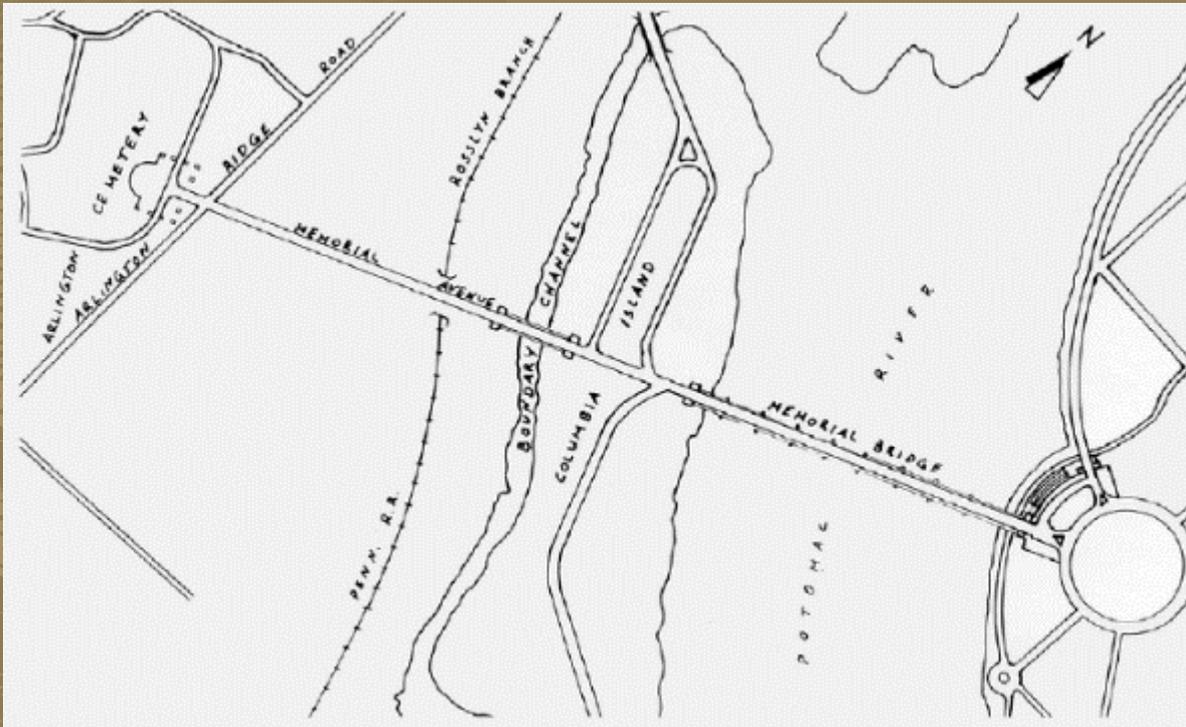
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Design Evolution



1932 Temporary connection from Mount Vernon Memorial Highway

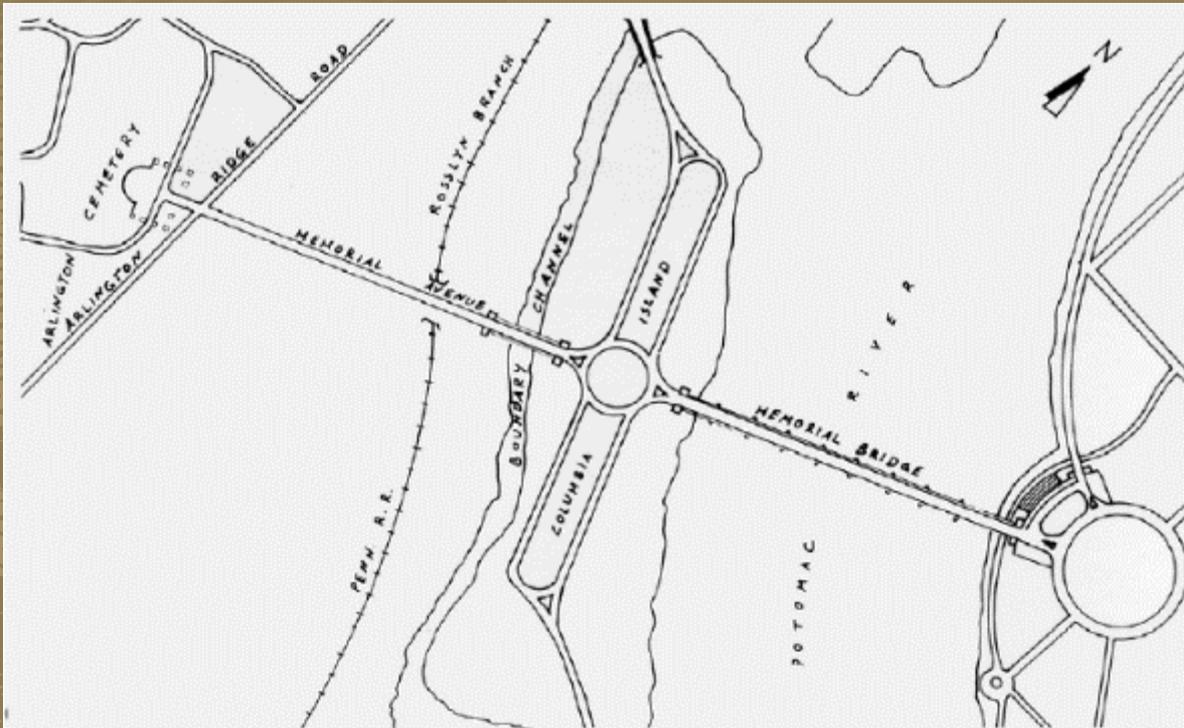
Design Evolution



1938

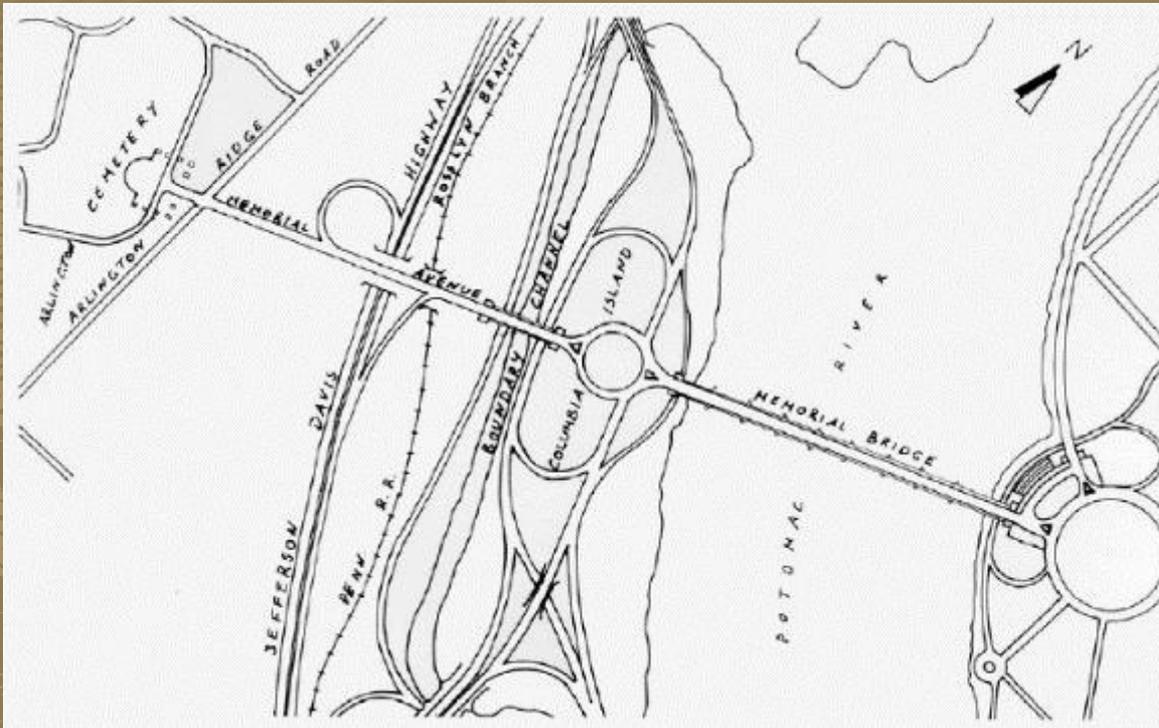
Extending the roadway north and connecting to Route 50

Design Evolution



1940 Rotary installed and parallel roadways north and south on axis

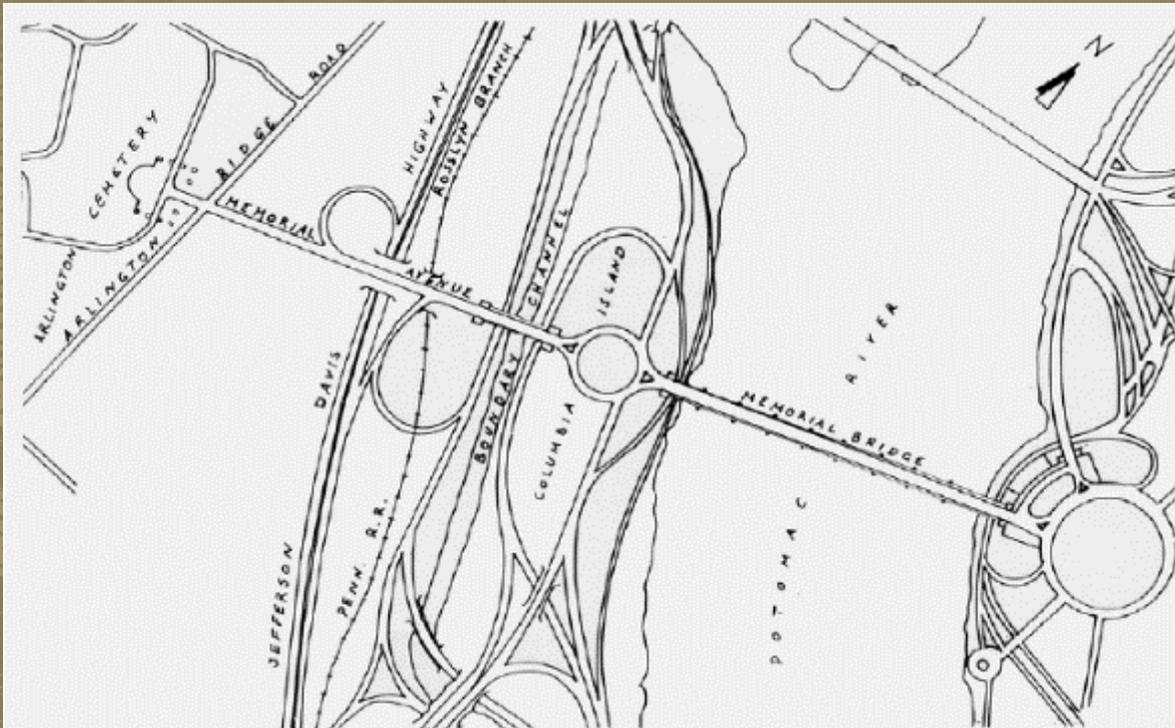
Design Evolution



1943

Pentagon construction brought many roads to the circle area

Design Evolution



1966

Pentagon construction brought many roads to the circle area

Viewsheds

- George Washington Memorial Parkway is distinct in that it was designed as a memorial rather than just a scenic road.
- Alignment was chosen because it afforded more opportunities to view places important in the commemoration of Washington's life.
- The planned views provide a visual connection to the nation's most iconic landmarks.



Past Studies

- Traffic Engineering and Safety Improvement Study- Bellomo-McGee – 1985
- Traffic Safety Study- Robert Peccia & Assoc.- 1998
- Pedestrian Road Safety Audit for Memorial Circle and George Washington Parkway- 2011
- Improving Safety and Enhancing User Experience on the George Washington Memorial Parkway's Mount Vernon Trail- 2012





Current Effort

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Why is the plan needed?

Safety

- Heavy use by motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists for both commuting and recreation.
- Expectations of motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists approaching crosswalks may place each of these modes in conflict with each other.
- The speed of traffic causes safety concerns where paths in traffic cross or merge.



Why is the plan needed?

Infrastructure

- The Mount Vernon Trail narrows to 4.5 feet as it crosses under Arlington Memorial Bridge.
- To handle morning commuter traffic, a section of the circle must be manually barricaded each morning until the peak traffic dissipates.
- Because of the location of existing crosswalks and sidewalks/trails, many visitors use social trails (unofficial trails created by users of the project area).



Why is the plan needed?

Orientation & Wayfinding

- Visitors may not be aware that they are in a unit of the national park system. „□
- Complicated vehicular traffic patterns require drivers to make quick decisions, creating issues.
- Roads serve multiple destinations, some of which have multiple options for routes.
- There is little wayfinding to direct pedestrians and cyclists.



■ Difficult Merge

- Priority given to traffic entering circle
- Narrow sidewalks
- Temporary weekday traffic control (700am-930am)
- Crossing traffic patterns
- Parking on periphery of circle used for staging
- Confusing pavement markings
- Signage not applicable to morning peak period
- Social trail (unauthorized)

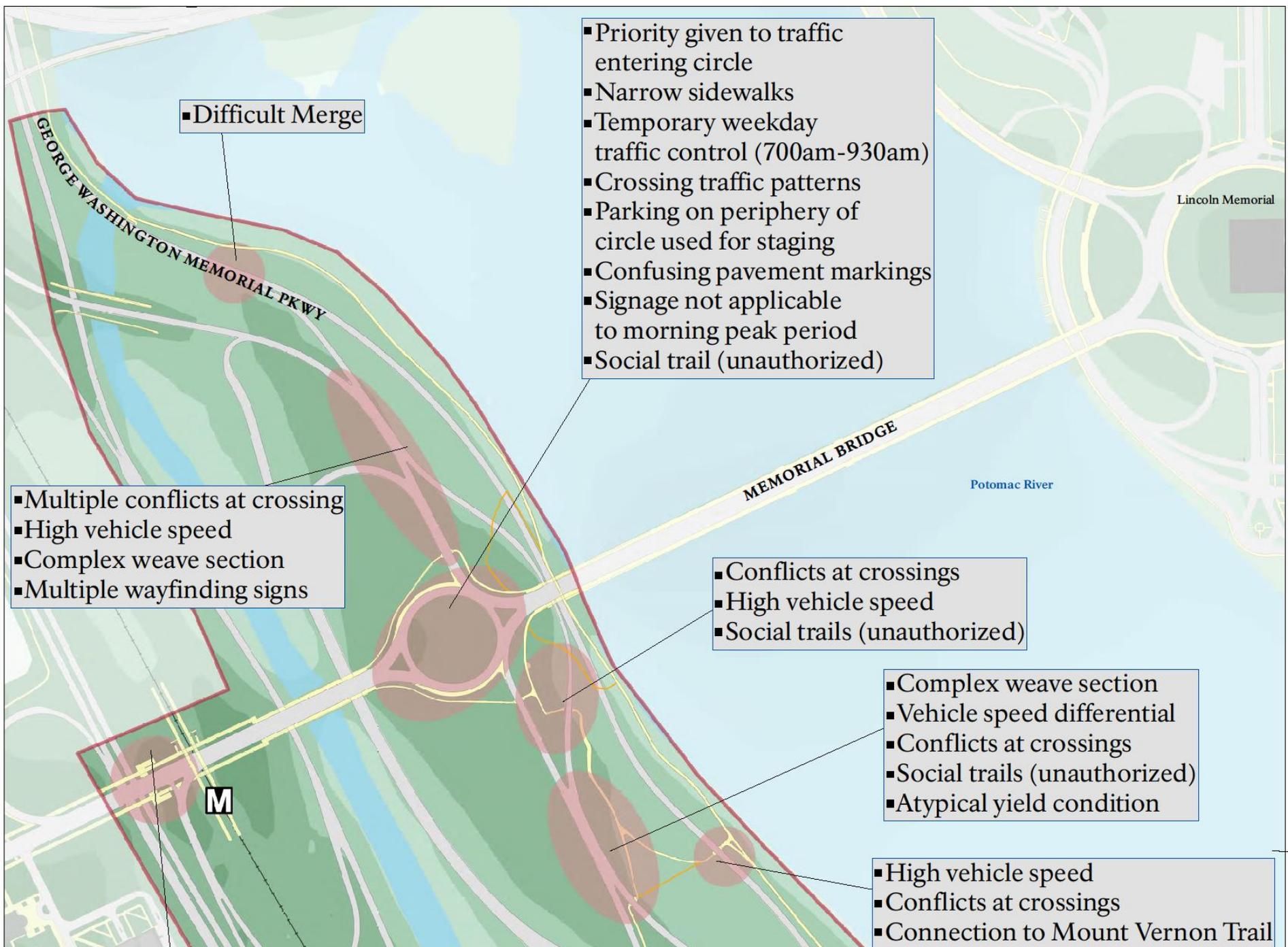
- Multiple conflicts at crossing
- High vehicle speed
- Complex weave section
- Multiple wayfinding signs

- Conflicts at crossings
- High vehicle speed
- Social trails (unauthorized)

- Complex weave section
- Vehicle speed differential
- Conflicts at crossings
- Social trails (unauthorized)
- Atypical yield condition

- High vehicle speed
- Conflicts at crossings
- Connection to Mount Vernon Trail

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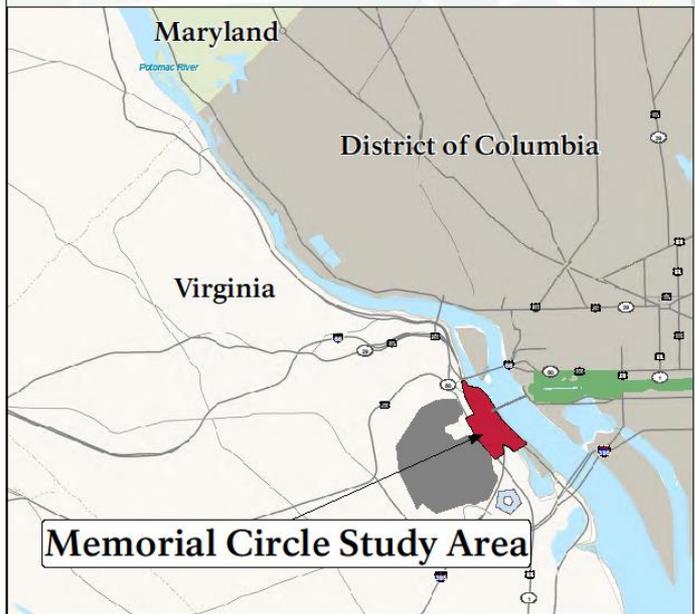
- Only north-south crossing at Memorial Circle w/in study area
- Location of Metrorail escalators/elevators
- Conflicts between pedestrians and right-turning vehicles

▪ Difficult Merge



Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Metrorail Station
- Buildings
- Social Trails
- Hot Spots
- Sidewalks
- Existing Roadway
- Metro Rail



Project Milestones

Milestone	Date
Data Collection & Pilot Projects	Fall 2014
Public Scoping	
NPS Reviews Comments	
Alternatives Development Including an Alternatives Planning Charrette	Winter 2014 / 2015
Public Review of Preliminary Alternatives	Spring 2015
Alternatives Refinement	Summer – Winter 2015
Analysis of Environmental Impacts	
Internal Review of the Plan/EA	
Public Review of the Plan/EA	Spring 2016
NPS Decision Document	Summer 2016

Submitting Comments

- We prefer that comments be submitted online via the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website:

parkplanning.nps.gov/gwmp

- Or, hard copy comments can be mailed to:

Alexcy Romero, Superintendent

Re: Memorial Circle Plan/EA

Turkey Run Park

McLean, VA 22101

Comments are requested by **September 30, 2014**

Project Contact

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