



## ***Bridging the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park***

### **1 Problem Statement:**

The District of Columbia Government is partnering with Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC, a local non-profit organization, to reuse the piers of the old 11th Street Bridge for a dynamic elevated park linking Capitol Hill and the Navy Yard with Historic Anacostia. The central goal of the 11th Street Bridge Park is to provide a new civic space that enhances connections between neighborhoods on both sides of the Anacostia River. Existing conditions, however, present challenges for accessing the 11th Street Bridge Park.

### **2 Project Approach:**

This ULI mTAP offers recommendations to improve pedestrian and cyclist accessibility to the 11th Street Bridge Park. Specifically, team members formulated specific design upgrades and wayfinding strategies to strengthen walkable and bikeable connections to the 11th Street Bridge Park and surrounding amenities. Team members also identified land use projects currently underway that can facilitate the 11th Street Bridge Park goals.

### **3 Project Research:**

Team members coordinated with Scott Kratz, Director of Building Bridges Across the River, to discuss mTAP scope and priorities. Numerous site visits were critical for evaluating existing conditions and strategizing recommendations. Team members also reviewed existing research, including *Access, Walkability and Wayfinding – The Experience of Getting to the 11th Street Bridge Park* prepared in 2013 by students enrolled in Virginia Tech's Masters in Urban and Regional Planning program. Team members corresponded with representatives from the District's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development and the Office of Planning. Additionally, team members considered existing community assets and real estate development projects on both sides of the Anacostia River.

## 4 **Recommendations Include:**

- **Prioritizing Improvements**
  - Classify primary and secondary access corridors and arrange projects for short, mid, and long term implementation
- **Completing Connections**
  - West Side of River
    - Establish a welcoming gateway by extending the 11th Street Bridge Park's public space into the neighborhood
    - Create woonerf-inspired shared street at Navy Yard entrance near intersection of 11th St. SE and O St. SE to enhance safety and utilize table-top road design to slow down automobiles
    - Enhance long blank wall along 11th St. SE with public art to create a unique sense of place
    - Provide additional signage to inform cyclists of surrounding bicycle facilities
  - East Side of River
    - Improve Good Hope Rd. SE underpass with upgraded lighting, widened sidewalks, and potential bicycle facilities such as bollards or paint. Underpass presents an opportunity create a landmark entrance to 11th Street Bridge Park with public art
    - Provide sidewalks on both sides of Anacostia Dr. SE for slower pedestrian/bicycle traffic
    - Install pedestrian signals with sufficient timing for safe crossings
    - Repair sidewalks and provide curb ramps along Good Hope Rd. SE
    - Construct pedestrian amenities to and within Anacostia Park near 11th Street Bridge
  - Both Sides of River
    - Provide clear connections from parking facilities to 11th Street Bridge Park
    - Increase bus service
    - Prohibit right-turns-on-red at key intersections
- **Enhancing Wayfinding**
  - Provide a system of wayfinding that targets different modes (pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers), uses a diversity of media (digital, print), and of varying duration (temporary, permanent)
  - Use "guerrilla" wayfinding techniques to inform pedestrians and cyclists of the 11th Street Bridge Park in creative ways
  - Design 11th Street Bridge Park signage to create an individual "brand"
- **Maximizing Planning Efforts Currently Underway**
  - Utilize DMPED's MLK Gateway Project and OP's Poplar Point Small Area Plan as opportunities to deliver community benefits including streetscaping amenities and support the 11th Street Bridge Park's Equitable Development Plan for inclusive economic revitalization