



October 25, 2021

TESTIMONY FROM DUPONT CIRCLE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

RE: PR24-0326 - Director of the District Department of Transportation Everett Lott Confirmation Resolution of 2021

TO: Committee on Transportation & the Environment

The Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) thanks Chairperson Mary Cheh and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify on this matter. DCCA has no concerns about Mr. Lott's qualifications for this position, but we are using this opportunity to comment on some systemic issues with DDOT processes, including over the past 10 months regarding ongoing projects and open issues in Dupont. We have three general areas of concern: **1) The lack of community engagement for major projects; 2) The lack of efficient tracking for minor projects; and 3) Collaborative projects with DDOT that seem to disappear into the ether.**

- 1. Community Engagement.** A prime example, as you are likely aware, was the re-design of 17th Street in the mixed residential and commercial corridor between P Street and Riggs Place. This has been a contentious issue in our neighborhood, with many problems remaining. An NOI was issued for this project in June 2020 and copied to DCCA. Therefore, at that time, we were presumably considered a stakeholder. After the initial NOI, there was no further formal engagement of community stakeholders, including the ANC as a whole, until the final construction plans were released in June 2021. I noted in a letter to this committee last month that a second NOI should have been issued when the plans for this complex project changed when the addition of streateries necessitated changes in curbside management. **DDOT must clearly define the stakeholders on major projects and engage with these stakeholders in an ongoing and timely manner.**
- 2. Project Tracking.** Since 2014, I have served on ANC2B's Transportation/Mobility committees and as the chair of DCCA's Transportation Committee. During that time, many relatively small projects have been initiated by residents or the ANC and discussed with DDOT, but only some have been completed as planned. A personal experience is my effort to get three parking signs replaced after nearby construction. The first two required over a year of emailing with three different Community Engagement Specialists who apparently did not hand off the task; the third sign, requested in January, has still not been replaced. **Tracking should be more systematic.**
- 3. Collaborative Projects.** DDOT occasionally proposes, or agrees to, collaborative projects with communities. DDOT invests in studies and consultants for these but follow up is a problem. For example, in 2015, DDOT initiated the Dupont/Kalorama Curbside Management pilot program and did an exemplary job gathering data. I and other stakeholders had many meetings with DDOT and spent considerable time making recommendations, which were submitted by ANC2B in 2018. Although some have been implemented as parts of city-wide initiatives, we have had no communication about this project since 2019. We do not know if it still considered ongoing, or if anyone is tasked with it. A more recent example is the Ross Elementary School Action Plan for Safe Routes to School 2020. A DDOT consultant worked with the community to develop the plan, but there has apparently been no further communication on implementation. **When DDOT invests funds, and community members invest time and effort in such projects, they should not just evaporate.**

Respectfully submitted,



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