

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



Transit Delivery Division

Commissioner Amir Irani
Chairperson, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C
P.O. Box 21009
Kalorama Station
Washington, DC 20009
Email: 1C01@anc.dc.gov

December 2, 2021

Dear Chairperson Irani,

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is initiating a project on Columbia Rd NW between 16th St NW and Connecticut Ave NW to improve safety and bus transit operations. This letter is to provide you with information on our approach to this effort and invite you to participate. This letter does not constitute a formal Notice of Intent (NOI) as required by the Administrative Procedure Amendment Act of 2000.

Project Background

Columbia Rd NW is a vibrant corridor and an important roadway for people walking, biking, driving, and riding the bus. It's a key connection between neighborhoods in the District and also a densely developed corridor where people live, work, shop, and access other destinations. This confluence of mobility and access leads to a busy, congested corridor that has a history of unsafe conditions and severe crashes. The goal of this project is to make Columbia Rd NW a safer corridor for all roadway users and prioritize the speed, efficiency, and reliability of bus transit.

This planning process is being initiated because this segment of Columbia Rd NW has been an identified as a priority through District-wide planning efforts and other initiatives:

1. [DDOT performed analysis](#) as part of the forthcoming Bus Priority Plan to assess where infrastructure improvements could be used to save time for bus passengers and Columbia Rd NW was found to be among the ten corridors in the city where bus passengers are the most delayed by congestion. MoveDC identified Columbia Rd NW as part of the [transit priority network](#).
2. moveDC identified Columbia Rd NW as part of the [bicycle priority network](#) and on February 21, 2021, ANC 1C approved a [resolution](#) "in favor of a study and design of Columbia Road NW that includes protected bicycle lanes between 16th Street and Connecticut Ave NW."
3. The [DDOT State Freight Plan](#) and [moveDC](#) have noted the importance of Columbia Rd NW as part of the freight network and the density of retail and other commercial properties generates high demands for commercial loading.

Project Timeline:

Listed below are the key phases in the development of the project on Columbia Rd NW. The general strategy is to start with building understanding of the corridor and identifying the needs. Then begin developing design solutions to meet those needs and eventually identify a solution for implementation and refine the details to make it work. *However, I welcome feedback on any aspect of this project during every phase.*

November 2021 to March 2022 – Existing Conditions Analysis

During this period (right now), DDOT is conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis to form a deeper understanding of the strengths and deficiencies of transportation in the corridor, i.e. what works well and what needs to be fixed. The quantitative side will be focused bus operations, vehicular travel delay, and safety, with a particular focus on the safety of the most vulnerable roadway users. The qualitative component will include site visits, coordination with WMATA and DDOT staff and bus operators, and pop-up events to solicit broad, open-ended feedback from roadway users.

March-April 2022 – Phase 1 Public Outreach – Needs Assessment

DDOT will present findings from the existing conditions analysis to ANC 1C, Adams Morgan BID, and others in the community to identify any gaps between the analysis and the lived experience of those travelling on the corridor. It will also provide an opportunity for DDOT build a better sense of the priorities for the community in terms of which interventions are needed most. Feedback can be provided online and through the bus priority “hotline,” allowing people to call anytime and provide comments without internet access.

May-August 2022 – Phase 2 Public Outreach – Identify Solutions

Following Phase 1 of the project, DDOT staff will develop concept-level design solutions to the deficiencies in the corridor and solicit feedback from the community through different channels, including:

- Briefings or presentation to ANC 1C, the Adams Morgan BID, and other organizations.
- A public meeting conducted online (and in-person if conditions allow.)
- Flyers to residents and businesses through the corridor with a brief synopsis of the proposed changes and request feedback

September 2022-January 2023 – Phase 3 Public Outreach – Refine Concept

Based on the public feedback received, DDOT staff and leadership will select a conceptual design and begin working toward a final design. This will often require some minor modifications and deeper analysis of proposed design solutions, based on public feedback and also follow-up with community members. Once a decision is made on the conceptual approach, all project stakeholders identified during phases 1 and 2 of public engagement will be informed of the decision.

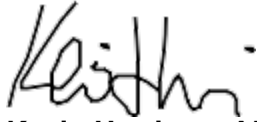
After notifying the public that a conceptual design has been selected, DDOT will begin working towards the 30% design milestone. This is when many details of the project will have been determined, but it is still early enough that changes can be accommodated in future phases of design. At this point, DDOT will issue an NOI, which will include a 30-business day public comment period.

DDOT is currently targeting construction of any improvements to begin in 2023.

Contact and Next Steps

As indicated in the timeline, I would like to present the results of our analysis to ANC 1C in March, but in the meantime, I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or ideas you might have for the project. Please contact me at 202-848-8829 or kevin.harrison@dc.gov.

Sincerely,



Kevin Harrison, AICP
Transportation Planner

Transit Delivery Division
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

m. 202.848.8829

f. 202.671.0617

e. kevin.harrison@dc.gov

w. ddot.dc.gov

Cc:

Amir Irani, ANC Commissioner, 1C01

Celeste Carano, ANC Commissioner, 1C02

Peter Wood, ANC Commissioner, 1C03

Meghan Faulkner, ANC Commissioner, 1C04

Vacant, ANC Commissioner, 1C05

Benjamin Hart Butz, ANC Commissioner, 1C06

Jake Faleschini, ANC Commissioner, 1C07

Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia

Oscar Montiel, Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Nadeau

Alexandra Bobak, Deputy Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Nadeau

David Meni, Research Analyst for Councilmember Nadeau

Anthony Moore, Ward 1 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

Moises Del Rosario, Ward 1 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

Kristen Barden, Executive Director of the Adams Morgan BID

Anna Chamberlain, Associate Director, Planning and Sustainability Division, DDOT

Carla Longshore, Associate Director, Transit Delivery Division, DDOT

Wasim Raja, Associate Director, Traffic Engineering and Signals Division, DDOT

Cynthia Turcios, Community Engagement Specialist, DDOT