



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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July 1, 2019

Mr. Jeff Marootian
Director
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
jeff.marootian@dc.gov

RE: The District Department of Transportation's Communications and Prioritization of Historic Sidewalk Repairs

Dear Director Marootian,

On June 3, 2019 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by six commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

As a historic district, one of Georgetown's key characteristics is its historic sidewalks, which are primarily brick. These sidewalks are maintained by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). The only exceptions to this DDOT responsibility are those sidewalks maintained by the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) and the sidewalk repairs completed by utility companies such as Washington Gas, which must replace sidewalks to the condition initially found after utility repair work.

Many locations of Georgetown's brick sidewalks currently require repair. Without repair these locations are pedestrian safety hazards due to issues such as missing bricks, loose bricks, bricks that have been uprooted by several inches due to tree roots, or sidewalks with large empty spaces between the brick sidewalk and the concrete curbs. Residents have called 311 to report many of these locations and ANC 2E has shared pictures with appropriate city agency contacts. Over the past several months, DDOT has been working to prioritize Georgetown sidewalk repair, especially on the east side of Georgetown, which has several sidewalk locations being repaired.

ANC 2E greatly appreciates DDOT's recent focus to repair the neighborhood's sidewalks; this work is needed and very welcome. However, challenges in

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communications have arisen and the ANC requests that DDOT pursue two actions as it conducts this sidewalk repair:

1. **Include ANC awareness and thus ANC constituents' communications.**
Currently ANC 2E does not receive insight into the timing or priorities of sidewalk repair in the ANC. Many of the ANC's constituents are asking the ANC why certain sidewalks are being prioritized for repair, while others that may be more hazardous are not being repaired. The ANC would like to help communicate DDOT's sidewalk repair plans with the ANC's constituents so that the ANC can avoid unnecessary speculation and confusion about why and when repairs are occurring or will not be occurring, and to ensure that DDOT's resources are focused on the most problematic sidewalks.
2. **Types of materials:** ANC 2E issued a resolution in April of 2018 regarding the type of brick material for historic areas; the ANC has re-shared this resolution with DDOT contacts. The ANC would greatly appreciate receiving a confirmation of the city's support to use these materials. With regard to materials, the ANC would like to avoid what recently occurred when the community intended to hold a protest when flexi-pave was delivered to Georgetown the day before a needed sidewalk repair began. The project was appropriately stopped by DDOT in response to community concerns, however time and effort was wasted by all. The ANC would welcome a dialog with DDOT on the costs and benefit of materials and tools to use on Georgetown sidewalk repair, including those sidewalks where tree roots grow under the sidewalk.

Again, ANC 2E greatly appreciates DDOT's focus on repairing Georgetown's historic sidewalks. The ANC requests the ability to serve as DDOT's partner in communicating DDOT's repair plan to the ANC's constituents.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E