



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

"Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C."

October 31, 2017

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

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

RE: Request to Allocate Funding for the Study of the Proposal to Create a Re-Route of Rock Creek Parkway that Would Divert it onto Interstate 66 North of Virginia Avenue

Dear Acting Director Marootian and Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on October 18, 2017, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A ("ANC 2A" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With six of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**5-0-0***), after a motion made by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Campbell, to adopt the following resolution:

ANC 2A urges the District Department of Transportation to include the Rock Creek Bypass study in its final 2018-2022 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and to secure \$500,000 to proceed with updating the 2003 Federal Highway Administration environmental impact assessment and feasibility study beginning in the next calendar year.

Background and Rationale

ANC 2A was disappointed to see that a Rock Creek Bypass initiative was not included in the draft 2018-2022 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) released by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). The proposed next phase of the bypass project, submitted through DDOT's internal call for projects, has a modest budget of \$500,000. It would build on the substantial groundwork that has already been laid by the environmental impact assessment and feasibility study produced by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as part of the 2003 Kennedy Center Access Study.

The potential benefits of this project include: improved traffic flow between Rock Creek Parkway and Route 66; decreased traffic at the intersections of Rock Creek Parkway & Virginia Avenue and 27th Street & K Street NW; and more flexible use of the riverfront green-space between Virginia Avenue NW and the Roosevelt Bridge, so as to enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to the continuous riverfront park from Georgetown to the National Mall. Taken together, these improvements would be of enormous benefit to the entire city. Furthermore, the cross-



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jurisdictional nature of the project, involving DC, FHWA and National Park Service (NPS) land, make it highly appropriate for federal funding, as does the fact that benefits from the proposed improvements would accrue not only to residents of the District, but to commuters in all of the surrounding jurisdictions who use this busy and congested route on a daily basis.

Finally, the budget for the roadway work proposed in 2003 was \$20 million; about \$32 million today. That budget seems well justified by the potential benefits of the project in addressing longstanding roadway congestion and freeing up strategically placed riverfront land for public use.

In light of these points and others, we appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Commissioners William Kennedy Smith (2A04@anc.dc.gov) and Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Chairperson

CC: Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2
Jacob Kohn, General Counsel, Councilmember Jack Evans' Office
Jennifer Budoff, Budget Director, DC Council
Sam Zimbabwe, Chief Project Delivery Officer, DDOT
Haley Peckett, Transportation Planner, DDOT
Lanel Sartin, Management Analyst, DDOT
Jenny Reed, Director, Office of Budget and Performance Management
Richard Livingstone, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services
Will Handsfield, Transportation Director, Georgetown BID

* Commissioner Florence Harmon recused herself from voting on this matter.