
Appendix D – Online Comments



BENNING ROAD

Reconstruction and Streetcar Project

Type of Meeting	Comment Period	Commenters
Open House #2 – February 20, 2020	Through March 5, 2020	Comment Form Entries from Project Website

Comment No.	Do you agree with the benefits and safety improvements of the Build Alternatives of the DC-295/Benning Road Interchange portion of the project? If not, please explain.	Are you aware of any social, cultural, or natural resources in the project area that should be considered in the interchange environmental study? If yes, please explain below.	What additional improvements, if any, would you like to see considered in the Benning Road Reconstruction and Streetcar Project and why?	Additional Comments
1	The Eastward expansion of DC Streetcar is critical to increasing affordable transportation options in our Ward 7 communities. Please start construction NOW.	Kingman Island and Anacostia River.		This is a great plan. Let's get it started ASAP!
2	Yes	Yes, a connection to Kingman Island should be a top priority	Creating a new pedestrian-, cyclist-, and transit-friendly Benning Road bridge over 295 that better connects communities east of the highway should be the highest priority.	One or two turnaround points along the route would be helpful for occasions when some part of the route is blocked. For example, an issue around 3rd and H should not prevent service elsewhere.
3	Yes please! We love the streetcar and would love it for go more places.	Definitely need better bike and pedestrian resources here too.	Definitely need better bike and pedestrian resources here too.	
4	Yes, strongly	No	I think it's great	As a former 2 term ANC in 7D, I am excited about this project and enthusiastically support it.

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5	Yes very strongly	Kingman Island is a critical wildlife area. However the project appears to in no way negatively affect it. And the proposed stop at Kingman Island is terrific, and will provide a way for more people to enjoy the Island.	Please complete the planned improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and the Kingman Island stop, and the bridge replacements and rehabilitations.	Can't wait for this to be built! I live in Ward 7 next to the Oklahoma Ave stop and my wife and I take the streetcar several times a week. Is so nice for new parents with babies in stow
6	Yes I agree with the DC-295/Benning Road Interchange portion of this project.	No	I would like this project to abandon the Streetcar portion of this project. The Streetcar is not helpful for a myriad of reasons. It has proven to be a huge waste of taxpayer funding. It has proven in other cities like Atlanta and Seattle that it does not work. We have a mass transit system and the money spent on the streetcar should be redirected to WMATA. This streetcar will be within walking distance of two metro stations. It simply makes no sense. In addition, who is looking at these projects holistically. Ward 7 just endured years worth of construction on Minnesota Avenue only to turn around months later and tear it all up after millions have been spent.	I would like the same consideration given to the Georgetown residents where in the streetcar pursuit was discontinued. Ward 7 does not want this project. I would also like to note that the open house's did not allow for an open and transparent conversation. I would like to see a meeting devoted solely to the streetcar portion of this project that allows open question and answer portion instead of being shuffled to the side to speak individually with DDOT employees.

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7	<p>Our focus is on the two bridges that cross the river: the Ethel Kennedy bridge and the Kingman Lake Bridge. These bridges will provide the main pedestrian and bike access to Kingman Island. We support the widening of the sidewalk adjacent to the eastbound lanes to the maximum width possible and a minimal sidewalk adjacent to the westbound lanes as appears to be the case from the drawings. The sidewalk adjacent to the eastbound lanes should be given priority. From the drawings, it appears to be at least 22 feet wide. This should allow designated bike lanes of 8 feet and 14 feet allowed for pedestrians. Since pedestrian use of this sidewalk will dramatically increase with the Kingman/Heritage Island improvements, maximum space on both the EK Bridge and the Kingman Lake bridge should be given to pedestrians, with appropriate buffers from the vehicular traffic.</p>	<p>Yes. Kingman and Heritage Island are vitally important natural areas and the two bridges over the river directly affect them. The following design features must be considered to protect these islands: 1. no glass railings: see-through glass railings and tunnels are extremely hazardous to birds and should not be included near any natural wildlife sanctuary. 2. All lighting should be Dark Sky compliant with minimal to no light spill into the river or onto Kingman and Heritage Islands. Artificial night lighting negatively affects wildlife.</p>	<p>Access to the EK and Kingman Lake bridges for pedestrians should be improved, especially from the River Terrace Community where access is currently steep and constrained. This will be the main entry for these communities to the enhanced Kingman Island project. DDOT should also consider whether the sidewalk adjacent to the westbound traffic lanes could be eliminated and 8 feet added to the sidewalk adjacent to the eastbound traffic. This would improve pedestrian access to the Islands.</p>	<p>Submitted by Anne Lewis, President, City Wildlife. anne.lewis@citywildlife.org</p>

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8	Yes. Really excited for these improvements.	No.	<p>Better bike connections. Continue bike lane from Minnesota Ave to Benning Rd. Or at least keep the widened sidewalk the whole way. The plan narrows the sidewalk too much at Benning road and East Capitol.</p> <p>The first open house had only one road crossing for bicycle/pedestrians at 36th Street NE. But open house #2 had it back to two crossing to get to the bridge. Please return it back to one. That intersection is extremely dangerous.</p>	Please use this opportunity to truly connect the Ward for bicycle use by extending down to East Capitol.
9	yes	yes	Please ensure safety for the passengers that will be riding on the car. Also, please look at the traffic impact as well.	I believe the street car will enhance this area. People can use it to save gas when they are traveling to Hechinger Mall or Union Station. I am excited about the street car. I like the convenience of it.
10	Yes. As a local resident, I strongly support the proposed plan.	No, the area appears to be free of any social, cultural, or natural resources that need to be considered.	I strongly support the plan in its current form.	I live in Deanwood. Extending the streetcar and making the other improvements that are under consideration could dramatically improve the quality of life on my side of the Anacostia River.
11	No, The area is already heavily traveled and congested with pedestrians and cars.	no		

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12	Yes	No	More creative/art installations/work embedded in the project.	
13	Yes I do. I'm especially in favor of the sidewalk, lighting, and cycle track that will be added.		None. I love the concept. I would like to be able to take the streetcar to Kingman and RFK fields to play with my kids. This will be a great addition.	