



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20004

(202) 724-8072

SHARON AMBROSE
Councilmember-Ward 6

November 30, 2005

Mayor Anthony Williams
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20004Re: Joint Letter of Support from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 5B, 6A, 6C, 7A, and 7D
for Streetcar Track Installation between Minnesota Avenue and Union Station Metro Stations

Dear Mayor Williams:

I strongly endorse the joint letter from ANC 5B, 6A, 6C, 7A and 7D that requests the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) to install the streetcar tracks between Minnesota Avenue and Union Station metro stations as part of the three planned transportation improvement projects scheduled for the H Street / Benning Road NE corridor in Fiscal Year 2006. The joint letter is attached for your review.

I too support the installation of the streetcar tracks for three reasons. First, it would complete the first east/west public transit corridor in our city. The Georgetown/Crosstown to Minnesota Avenue metro is already being partially served by the DC Circulator Bus - from Union Station to Georgetown. The streetcar from Union Station to Minnesota Avenue would complete Corridor 4. Second, the opportunity lost by not installing the streetcar tracks while H Street and Benning Road NE will undergo complete renovation will equate to additional street closures to these emerging economic corridors. We should "measure twice and cut once" as to not adversely impact the business on this corridor. Third, adding streetcars will connect two streets in the Great Streets program and significantly advance the development opportunities for our communities directly east and west of the Anacostia River.

Accordingly, I request that the Director of DDOT include the installation the streetcar rails into the forthcoming contract request for proposals for H Street NE streetscape improvement project, Benning Road and Maryland Avenue NE starburst, and Benning Road NE project. Moreover, I encourage the required resources be provided for the streetcar rail so that these tracks can be included in the construction phases for these three pending projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Ambrose".

Sharon Ambrose
Councilmember - Ward 6