



Government of the District of Columbia  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission  
Box 75115  
Washington DC 20013



March 15, 2010

Honorable Tommy Wells  
Councilmember, Ward 6  
The Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building, Suite 408  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Wells:

Attached is a resolution, which was unanimously approved by the Commission at its March 11, 2010 meeting, addressing suggestions you may be hearing from those who call for a delay of the completion and operation of the H Street/Benning Road Streetcar Line.

While we appreciate the views being expressed regarding the need for alternative power sources for the streetcar, ANC 6A regards the earliest operation of the Streetcar Line as an important part of the continuing redevelopment of these two streets, as well as an important link to connect Wards Five and Seven with our Ward. As has been shown across the country, new neighborhood amenities develop rapidly following the startup of streetcar operation and we are hopeful that the same will be true for the H Street/Benning corridor.

Although much discussion has taken place on the various ways the streetcars can be powered, please know that currently, we prefer operation of the Line with a single strand overhead wire to an indefinite delay, while the city continues to explore dependable hybrid and battery technology to eventually allow for wire-free operation.

As has been shown across the country, new neighborhood amenities develop rapidly following the startup of streetcar operation. The early operation of the Streetcar Line is of the greatest importance to H Street, Benning Road, and to the citizens of this ANC.

We appreciate your consideration of this resolution and our concerns.

On behalf of the Commission,

Kelvin J. Robinson  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Honorable Adrian Fenty, Mayor  
Members, Council of the District of Columbia  
Gabe Klein, Director, District Department of Transportation

Attachment



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## Resolution

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is nearing completion of a new 1.7-mile streetcar line on H Street and Benning Road; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the streetcar are to link neighborhoods with a modern, convenient and attractive transportation alternative; provide quality service to attract and reach new transit ridership; offer a broader range of transit options for District residents; reduce short inner-city auto trips, parking demand, traffic congestion and air pollution; and encourage economic development and affordable housing options along the H Street/Benning Road streetcar corridor; and

WHEREAS, an available overhead streetcar power solution has been identified that will allow such streetcars to come online quickly, the District should not wait for power systems that have not yet proved themselves in actual use as this will take years to become fully developed and be brought to market; and

WHEREAS, an overhead power solution is consistent with the old streetcar system which used overhead wires outside the Old City (the L'Enfant plan), raising and lowering power poles mounted atop the streetcars, as they moved across the boundary of the Old (L'Enfant) City; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised that the District should not move forward with service for streetcars until a non-overhead power source is identified; and

WHEREAS, there will be no damage to views of the monumental core of the city from the current route.


THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. ANC 6A calls on the City Council, the Mayor, and the Department of Transportation to proceed immediately with the installation of overhead wires along the H Street/Benning Road line and
2. The District continue its research and vigorous pursuit of non-overhead-line technology, which could be implemented on the H Street line should such technologies become available

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the District Department of Transportation.

ADOPTED, MARCH 11, 2010

We hereby certify this Resolution to be true and correct.

  
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Kelvin J. Robinson  
Chairman  
Commissioner, SMD 6A08

  
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Raphael Marshall  
Secretary  
Commissioner, SMD 6A01