



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



January 14, 2016

Leif Dormsjo
Director, District Department of Transportation
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Seven-day service for the H Street/Benning Road Streetcar line

Dear Director Dormsjo,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on January 14, 2016, our Commission voted 7-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to send this letter to request that once open the DC Streetcar operate each of the seven days of the week.

Our Commission is concerned by recent reports that suggest the streetcar would not operate on Sundays. Given the considerable investment the District has made in establishing the H Street/Benning Road line and the tremendous revitalization our neighborhood is experiencing based on the assumption that the District will deliver on its promise to improve our community's transportation options, we would be deeply disappointed if this important form of public transit did not operate on a daily basis. Simply put, our community requires consistent, reliable public transportation and seven-day streetcar service is the best way to meet the needs of our growing neighborhood, which greatly needs additional transportation options. Sunday is both a day of worship and a day of activity for countless DC residents; churchgoers rely on transit to get to their Sunday-morning services, and residents from far-flung parts of the District spend Sundays patronizing our local businesses, exploring our flourishing community, and commuting to an ever increasing number of jobs here.

In late 2014, DDOT adopted regulations (Rule: 18-1602) that expressly provide for Sunday service hours. We urge you to adhere to the hours of service set forth in this rule, including on Sunday service. Even a perfunctory analysis of overcrowded Sunday buses along the H Street corridor would show great demand for additional means of transportation in our neighborhood on every day of the week.²

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the listserves anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc-6a@yahoogroups.com and newhilleast@yahoogroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the *Hill Rag*.

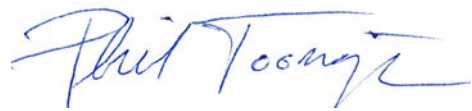
² Incomplete reviews of pending development along the H Street corridor demonstrate that the need for additional public transportation here will grow dramatically over coming years, with already 1500 residential units scheduled to deliver soon. http://dc.urbanturf.com/articles/blog/1458_new_units_are_on_tap_for_the_h_street_corridor/10720

The streetcar project has spurred an extraordinary level of investment along the H Street corridor and has given our community hope that the District will deliver on initiatives that promote economic development and improved public transit options for our historically-neglected and underserved part of the District.³ In addition, our ANC and others nearby have welcomed much new residential development, which brings with it a tremendous amount of population density and demands for residential parking and transportation, along the H Street corridor and surrounding areas with the understanding that the District's long-term vision is to provide a viable streetcar line for area residents.

Limiting the streetcar's service to just six days a week undercuts many assumptions built into development plans for our ANC, poses significant transportation issues for an already underserved area, and sends a poor message to our community about the streetcar's viability and this Administration's commitment to its success. We trust that you will take the necessary steps to ensure the success of the streetcar by providing seven-day service and by completing the line's long-promised extension through downtown as soon as possible.

Thank you for considering our concerns about this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at philanc6a@gmail.com to discuss this matter further and to make arrangements to share your plans for the streetcar with our community. We look forward to hearing from you and to working together to ensure the successful return of streetcars in the District.

On behalf of the Commission,



Phil Toomajian
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia
Phil Mendelson, Chair, D.C. Council
Mary Cheh, Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment
Charles Allen, Councilmember Ward 6
Yvette Alexander, Councilmember Ward 7
Vincent Orange, David Grosso, Anita Bonds, Elissa Silverman
Councilmembers At-large
ANC6C, ANC6E, ANC5D, ANC7D

³ Recent estimates note over \$750 million in real estate investments made along the eastern portions of the H Street corridor due to the anticipated delivery of the streetcar in this otherwise transit challenged area.
<http://urbanplacesandspaces.blogspot.com/2015/12/dc-and-streetcars-4-from-standpoint-of.html>