

# Government of the District of Columbia

## Department of Transportation



### Transit Delivery Division

Commissioner Jamila White  
Chairperson, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A  
P.O. Box 30700  
Washington, DC 20019  
Email: 8A05@anc.dc.gov

April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Dear Chairperson Jamila White,

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is initiating a bus priority project on Minnesota Avenue SE which includes a short portion of Good Hope Road SE to improve safety and bus transit operations. The project extents are:

- Minnesota Avenue SE between Good Hope Road and Pennsylvania Ave SE
- Good Hope Road SE between MLK Jr. Ave SE and Minnesota Ave SE

This letter is to provide you with information on our approach to this effort and invite you to participate. This letter does not constitute a formal Notice of Intent (NOI) as required by the Administrative Procedure Amendment Act of 2000.

### Project Background

Minnesota Ave SE is a vibrant corridor and an important roadway for people walking, biking, driving, and riding the bus. It's a key connection between neighborhoods in the District and a corridor where people live, work, shop, and access other destinations. This confluence of mobility and access leads to a busy, congested corridor that has a history of unsafe conditions and severe crashes. The goal of this project is to make Minnesota Ave SE a safer corridor for all roadway users and prioritize the speed, efficiency, and reliability of bus transit.

This planning process is being initiated because this segment of Minnesota Ave SE has been an identified as a priority through District-wide planning efforts and other initiatives:

1. The Minnesota Avenue SE corridor is part of DDOT's [bus priority network](#) and serves several high ridership bus routes including the V2, B2, and 92 Metrobus routes.
2. DDOT has also identified Minnesota Ave SE between Good Hope Rd SE and Pennsylvania Ave SE, and Good Hope Rd SE between Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE and Minnesota Ave SE as Vision Zero high-crash corridors.
3. moveDC identified Minnesota Ave SE as part of the [bicycle priority network](#) and has been designated for future planned improvements.
4. The [DDOT State Freight Plan](#) and [moveDC](#) have noted the importance of Good Hope Rd SE as part of the freight network and the density of retail and other commercial properties generates high demands for commercial loading.

## Project Timeline:

Listed below are the key phases in the development of the project on Minnesota Ave SE. The general strategy is to start with building an understanding of the corridor and identifying the needs. Then DDOT will begin developing design solutions to meet those needs, identify a solution for implementation, and refine the details to make it work. *However, I welcome feedback on any aspect of this project during every phase.*

### **March 2022 - June 2022** – Existing Conditions Analysis

During this period (right now), DDOT is conducting quantitative and qualitative analysis to form a deeper understanding of the strengths and deficiencies of transportation in the corridor, i.e., what works well and what needs to be fixed. The quantitative side will be focused bus operations, vehicular travel delay, and safety, with a particular focus on the safety of the most vulnerable roadway users. The qualitative component will include site visits, coordination with WMATA and DDOT staff and bus operators, and be present at DDOT's Information Booth during MLK Jr Open Streets event scheduled May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to solicit broad, open-ended feedback from the community and roadway users.

### **June – July 2022** – Phase 1 Public Outreach – Needs Assessment

DDOT will present findings from the existing conditions analysis to ANC 8A, Anacostia BID, and others in the community to identify any gaps between the analysis and the lived experience of those travelling on the corridor. It will also provide an opportunity for DDOT build a better sense of the priorities for the community in terms of which interventions are needed most. Feedback can be provided online at [buspriority@dc.gov](mailto:buspriority@dc.gov) and through the bus priority “hotline” at 202-671-2376 allowing people to call anytime and provide comments without internet access.

### **July - September 2022** – Phase 2 Public Outreach – Identify Solutions

Following Phase 1 of the project, DDOT staff will develop concept-level design solutions to the deficiencies in the corridor and solicit feedback from the community through different channels, including:

- Briefings or presentation to ANC 8A
- A public meeting conducted online (and in-person if conditions allow.)
- Flyers to residents and businesses through the corridor with a brief synopsis of the proposed changes and request feedback

### **October 2022 - January 2023** – Phase 3 Public Outreach – Refine Concept

Based on the public feedback received, DDOT staff and leadership will select a conceptual design and begin working toward a final design. This will often require some minor modifications and deeper analysis of proposed design solutions, based on public feedback and also follow-up with community members. Once a decision is made on the conceptual approach, all project stakeholders identified during phases 1 and 2 of public engagement will be informed of the decision.

After notifying the public that a conceptual design has been selected, DDOT will begin working towards the 30% design milestone. This is when many details of the project will have been determined, but it is still early enough that changes can be accommodated in future phases of design. At this point, DDOT will issue an NOI, which will include a 30-business day public comment period.

DDOT is currently targeting construction of any improvements to begin in 2024.

## Contact and Next Steps

As indicated in the timeline, I would like to present the results of our analysis to ANC 8A in June, but in the meantime, I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or ideas you might have for the project. Please contact me at 202-329-0744 or [brent.iring@dc.gov](mailto:brent.iring@dc.gov).

Sincerely,



### **Brent Irving**

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Cc:

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Jamila White, *ANC Commissioner 8A05*  
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Wendy Glenn, *Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember White*  
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