Crosswalk Banners

Arts in the Right-of-Way (AROW) Program

Crosswalks banners enhance the safety and aesthetic of the District’s crosswalks, which provide a safe space for pedestrians to navigate public space. Through this new permit, DDOT is committed to working with interested groups to beautify pedestrian spaces in the public right-of-way. This permit is part of DDOT’s [Arts in the Right-of-Way (AROW) Program](https://ddot.dc.gov/page/arts-right-way).

**Eligible Organizations**

The following organizations are eligible to apply for a Crosswalk Banner permit:

* Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and
* Nonprofits and community-based organizations.

Crosswalk banners are typically associated with these organizations because of the cost of materials and installation, and more importantly, the maintenance required by the Applicant.

**Requirements**

The following are DDOT’s requirements for a crosswalk banner. All requirements will be checked for during the permit review process. Depending on the specific location, DDOT may include additional requirements to ensure safety of all roadway users.

**Design Requirements**

* Art should reflect the culture, spirit, and history of the surrounding neighborhood and District in a way that is appropriate for the location of the crosswalk banner.
* Banners shall be placed on one or both sides of a crosswalk and have a width of no more than two (2) feet. A buffer of one (1) foot shall be included between the crosswalk and the banner.
* Banners should not impact existing or planned bicycle infrastructure, such as bike boxes or bike lanes.
* Cannot include any form of advertisement, commercial promotion, or copyright protected images.
* Shall not include speech of any kind.
* Materials for the design must be made of white or colored preformed thermoplastic, or a similar permanent material. Paint is not permitted.
* DDOT holds the right to deny or request modification to design.

**Installation Requirements**

* Contractor shall not drill into the roadway.
* A primer adhesive should be applied to the roadway prior to the installation of preformed thermoplastic.

**Maintenance Requirements**

* Applicant must sign a maintenance agreement taking full responsibility for maintenance of the art.
* DDOT reserves the right to remove the banner to attend to maintenance or modification of the roadway.
* DDOT will conduct an inspection post-installation to ensure art does not impede function of the roadway.

**Permitting Process**

Applicants can apply for a Crosswalk Banner permit through DDOT’s [Transportation Online Permitting System (TOPS)](http://tops.ddot.dc.gov/). For any questions about the process or required documents, please email the AROW team at [neighborhood.planning@dc.gov](mailto:neighborhood.planning@dc.gov?subject=Traffic%20Control%20Box%20Beautification). The permit will be reviewed by DDOT’s AROW team and Safety team. Below are the documents that are required for submission in TOPS.

**Required Documents**

* **Site Plan and Photos**
  + An aerial map of the location of the crosswalk banner
  + Photographs of the existing condition of the roadway
  + Site plan of the crosswalk and associated banner design (see Example Site Plan below)
    - Dimensions of the crosswalk and proposed banner
  + Detail of the materials that will be used
* **Signed Maintenance Agreement**
  + The agreement must be recorded with the DC Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) Recorder of Deeds
* **Traffic Control Plan**
  + Show the designated work zone, traffic control signs, channelizing devices, barricades, existing pavement markings, peak hour restrictions, and detour plan(s)
* **Demonstration of broad neighborhood support, including any of the following:**
  + Letters of support from:
    - Adjacent property owners
    - Adjacent businesses
    - BID or other neighborhood organizations
  + Petition signed by nearby residents
  + ANC resolution

**TOPS Instructions**

Once logged into TOPS, Applicants should apply for all AROW projects through the *Other Work Related Occupancy* permit category found under *Occupancy Permits* in TOPS. Please follow the instructions below regarding permitting:

* TOPS will ask for a building permit number, enter *99999999* to bypass and continue with the permit;
* TOPS will ask for the location of the permit, the applicant should use the block range rather than the address (for example, submit the 800 Block of 14th Street NW rather than 801 14th Street NW);
* Submit all required documents when prompted to upload documents. It does not matter what category they are uploaded in;
* If the Applicant has not been in contact with the AROW team prior, please sent permit tracking number to [Neighborhood.Planning@dc.gov](mailto:Neighborhood.Planning@dc.gov) once the application has been submitted in TOPS.

**Example Site Plan**

