

DDOT Pushes for More Equitable Transit Options



Chief of Staff Lee Goodall speaks about the importance of transportation equity at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting in January.

On February 4, the District honored the life and legacy of Rosa Parks by celebrating her birthday with Transit Equity Day and Bus to Work Day.

DDOT promotes equitable transportation options for all District residents and a major part of that effort focuses on buses.

More than half of District Metrobus riders earn under \$30,000 per year and two-thirds live in households without cars. Some of the ways DDOT is working to expand opportunities for these residents is by improving bus transit through projects like the [K Street Transitway](#); dedicated bus lanes on H

Street NW, I (Eye) Street NW and 14th Street NW and the [bus priority program](#).

At this year's Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, Chief of Staff Lee Goodall [emphasized the importance of transit equity](#).

Mayor Muriel Bowser and DDOT are actively directing resources to "positively impact communities that may not have had a voice in the past," said Mr. Goodall.

Besides its efforts to improve the District's bus infrastructure, DDOT is working to improve transit equity by:

- Piloting a program to test free and reduced WMATA fare cards for low-income District residents.
- Adding a Transportation Equity and Inclusion Officer to review projects from the planning through maintenance phases.
- Building out the Community Engagement Team to foster relationships and build trust with residents.
- Requiring operators to make dockless scooters and bikes accessible to all Washingtonians, regardless of income, through their low-income customer plans.

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Sneak Peek



**Stay Tuned for a Story
About the Return of
Capital Bikeshare's Electric
Bikes in March's Issue!**

DDOT Kicks Off 16th Street NW Circle Safety Improvement Project



Director Marootian speaks at the kick off of the 16th Street Circle project.

Mayor Muriel Bowser and DDOT officially kicked off work on the 16th Street NW Circle Traffic Signalization Upgrade Project in Ward 4 on February 1, which will create safer passage for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers through a busy corridor that connects the District and Montgomery County, Md.

DDOT will reconfigure the 16th Street NW Circle to provide traffic and pedestrian signalization for all approaches and crosswalks, including within the Maryland right-of-way.

“This project is one example of the work we are doing to make our streets, and the entire region safer, under Mayor Bowser’s leadership,” said Director Jeff Marootian. “This joint effort between the District and Maryland not only will significantly improve travel in the area, but reinforces the region’s commitment to Vision Zero.”

Mayor Muriel Bowser Celebrates Frederick Douglass Bridge Progress



A DC Circulator bus crosses the Anacostia River against a backdrop of the new Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge.

February 13, on the eve of 202nd anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that construction of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, the largest public infrastructure construction project in the District’s history, is nearly halfway complete.

“The Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge is the embodiment of the man’s work to bring people together,” said Mayor Bowser.

Since construction began, the project has created over 200 jobs for DC residents, the result of special approval from Federal Highway Administration requiring 51 percent of all new project-related jobs to be performed by District residents.

Community Engagement Division Hosts Safety Open House in Ward 5



Team members from across DDOT helped share information about the agency's projects at the Ward 5 Safety Improvement Open House on February 8.

A bright and sunny Saturday afternoon was the perfect backdrop for the Ward 5 Safety Improvement Open House on February 8. More than 65 residents came out to learn about all the work DDOT is doing to create safer streets in Ward 5.

Held at the Trinidad Recreation Center, the open house gathered DDOT team members from across the agency to share information about the agency's projects in Ward 5, such as the "Dave Thomas Circle" Intersection Improvement Project, Metropolitan Branch Trail and Zaire Kelly Park. During the two-hour event, team DDOT answered questions from community members about the agency's policies, programs and initiatives that will impact their neighborhood streets. Special thanks to event organizer Community Engagement Specialist Kelly Jeong-Olson and the entire DDOT team that showed up at the event.

The next DDOT Safety Improvement Open House will be held on Saturday, March 14, from 10 am to 12 noon at the Stoddert Elementary School's multipurpose room. For more information about the event, please contact Donise Jackson at Donise.jackson@dc.gov.

d. Honors: Celebrating the Accomplishments of DDOT Staff Members

DDOT has a talented, diverse set of team members who are a continuous credit to the agency. Whether through awards that staff members earn or continuing education milestones, our team members are constantly advancing and shining a light on the agency. We at the d. Report would like to feature these accomplishments in this section. For future consideration, please contact us at ddot.communications@dc.gov.

- **Emily Dalphy** (Vision Zero Division) - Ms. Dalphy received the 2019 Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) Public Leadership Award "for her work as an innovative public servant who listens responsively to community needs, and going above and beyond in supporting communities who need safe streets now."
- **Ravi Ganvir** (Infrastructure Project Management Division) - Mr. Ganvir received WABA's 2019 Trail Champion Award for "his work moving countless trails, walking and biking projects around the District forward this past year, including the Arboretum Bridge and Trail."
- **Rahul Jain** (Project Delivery Administration) - Mr. Jain passed his certification exam to be a Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE) in October 2019. Mr. Jain, who has been at DDOT for seven years, is one of three PTOEs at DDOT.

DDOT Announces Pilot Program for Bus Lane Camera at Eye and 16th NW

DDOT announced a three-month research pilot for a bus lane camera at the intersection of Eye Street NW and 16th Street NW on February 13. The pilot is scheduled to continue through May 19, 2020.

“Since the bus lanes on H and I Street NW were installed in June, we have seen consistent progress toward Mayor Bowser’s goal to make bus transit in the District more reliable and efficient,” said Director Jeff Marootian. “The data we collect over the next three months will inform next steps on how to use automated enforcement to help keep bus lanes and bus stops safe and clear for transit vehicles.”

DDOT will collect data on how the bus lane is being used, specifically the number of unauthorized vehicles using the lane while it is operational. The data collected will be for research purposes only. Through the pilot, DDOT aims to better understand the infrastructure and organizational systems needed to perform automated bus lane enforcement and how to review and process the camera footage.

In June 2019, DDOT implemented a three-month bus lane pilot on H Street and I Street NW in downtown DC to improve bus travel speed and reliability. The bus lane was made permanent in November 2019 and operates Monday to Saturday from 7 am to 7 pm.

DDOT Monthly Safety Tip: Tornado and Hurricane Safety

In the wake of the tornado warnings that were issued in early February, here are some reminders and recommendations to ensure employee safety during tornado, hurricane and other extreme wind events:

If You are Indoors

- Employees should close all doors between rooms and take shelter in an interior hallway, stairwell, bathroom or closet.
- Stand clear of all windows and/or doors to avoid flying debris.
- If possible, take cover under sturdy furniture, holding onto whatever you are under.
- Listen for instructions from DDOT’s Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) regarding sheltering-in-place and other protective measures.
- Pay attention to local weather via media reports, notifications from weather apps or emergency apps such as the FEMA app, and/or a NOAA weather radio.

If You are Outdoors

- Seek shelter in a basement, shelter or sturdy building
- If you cannot quickly walk to a shelter or building, immediately get into a vehicle and try to drive to the closest sturdy facility.



Photo by Ralph W. Lambrecht

- If strong winds and flying debris occur while driving, pull over and park, keeping your seat belt on and engine running. Put your head down below the windows, covering your head with your hands and a blanket.
- Stay away from bridge/highway overpasses, as well as heavy forest areas.
- Make contact with your supervisor/manager for situational awareness and additional safety recommendations.

d. Report

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