

Megan Kanagy
Transportation Planner
District of Columbia Department of Transportation

January 6, 2019

Dear Ms. Kanagy,

The Ward 3 Bicycle Advocates (W3BA), a group of Ward 3 residents who support and advocate for improvements to the bicycle infrastructure in our ward, is encouraged by DDOT's ongoing efforts to serve the city's bicycling community.

In concert with DDOT and other bicycling advocacy groups, our goal is to make it both safer and easier for bicyclists to travel to and through all of Washington safely and efficiently. Well designed, safe routes such as those proposed by DDOT benefit all bicyclists, be they commuters, those who ride within our neighborhoods, children biking to school, and all who ride to and within the many parks and recreation sites in area.

At its first public meeting in May 1, 2018, DDOT presented the 20th/21st/22nd St NW portion of its 3-area (Eastern Downtown and Crosstown, respectively) DC Protected Bike Lane Project.

While the area under discussion, 20th/21st/22nd Street NW west of Dupont Circle, is not within Ward 3, its development is of great interest to our group. At the present time, Ward 3 bicyclists, including commuters and recreational riders to downtown Washington, do not have a safe, contiguous route between Upper Northwest and the National Mall. This situation continues to pose a barrier to residents of, and those who would otherwise ride through, Ward 3. This need for improved bicycle facilities in this area was recognized in the 2005 Bicycle Master Plan. Fourteen years later, the need has greatly increased.

Of the three proposed north-south routes, W3BA believes the 21st Street option provides both the safest and most direct connection between Florida and Connecticut Avenues on the north end and the National Mall on the south end.

Whichever route is selected, W3BA encourages DDOT to ensure that there is a safe route for cyclists to continue north on Connecticut Avenue to Woodley Park and beyond. DDOT's current proposal to examine Connecticut Avenue only extends as far south as Woodley Park, thus leaving a potential gap for cyclists between Calvert Street and Florida Avenue. This stretch of route should be studied in conjunction with DDOT's other planning efforts

The Ward 3 Bicycle Advocates supports DDOT in examining improvements to the bicycle facilities throughout Ward 3 and its environs. We look forward to working with DDOT to ensure everyone can bike safely and efficiently throughout the city.

Sincerely,

The Ward 3 Bicycle Advocates