

DUPONT CIRCLE BID

1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 502
Washington, DC 20009

202-525-4687
dupontcirclebid.org

**Director Jeff Marootian****District Department of Transportation**

55 M Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Director Marootian,

On behalf of the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID), I want to thank the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) project team for their continued collaboration on the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Dupont Plaza project.

Understanding that the current project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance the environmental, social, and economic conditions of the Dupont Circle neighborhood, the BID requests that DDOT consider the following requested enhancements to the design. We believe these enhancements will enable the City and neighborhood to fully realize a substantial return on investment from this transformative project.

Dupont Plaza

1. There is consensus among the Executive Committee consensus on the plaza design (trees, structure, shade, etc) based on the concept presented at the public meeting, and design development shared with the BID's Board of Directors on January 8th and at the BID's Public Space committee on January 14th. The Board would likes the concept of the tiered seating around the ventilation hole and was wondering if it could be south facing rather than north facing, so as to overlook Dupont Circle and provide more clear space on the Plaza.
2. The BID has committed to signing a Memorandum of Understanding with DDOT to be able to successfully manage, maintain, and program Dupont Plaza. We would like to begin this process as soon as possible. Please provide information for a contact person at DDOT with whom the BID can coordinate.
3. The BID appreciates DDOT's understanding of the importance of the integration of public art for the ventilation opening and associated railings, as discussed at the January Board Meeting, and the BID Public Space Committee meeting. The BID requests that the DDOT project team continue to work closely with us throughout the design phase as the shape, function and specifications of the public art takes shape. We acknowledge the timing of any public art project may not line up with the final design of the plaza and appreciate DDOT's stated commitment to flexibility that would allow for future public art.

Streetscape

1. The BID requests that DDOT explore the possibility of extending the sidewalk along Connecticut Avenue between R and S Streets, NW through two potential options:
 - i) Based on the 65% design plans, this segment of Connecticut Avenue has three vehicle lanes. The BID would like DDOT to evaluate eliminating one of these vehicle lanes. An

DUPONT CIRCLE BID

1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 502
Washington, DC 20009

202-525-4687
dupontcirclebid.org



- expanded sidewalk would prioritize pedestrians and provide for the possibility of restaurants along this block to apply for sidewalk café permits, which would activate the block.
- ii) The removal of the Connecticut Avenue Median between R and S Streets should also be explored as it would allow for a sidewalk expansion as well as maintain the three vehicle lanes throughout the block.
2. Consistency in the streetscape elements, including benches, trash receptacles, etc. is important for a unified look. A listing of all hardscape elements and their locations that will help for the BID to plan for future programming, activation and branding.

Utilities

1. The BID requests the inclusion of electrical hook-up in the plaza and streetlight specifications. The BID will work directly with Pepco to develop agreements for payment regarding usage.
2. The BID requests water hook-up be provided for the Plaza, and that the water hook-up in the median be fixed so that it is usable, if the median is not removed. The BID will work with DC Water to develop agreements for payment regarding usage.

Budget and Schedule

1. The BID would like to get a better understanding of the project's construction budget, how much funding has been allocated with federal funds, and the timing of those funds. The BID would also like to discuss the amount of, if any, local funds that will be necessary to cover any potential shortfall of federal funds. The BID is also requesting a detailed schedule as discussed at the January Board Meeting and the BID's Public Space Committee meeting.

The BID looks forward to continued collaboration with DDOT and the project team. We remain excited about the transformative nature of this project and the skill and insight the project team has brought to the table thus far. We appreciate a response to these questions within the next month so we can be prepared as we brief Councilmembers on this project in April.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Hawkinson".

Colleen Hawkinson
Executive Director

cc: Ellen Jones, DDOT
Wayne Wilson, DDOT
Huntae Kim, DDOT
Mike Gifford, RKK