



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

RESOLUTION #4B-21-0206

Providing Feedback on 65% Design of Metropolitan Branch Trail from Fort Totten to Takoma

Adopted February 22, 2021

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (ANC 4B or the Commission) takes note of the following:

- The District Department of Transportation presented updated, 65% design plans for the Fort Totten to Takoma section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail in a public meeting on February 10, 2021.¹
- The District Department of Transportation stated that public comment on the current design would be accepted through March 10, 2021.
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has routinely supported completion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail, including:
 - ANC 4B resolution #4B-18-0107, supporting the proposed 30% alignment of the Metropolitan Branch Trail (January 22, 2018);
 - ANC 4B resolution #4B-18-0403, supporting funding for the final design (April 23, 2018);²
 - ANC 4B resolution #4B-20-0702, reiterating the Commission's support and providing additional design recommendations (July 27, 2020);³ and
 - ANC 4B resolution #4B-21-0101, supporting planned construction of the trail in the 7100 block Eastern Avenue NW (January 25, 2021).⁴

¹ Presentation materials are available here: <http://metbranchtrail.com/met-branch-trail-fort-totten-to-takoma/>

² Resolution #4B-18-0403 available here: https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/AttachmentsFiles/18/r4b-18-0403%20mbt%20funding_TM_20180427122226PM.pdf

³ Resolution #4B-20-0702 available here: https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/AttachmentsFiles/18/MBT%20Resolution%20Final%207.27.20%20Final%20Vote_T_20200729123624PM.docx

⁴ Resolution #4B-21-0101 available here: [https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/AttachmentsFiles/18/Resolution%20#4B-21-0101%20Supporting%20Construction%20of%20the%20Metropolitan%20Branch%20Trail%20\(NOI%20#20-110-PSD\)\(2\)_TM_20210126102129AM.pdf](https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/AttachmentsFiles/18/Resolution%20#4B-21-0101%20Supporting%20Construction%20of%20the%20Metropolitan%20Branch%20Trail%20(NOI%20#20-110-PSD)(2)_TM_20210126102129AM.pdf)

- Regarding the intersection of Blair Road and Aspen Street NW:
 - The many upgrades and modifications contemplated in the design presented on February 10, 2021 include traffic signal reconstruction at the intersection of Blair Road and Aspen Street NW and safety improvements at the nearby intersection of Sandy Spring Road NW and Aspen Street NW.
 - The Commission, in Resolution #4B-19-0501, supported previously proposed, but never implemented, safety modifications for the nearby intersection of Aspen Street NW, Sandy Spring Road NW, and Willow Street NW.⁵
 - However, the community also frequently encounters traffic and pedestrian safety challenges at the intersection of Blair Road and Aspen Street NW resulting in part from west-bound vehicles on Aspen Street that are attempting to turn south onto Blair Road, and the current design does not include the addition of a turn signal and/or turn lane at the reconfigured intersection of Aspen Street NW and Blair Road NW.
 - The Commission is aware of Traffic Safety Assessment requests related to this intersection that have been submitted to the District Department of Transportation. For example, in September 2019, an ANC Single Member District 4B02 resident submitted a Traffic Safety Assessment questionnaire, with Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner support, for Aspen Street NW, between Piney Branch Road NW and Blair Road NW. The questionnaire noted the problematic intersection at Aspen Street NW and Blair Road NW, including cars violating red lights, bicycle and pedestrian conflicts with cars, and the proximity of community spaces and schools. It further noted neighbor recommendations for a left turn lane from Aspen Street NW (west) onto Blair Road NW (south). The District Department of Transportation assigned the request service number 19-00887735; the request is still open.
 - The District Department of Transportation included the Blair Road and Aspen Street NW intersection as one of nine priority focus areas in its Rock Creek East 1 Livability Study, which was completed in December 2020.⁶

⁵ Resolution #4B-19-0501 available here: https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/AttachmentsFiles/18/Resolution%204B-19-0501_Supporting%20Safety%20Modifications%20to%20Aspen,%20Sandy%20Spring,%20and%20Willow%20streets_TM_20190530082931AM.pdf

⁶ Final report is available here: <https://www.rceast1.com/final-report>

- Regarding the section of the trail planned for 1st Street NE and McDonald Place NE:
 - The portion of the trail running along 1st Street NE and McDonald Place NE was intended to be temporary while the District Department of Transportation continues to work with the National Park Service (NPS) to allow access to land that would be a more ideal location for the trail.
- Regarding the intersections of 3rd Street NW, Blair Road, and Whittier Street NW:
 - These intersections would receive a number of safety enhancements under the 65% design, including turning the 6600 block of 3rd Street NW into a one-way running south.
 - The Commission, in Resolution #4B-19-0502, supported previously proposed, but never implemented, safety modifications for the intersection of Blair Road, 3rd Street NW, and Whittier Street NW.⁷
- Regarding the intersection of Blair Road and Van Buren Street NW:
 - The many upgrades and modifications contemplated in the 65% design include traffic signal reconstruction at the intersection of Blair Road and Van Buren Street NW but do not currently include lighting enhancements for the for the directly adjacent rail corridor underpass.

RESOLVED:

- As the design plans for the Fort Totten to Takoma section of the Metropolitan Branch Trail are finalized, the Commission requests that the District Department of Transportation include a turn signal and/or turn lane at the intersection of Aspen Street NW and Blair Road NW for vehicles on Aspen Street that are attempting to turn onto Blair Road.
- ANC 4B prefers relocating the 1st Street NE and McDonald Place NE sections of the trail to the nearby National Park Service land. The Commission requests that the District Department of Transportation expedite investigation of the alternative route with NPS, as the alternate route is safer for trail users and residents and has the support of the residents of 1st Street NE and McDonald Place NE currently impacted by the “temporary” route.

⁷ Resolution #4B-19-0502 available here: https://resolutions.anc.dc.gov/AttachmentsFiles/18/Resolution%204B-19-0502_Supporting%20Safety%20Modifications%20to%20Blair%20Road%20and%203rd%20St%20NW_TM_20190530083249AM.pdf

- The Commission supports the proposed enhancements that would turn the 6600 block of 3rd Street NW into a one-way, and further requests installation of a four-way stop at the intersection of 3rd Street NW and Whittier Street NW.
- At the intersection of Blair Road and Van Buren Street NW, the Commission requests inclusions of improved lighting under the adjacent rail corridor underpass.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Commission designates Commissioner Geoff Bromaghim, ANC 4B07, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of **[NUMBER]** members was present) on February 22, 2021, by a vote of **X** yes, **X** no, **X** abstentions.