

Q&A Session for Metropolitan Branch Trail: Fort Totten to Takoma Design - Public Meeting

Session Number: 1801737522

Date: 2021-2-10

Starting time: 18:02

Jason Levitis(jason.levitis@gmail.com) - 18:38

Q: When i tried to join webex on my computer, it asked for a password. what's the password?

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 18:40

A: Hi Jason, I'm sorry the link didn't autofill the password for you. This is the password: Xup6aMJPg37. Please let me know if you continue to have issues getting on.

Jason Levitis(jason.levitis@gmail.com) - 18:42

Q: thanks, Molly, but that doesn't work. I tried entering it three times.

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 18:44

A: Ah, I sincerely apologize!! That was a previous password, this should be the right one: 2PpiR2eszt3

Jason Levitis(jason.levitis@gmail.com) - 18:45

Q: that one worked. thanks

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 18:46

A: No problem! Again, so sorry about the difficulties getting in. Enjoy the meeting! The Project team should be sharing the presentation as well if you missed anything. Have a great evening!

Robert Patten - 18:47

Q: what is the southern section you are leaving to later.

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:16

A: This question has been answered verbally.

rachel maisler(rmaisler@gmail.com) - 18:51

Q: Why Sharrows on SD ave? That is not friendly for people who are not comfortable on roads.

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:16

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Robert Patten - 18:52

Q: what is the width?

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:18

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Bob Summersgill(bob@summersgill.net) - 18:54

Q: I think you need clearer markings or protections to keep cars meaning to use the community garden access road from turning onto the bike trail.

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:19

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Conor Shaw(conorshaw@hotmail.com) - 18:58

Q: Can we reduce the number of curb cuts at the 7/11 and extra space storage?

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:20

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Bradley Green(brad@bradgreen.net) - 19:02

Q: What thought has been given to routing the trail across NPS land between 1st St. NE and the RR tracks? Apologies if you already covered this. It took me longer to join the meeting than I anticipated.

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:21

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Conor Shaw(conorshaw@hotmail.com) - 19:07

Q: Could we propose to add a Cabi station and/or bike parking at 3rd & Blair instead of adding three parking spaces?

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:21

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Evan Yeats(4b01@anc.dc.gov) - 19:09

Q: When you get to Aspen is the trail elevated off the street or is it at street level? do you have a rendering of the space usage for the Aspen underpass?

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:22

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Gavin Baker - 19:11

Q: Could you clarify when you plan to start the environmental assessment for the

proposed future off-street route north of Riggs Rd.?

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:23

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Jack Koczela - 19:11

Q: DDOT team and all consultants, thanks. Great job. Can we shorten the time between 100% design and start of construction? Let's move faster. Thank you!

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:23

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Bob Summersgill(bob@summersgill.net) - 19:12

Q: Nice to have the federal non-discrimination information, but DC's Human Rights Act is more comprehensive.

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:26

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Garrett Hennigan(garrett.hennigan@waba.org) - 19:12

Q: Great to hear that WMATA agreed to close a curb cut. Why are we leaving so many existing curb cuts, even when sidewalk parking is discontinued? (es. at Rittenhouse, SE corner of Kansas, and at the liquor store)

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:26

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Robert Patten - 19:12

Q: I have questions

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 19:28

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Xavier Halloran - 19:12

Q: Has a "raised sidewalk crosswalk" or "raised trail" been considered for between Kansas and Rittenhouse?

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:47

A: the trail will be raised to the sidewalk level along Blair between Kansas and Rittenhouse. so that cars will have to "go up" to the trail level to cross the trail

Jeff Speir(jeffrey.speir@gmail.com) - 19:12

Q: On Sandy Spring (north of Aspen) will the MBT be on-road? (Currently, there is

no sidewalk immediately north of Aspen.)

Priority: N/A

Andrew Aguilar - 19:55

A: This section will be off road. We will be constructing a trail on the west side of the roadway where there is no existing sidewalk.

Julie Lawson(lawson.julie@gmail.com) - 19:12

Q: Can you dig in a little more on the Blair/Aspen intersection? Neighbors are concerned about the east side of Aspen, under the tracks, currently appearing to be one-way

Priority: N/A

Tamira benitez - 19:13

Q: How many people are expected to use the trail?

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:25

A: this question has been answer by sayra molina

Xavier Halloran - 19:13

Q: For all the driveways, blind turns, and the new lower 25 MPH speed on Blair, it seems reasonable to "raise the trail" a bit to slow the drivers from the businesses.

Priority: N/A

Uchenna Evans(u2evans@gmail.com) - 19:13

Q: 1. Can you clarify what it means exactly that the traffic signal at 1st & Riggs will be in "interim condition"?

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:45

A: Mr. Evans what we mean by the signal at 1st and riggs is that we will be installing the singal in advance to this overall project. However, further improvements to the intersection will be completed when construction for this project beings.

Sayra molina - 19:45

A: I hope this answers your concerns. If you have specific questions about this intersection please feel free to email metbranchtrail@dc.gov

Noah Gillespie - 19:13

Q: Bike signals are proposed for many locations. These have had mixed results and often lead to confusion. I strongly support no-left-turn-on-red vehicle signals; what evidence supports bike signals for this trail?

Priority: N/A

Michael Alvino - 20:21

A: For the project we are proposing to seperate the left turn movement from

the bike/ped movement along the trail. So yes, there will be a no left turn for vehicles where the trail is crossing.

Julie Lawson(lawson.julie@gmail.com) - 19:13

Q: Thank you for this presentation and incorporating all our feedback! I'm very excited about this project and better, safer access to downtown.

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:49

A: Thank you.

Tamira benitez - 19:14

Q: Has this project taken into consideration the Traffic Security Assessments community members have submitted to DDOT?

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:27

A: This question has been answered by sayra molina

Robert Ooi - 19:14

Q: Can you describe the 1st NE onstreet section? Will there be a painted lane? Impact on parking?

Priority: N/A

Uchenna Evans(u2evans@gmail.com) - 19:15

Q: 2. Can text be added to the slide to detail exactly what is being proposed for North Dakota/Peabody/Kansas? It's hard to tell what is supposed to be going on there.

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 20:20

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Conor Shaw(conorshaw@hotmail.com) - 19:15

Q: Have you considered adding automated enforcement to protect trail users from vehicles along any portion of the corridor--but especially blair road?

Priority: N/A

Molly Burns (DDOT) - 20:21

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Noah Gillespie - 19:16

Q: Why are there segments that expect bikes to board the sidewalk to continue rather than sharing the road?

Priority: N/A

Michael Alvino - 20:22

A: The trail along Blair Rd is at the same grade as the existing sidewalk, but will be widened and paved to allow for both bikes and pedestrians.

Garrett Hennigan(garrett.hennigan@waba.org) - 19:16

Q: There is an enormous curb cut at 1st Pl NE and Riggs and 3 more on that block. Have you designed that section and mitigated the driveways there?

Priority: N/A

Peter Gray(peter@waba.org) - 19:17

Q: You say construcion will start Winter 2022. Is that January 2022 or Nov/Dec 2022?

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:53

A: Thank you for your question. When we are closer to design completetion we will have a better date to provide. As of now it's anticipated that construction will start winter 2022. Please

visithttp://metbranchtrail.com/met-branch-trail-fort-totten-to-takoma/

tony camilli(anthony.camilli@gmail.com) - 19:17

Q: I have my hand raised to ask a question verbally.

Priority: N/A

Robert Patten - 19:17

Q: Please activate the mic to let us ask the question and dialog and confirm the answer.

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:54

A: Please raise your hand and we will unmute you to ask any questions/concerns you have.

Gavin Baker - 19:19

Q: Do you plan new bicycle facilities on Riggs Rd. to connect to the trail from the neighborhood east of the train tracks?

Priority: N/A

Michael Alvino - 20:23

A: We do not have any bike facilities planned on Riggs Rd at this time.

Garrett Hennigan(garrett.hennigan@waba.org) - 19:19

Q: Will you share the 65% design plans on the website?

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:56

A: Yes, we will have all related material on the website. project webiste, <http://metbranchtrail.com/met-branch-trail-fort-totten-to-takoma/>

Jason Levitis - 19:19

Q: and adding a contraflow bike lane. Van Buren is already one way past the rec center (and is a slow street), or Whitter and Dahlia are also possibilities. What are your thoughts on creating a safe east-west connection between the MBT/Takoma and Walter Reed?

Priority: N/A

Michael Alvino - 20:25

A: We will continue to look at creating an east west connection between the MBT and Walter Reed

Alison Brooks - 19:20

Q: While residents along 1st St NE and McDonald support a trail in principal, there is continued discontent with the on street option that is being pursued. I hope that there will be a robust pursuit of the NPS option.

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 20:18

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Uchenna Evans(u2evans@gmail.com) - 19:20

Q: 3. It is great that speed bumps have been installed on 1st St. Will there be any effort to study traffic speeds on that street prior to construction to assess whether any other mitigation efforts might be necessary?

Priority: N/A

Bob Summersgill(bob@summersgill.net) - 19:20

Q: The concern is not separating the bike trail and the access road, but rather cars turning from the road onto the bike trail.

Priority: N/A

Robert Patten - 19:21

Q: I have comments about blair road section

Priority: N/A

tony camilli(anthony.camilli@gmail.com) - 19:22

Q: Can you unmute me to ask a question

Priority: N/A

Jason Levitis - 19:22

Q: Thanks for your work on this! What are your thoughts on creating a safe east-west bike route between the MBT/Takoma and Walter Reed and the new trail on Aspen? Butternut has only a partial bike lane is has a ton of commuter and commercial traffic.

Priority: N/A

Robert Patten - 19:23

Q: will it be right on the curb

Priority: N/A

Jason Levitis - 19:23

Q: [Cont.] Some locals have suggested addressing that by making an east-west street one-way and adding a contraflow bike lane. Van Buren is already one way past the rec center (and is a slow street), or Whitter and Dahlia are also possibilities.

Priority: N/A

Alison Brooks - 19:24

Q: While residents along 1st St NE and McDonald support a trail in principal, there is continued discontent with the on street option that is being pursued. I hope that there will be a robust pursuit of the NPS option.

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 20:20

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Jack Koczela - 19:25

Q: kindly add the DC Rec Trails Advisory Committee to the stakeholders

Priority: N/A

Garrett Hennigan(garrett.hennigan@waba.org) - 19:25

Q: When will you have more detail on specific driveway designs, plans to mitigate conflicts with pedestrians at business entrances etc. Those details are critical to get right and would benefit from public input

Priority: N/A

Julie Lawson(lawson.julie@gmail.com) - 19:25

Q: What is the experience for travelers at Van Buren and Blair, and the trail? Both on the trail and coming from Van Buren from the east--drivers and cyclists

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 20:25

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Robert Patten - 19:26

Q: Please turn on my mike

Priority: N/A

Conor Shaw(conorshaw@hotmail.com) - 19:29

Q: Steve's point is excellent.

Priority: N/A

Bradley Green(brad@bradgreen.net) - 19:29

Q: This is an opinion. I strongly prefer the off-street alignment across NPS land instead of on 1st St. It's safer and offers a more enjoyable trail experience. DDOT should take this opportunity work with NPS, now that it is finally supportive of it.

Priority: N/A

Conor Shaw(conorshaw@hotmail.com) - 19:30

Q: (or whoever is talking about bike access to the trail at intersections)

Priority: N/A

Robert Patten - 19:34

Q: very good thanks

Priority: N/A

Gavin Baker - 19:35

Q: Is the construction fully funded?

Priority: N/A

Bradley Green(brad@bradgreen.net) - 19:36

Q: Opinion: I like the proposal to make 3rd St one way southbound between Blair Rd. and Whittier St. It would make for a safer pedestrian experience by slowing traffic.

Priority: N/A

Robert Patten - 19:38

Q: one more comment: Also at Aspen underpass. I would like to see the trail moved off the curb and toward the wall. It may be possible to allow a separate sidewalk space for pedestrians that are not making a trip related to the trail, but just walking thru

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 20:20

A: This question has been answered verbally.

Robert Patten - 19:42

Q: I would like to see art on the abutment walls under the tracks at the Aspen Underpass

Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 20:17

A: Thank you. When the trail is constructed, DDOT will coordinate with the DCCA to coordinate on opportunities for public art along this section of the MBT

Julie Lawson(lawson.julie@gmail.com) - 19:51

Q: As you redesign Kansas/Blair/Peabody/North Dakota, are you also looking at improving the Kansas Ave bike lane? Can we get rid of sharrows by the intersection?
Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 20:03

A: Thank you for your question. Yes, we have a separate plan for protected bike lanes on Kansas Ave. Please feel free to reach out to sayra.molina2@dc.gov if you have any questions about the efforts for Kansas Ave.

Robert Patten - 19:54

Q: Thanks, good job. I have to sign off
Priority: N/A

Julie Lawson(lawson.julie@gmail.com) - 19:56

Q: I am a parent of an elementary schooler and I will 100% ride on the Blair Road section with him
Priority: N/A

Sayra molina - 19:58

A: Great! We are very excited to hear this!

Bradley Green(brad@bradgreen.net) - 20:08

Q: Opinion: An alignment along North Dakota Ave. and 3rd St. between Aspen and Peabody is a lower stress routing than along Blair Rd.
Priority: N/A

Samer Alhawamdeh - 20:26

A: Thank you for your comment

Gordon Chaffin - 20:14

Q: Please build both East and West segments of the Takoma section. Understood that on is easier now, but both sides of Takoma need a beginner-friendly connection. Tracks a big mobility barrier. Future development coming on Maple/Takoma Park, MD there. L

Priority: N/A

Samer Alhawamdeh - 20:28

A: We are in coordinate with the new development

Geoff Bromaghim(4B07@anc.dc.gov) - 20:16

Q: Will upgraded lighting under the Van Buren underpass be included in the project?
Priority: N/A

Cecil Niles - 20:24

Q: I am particularly pleased to see a signal proposed at 1st and Riggs, particularly considering the aggressive driver behaviors during rush hour periods. Were upgrades to school zone signage and other treatments included as part of the

project?

Priority: N/A

Michael Alvino - 20:30

A: Yes, we have looked at this with our Safe Routes to School program to coordinate the school crossing with the new signal

Garrett Hennigan(garrett.hennigan@waba.org) - 20:25

Q: Will the speed limit be lowered on Blair road to bring it more in line iwth the new design?

Priority: N/A

Adam Thomas(dcnet@adamthomas.us) - 20:28

Q: Can you confirm there is no access to the trail at Underwood St? The sidewalk on the west side of Blair between Underwood and Van Buren is in very bad repair. It's not useable with a stroller or a wheelchair.

Priority: N/A

Gordon Chaffin - 20:30

Q: Are you adding continental crosswalks where you have entry/exit points to the trail with crossstreets off Blair?

Priority: N/A

Gordon Chaffin - 20:33

Q: Disregard my above Q. It was answered. High-viz paint coming for crosswalks.

Priority: N/A

Garrett Hennigan(garrett.hennigan@waba.org) - 20:32

Q: It's 35 in sections

Priority: N/A

Jim Werner - 20:22

Q: What is the exact NPS schedule for the EA revisions and revised FONSI?

Priority: N/A

Michael Alvino - 20:32

A: There is no schedule for the EA revisions at this time

Jim Werner - 20:34

Q: Absolutely disagree with changing the alignment to ND and 3rd Street, instead of Blair Road.. Your plan looks fine. Full Speed ahead.

Priority: N/A

Noah Gillespie - 20:34

Q: Can you please show this last slide?
Priority: N/A