



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Charles Allen
Councilmember - Ward 6

Committee Member
Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
Education
Transportation and the Environment

June 19, 2015

Stephen T. Ayers
SB-15 U.S. Capitol
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Ayers,

I write to express my strong support for the creation of a protected bicycle facility on Louisiana Avenue, NE, which is necessary to provide safe and efficient passage between Union Station, the Capitol, and beyond.

At present, these two critically important hubs are separated by a series of multi-lane roads (i.e., Massachusetts Avenue, North Capitol Street, Constitution Avenue, Louisiana Avenue) that are difficult for all users to navigate. A cycle track located here would benefit federal employees who commute to and from the Capitol grounds, thousands of tourists who annually pass through Union Station to the Capitol and the National Mall, and District residents of all ages who aspire to recreational activity.

Adding a protected cycle track on Louisiana Ave. is also essential to the District's bicycle network and would link the 1st Street, NE cycle track to the north with the Pennsylvania Avenue cycle track to the west. DDOT identified the importance of this connection ten years ago when it published its 2005 Bicycle Master Plan and reaffirmed that importance last year when it published its MoveDC Plan.

I respectfully request that the Architect of the Capitol work with DDOT to make a protected Louisiana Avenue cycle track a priority this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Allen".

Councilmember Charles Allen
Council of the District of Columbia, Ward 6

cc: Leif Dormsjo, Director, District Department of Transportation



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Leif A. Dormsjo
Director
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Director Dormsjo -

I write to express my strong support for the creation of a protected bicycle facility on Louisiana Avenue NE.

A cycle track on Louisiana Avenue is critical because it effectively transforms two disparate sets of protected bicycle facilities into a contiguous, unified network. To the north and west of Union Station, the new protected cycle track on 1st Street, NE links to a protected cycletrack on M Street, NE and the multi-use Metropolitan Branch Trail. At the Capitol grounds, the Pennsylvania Avenue cycle track links the Capitol to downtown and the White House, as well as to other protected cycle tracks that extend north to the K Street and U Street corridors and west to Georgetown. By installing a cycle track on Louisiana Avenue, DDOT would complete the central spine of a protected bicycle facility network spanning across the entirety of the L'Enfant City.

This network would connect major residential, employment, and tourist areas. In the process, DDOT will inspire commuters to bicycle to work, instill confidence in parents to allow their children to ride to school, and encourage Capital Bikeshare members to utilize the system throughout the year at all times of the day. A contiguous network of protected facilities in the L'Enfant City would stand as a major achievement and signal DDOT's commitment to remaining a national leader in the promotion of urban bicycling.

Furthermore, the creation of a protected facility on Louisiana Avenue is necessary to provide safe and efficient bicycle passage between Union Station and the

Capitol. Although the distance is less than half a mile, these destinations are separated by several multi-lane roadways (e.g., Massachusetts Avenue, North Capitol Street, Constitution Avenue) that present challenging intersections and exhibit high traffic volumes and speeds, especially during workday hours. As such, it is difficult today for even the most experienced cyclist to travel this short distance without elevated risk. The situation is particularly acute because each year we welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors at Union Station. The vast majority of these visitors will venture to the Capitol building; however, most are unfamiliar with our roadways and thus require the protection and way-finding that only a protected facility, such as a cycle track, can afford.

Given that DDOT identified Louisiana Avenue as a prime location in its 2006 Bicycle Master Plan and the 2014 MoveDC plan, I ask that you work collaboratively and expeditiously with the Architect of the Capitol to make a protected Louisiana Avenue cycle track a priority this year. I am happy to meet with you or your staff to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,



Councilmember Charles Allen
Council of the District of Columbia, Ward 6

cc: Stephen T. Ayers, Architect of the Capitol