

Mayor Bowser:

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and Ward 3 Bicycle Advocates (W3BA) are respectfully requesting your consideration of two priorities for the upcoming budget.

WABA empowers people to ride bikes, build connections, and transform places. We envision a just and sustainable transportation system where walking, biking, and transit are the best ways to get around.

W3BA is a group of Ward 3 residents who seek to make Ward 3 safer for people of all ages and abilities to bicycle.

Councilmember Matt Frumin has proposed two items for this budget cycle that would significantly advance the ability of people to travel by bike and by foot in Ward 3:

- *Include \$3 million to purchase and stabilize the Foundry Branch Trolley Trestle Bridge and begin design work on a paved, multi-use Palisades Trolley Trail. The trail has the potential to fill an important gap in pedestrian and cycle routes in Ward 3 by connecting the Palisades and the Georgetown commercial district with the trestle bridge—an iconic centerpiece amid scenic ravines and sweeping views of the Potomac. Additionally, the trail would provide an accessible bike and pedestrian route to the new MacArthur High School, as well as to facilitate access to three other schools.*
- *Include \$9 million over three fiscal years for the final design and rehabilitation of the Arizona Avenue Pedestrian Bridge and upgrades to connecting trails to multi-use, paved standards. Completion of this project, in tandem with the Palisades Trolley Trail, would provide connector routes in Ward 3 for the Capital Crescent Trail and C&O Canal towpath.*

The Foundry Branch Bridge is a 127-year-old trestle that was originally used for streetcars between Georgetown and Glen Echo, MD. The current owner of the trestle, WMATA, is seeking permission to have it demolished, but we believe that the stabilization and restoration of the bridge for bicycle and pedestrian use would better serve the public interest, creating the centerpiece of a 5-mile trail corridor stretching from Wisconsin Avenue almost to the Maryland border. This route is currently poorly-served by pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and suffers from severe automotive congestion.

The Arizona Avenue Pedestrian Bridge is near the western end of this corridor. DDOT has determined that the existing bridge needs replacement. The approaches to the existing bridge are in poor condition and DDOT has determined they would need to be stabilized and surfaced in order for the project to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

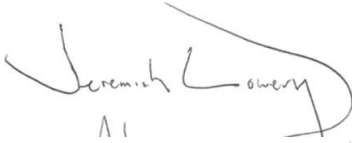
The trackway for the old trolley runs directly behind the new MacArthur High School, which is

opening in August 2023. Students from the Palisades, Georgetown, and Glover Park neighborhoods and beyond will better be able to walk and bike to school if this trail is built. This trail and this trestle can be a significant piece of your efforts towards Vision Zero.

WABA and W3BA both request that you include funding for these items in your budget proposal.

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremiah Lowery". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jeremiah Lowery
WABA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Rising". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Josh Rising
W3BA

CC: Councilmember Matt Frumin

CC: Lucinda M. Babers