

7.0 Public and Agency Involvement

7.1 Public Involvement

A public information meeting for the Project was held on June 21, 2018. The meeting was advertised 2 weeks in advance in three local newspapers, via a DDOT email list, and with palm cards placed at Union Station, local grocery stores, and transit stops. There were 41 attendees, including 11 residents, representatives of ANC 6C, and the DC Office of Planning. DDOT received nine verbal comments and four written comment forms at the meeting. Comments were related to improving pedestrian and bicycle travel on the bridge, construction staging and phasing, transit/intermodal connections, preserving the Hopscotch Kids mosaics, and other concerns.

Following the meeting, DDOT received the following:

- Letter from ANC 6C concerning coordination with the planned WUSEP, Burnham Place development, and the public. DDOT met with ANC 6C on September 5, 2018, to discuss their comments. Because the comments were specific to the WUSEP, these comments were provided to DDOT staff coordinating with FRA.
- Email from Deirdre Saunder, artist of the Hopscotch Bridge mosaics, that included information on the removal, refurbishment, and reuse of the panel tiles on the bridge, and a cost estimate.

DDOT has also maintained a Project website for public information (<https://www.hstreetbridgeproject.com/>). The Project website contains a short description of the Project, a map of the Project limits, a Project schedule, email contact link, and materials used at the public meeting, including the following:

- Project fact sheet
- Meeting presentation
- Public meeting brochure
- Public meeting boards
- Comment sheet
- Title VI participant form

A summary of the public involvement efforts to date is provided in Appendix H.

The next public meeting will be scheduled after the environmental process is completed and prior to the start of construction.

7.2 Agency and Stakeholder Coordination

Agency and stakeholder coordination for the Project began with a kickoff meeting on November 30, 2017. This meeting included members of Amtrak, USRC, their design teams, and DDOT.

Throughout Project development, periodic meetings have been held with various agencies and stakeholders who have an interest in the design and construction of the bridge. DDOT met frequently with Amtrak, USRC, and the FRA so that design details were closely coordinated between the railyard and the bridge. The meetings typically included an update of the Project design, integration with the WUSEP, sharing of relevant design and environmental information, and discussion of the design needs and preferences of the agencies and stakeholders that relate to the bridge. Similarly, DDOT met several times with Akridge (developer of Burnham Place) and adjacent property owners to share design information and discuss access management during construction.

DDOT also met with the following District agencies:

- DC SHPO—effects on historic resources
- DC FEMS—construction impacts; emergency access, evacuation, and coordination during construction; fire protection design for the bridge and intersecting streets
- DOEE—stormwater permitting requirements, air quality permitting requirements, and hazardous materials studies
- DC Streetcar—streetcar design criteria and bridge design alternatives
- WMATA—bus and rail service impacts in design and during construction

Agency and stakeholder coordination is summarized in Appendix J.

7.3 Agency and Public Review

The EA was made available for public and agency review, as required by 23 CFR 771.119, from September 15, 2021, to October 15, 2021. DDOT's office was closed to the public during this time, so the EA was not available for review in the agency's office. Also, a public hearing was not held, but a narrated presentation recording was posted to the project website (<https://www.hstreetbridgeproject.com/>).

The Notice of Availability (NOA) was issued in the following methods listed below. The NOA and copies of these documents are included in Appendix K, Attachment A.

- *Email Distribution: NOA sent on September 15, 2021, to project contacts list including adjacent properties, District Agencies, Federal Agencies, utility contacts, elected officials, industry contacts and residents (530 e-mail addresses).*
- *Project Website (<https://www.hstreetbridgeproject.com/>): NOA, electronic comment form available for use, and narrated presentation recording were all posted on September 15, 2021.*
- *Newspaper: Washington City Paper online digital edition posted on September 15, 2021, and print edition circulated on September 16, 2021.*
- *Press Release: DDOT issued electronically on September 20, 2021.*
- *DC Streetcar Rack Card: 500 Rack Cards were distributed at the H Street Festival on Saturday, September 18, 2021. The remainder were placed in rack holders in the Streetcars the following Monday, September 20, 2021. 150 more were printed in the first week of October to maintain an average of 20 per rack (2 per car) in each Streetcar.*

Public and agency comments were delivered to DDOT electronically from the comment form posted on the Project website or mailed to the DDOT office. A list of the entities that submitted comments during the comment period are provided below. All of the comments and agency responses are included in Appendix K, Attachment B. Following the table, any letter submitted is also included in Appendix K, Attachment B. Agencies that submitted comments are listed below.

- *Commission of Fine Arts via the project website comment page on 9/16/21*
- *ANC6C via email on 9/29/21*
- *Union Station Redevelopment Corporation via letter on 10/15/21*
- *ANC6C via letter on 10/15/21*
- *National Capital Planning Commission via Letter on 10/15/21*
- *DC Water via email on 10/15/21*
- *Amtrak via email on 10/15/21*
- *AT&T via email on 10/7/21*

CFA and ANC 6C requested meetings to discuss the Project. Both meetings were conducted as follows:

A meeting with CFA occurred virtually on September 24, 2021. The presentation for the meeting with CFA is included in Attachment C. CFA requested DDOT submit the Project for CFA review, which occurred on October 6, 2021. The submitted presentation is included in Attachment C. In its meeting of 21 October 2021, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed and

approved the project on the Consent Calendar. A letter confirming the Commission approval was transmitted to DDOT on October 22, 2021, and is included in Appendix K, Attachment C.

ANC 6C requested DDOT attend the meeting of the ANC 6C Transportation and Public Space Committee on October 7, 2021. Any residents that requested an in-person meeting were also invited to attend the ANC 6C meeting. The presentation for the meeting with ANC is included in Appendix K, Attachment D. After the meeting, ANC 6C submitted additional comments to DDOT on October 15, 2021, as listed in Appendix K, Attachment B.

Based on agency and public comments, text revisions to the EA were required. The edited text in the document is shown as bold italic font. The revised sections of the document are listed below.

- *Section ES.1 – Preface*
- *ES.2 – Notice of Expedited Decision Making*
- *ES.3 – Purpose and Need*
- *ES.4 – Alternatives*
- *ES.5 – Construction*
- *Table ES-1 – Summary of Impacts*
- *Table ES-2 – Environmental Commitments*
- *Section 1.1 – Purpose of Action*
- *Section 2.1 – No Build Alternative*
- *Section 2.3.2 – Bridge Superstructure*
- *Section 3.1.3 – Joint Development*
- *Section 3.2 – Land Use*
- *Section 3.7 - Utilities*
- *Section 4.1 – Land Use Impacts*
- *Section 4.17 – Construction Impacts*
- *Section 4.17.2 – Social Impacts*
- *Section 4.17.4 – Considerations Relating to Traffic and Transportation*
- *Section 4.17.8 – Noise Impacts*
- *Table 4-9 – Environmental Commitments*

In addition, one comment required a revision to the Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), as listed in the table in Appendix K, Attachment B. The executed agreement is attached to the EA in Appendix D.