



**FEDERAL CITY
COUNCIL**

202.223.4560
1310 L Street, NW Suite 325
Washington, DC 20005
www.federalcitycouncil.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Laura Miller Brooks

Senior Transportation Infrastructure Associate

lmillerbrooks@federalcitycouncil.org

PROJECT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO GEORGETOWN
FROM THE REGIONAL METRORAIL SYSTEM KICKS OFF

Washington, DC (June 2, 2021) – The Georgetown BID, Federal City Council, and District Department of Transportation have formed a partnership to advance planning for improved transit between Georgetown and Metrorail. This \$250,000 initial environmental planning effort is funded by the District of Columbia. The work is being managed by the Federal City Council.

Georgetown is a major jobs and activity center that does not have a Metrorail station. Transit to and through the neighborhood is slow and unpredictable because of neighborhood and city-wide vehicle congestion. This limits access to Georgetown for employment, recreation, education, and commercial activities. Reliance on single occupancy vehicles for access contributes to traffic congestion and exacerbates the problem of limited access for drivers and non-drivers alike.

The purpose of this one-year project is to identify a preliminary range of alternatives to provide direct, frequent, rapid transit between the Metrorail System and Georgetown prior to the publication of a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (NOI) to formally begin the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which will include significant opportunities for public involvement and feedback. The focus of this phase will be on refining the project's Purpose and Need, developing draft alternatives for later public review, and identifying resource impact areas.

The preliminary range of alternatives will be developed and screened to address the Purpose and Need, and may include transit solutions like Bus Rapid Transit, a gondola system, and multimodal connections. Alternatives will leverage robust stakeholder input and relevant studies and analyses that have been done since the completion of the 2016 Georgetown-Rosslyn Gondola Feasibility Study, including the WMATA Blue, Orange, Silver Line Study; the 2019 Core of Rosslyn Transportation Study; Environmental Assessments for the Georgetown Non-motorized Boathouse Zone and the Arlington County and Vicinity Non-motorized Boathouse Facility; the Georgetown University Campus Plan; and others.

Work is anticipated to begin in May 2021 and last for one year. The Federal City Council has engaged VHB Metro DC, LLC with its partner SCJ Alliance, to complete this phase of work. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) will be serving as the lead federal agency for the

purposes of NEPA. At the end of the phase, the partners with NCPC will decide which, if any, of the alternatives to move forward for further development.

QUOTES

Federal City Council:

“The Federal City Council is pleased to serve as the project manager for this important regional transit study. We view this as a component of our larger focus on regional infrastructure that supports a healthy regional business community.”

- **Anthony A. Williams**, CEO and Executive Director, Federal City Council

Georgetown BID:

“We’re very excited to participate in moving this project forward. Georgetown is the largest employment center in DC without a Metro Station making its service sector jobs harder to access than they should be. A focus on gondola and other clean energy transit solutions addresses transportation equity as well as the District’s environmental goals and will benefit the neighborhood, city, and region at large.”

- **Joe Sternlieb**, President & CEO Georgetown BID

VHB Metro DC:

“VHB Metro DC is proud to have been selected to support this exciting project. Partnering with public and private clients to improve mobility and enhance communities and economic vitality throughout the Metro DC area is one of our core missions. We look forward to working with the Partnership to explore both traditional and innovative solutions for enhanced transit access between Georgetown and the regional Metrorail system.”

- **Steve W. Thomas**, Chief Executive Officer, VHB Metro DC LLC

ABOUT FEDERAL CITY COUNCIL

The [Federal City Council](#) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the improvement of the District of Columbia. Comprised of the area’s top business, professional, education and civic leaders, the Council works with the District and federal governments to develop and implement solutions to important community problems. By serving as a trusted partner for civic improvement, and by bringing to bear the knowledge, experience, access, and resources of its members, the Council plays a critical role in the advancement of the District of Columbia.

ABOUT GEORGETOWN BID

Established in 1999 by its property owners and merchants, the [Georgetown Business Improvement District \(BID\)](#) is a publicly chartered, private, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the accessibility, attractiveness and appeal of Georgetown’s commercial district. It is organized as a not-for-profit corporation in DC, and registered by Mayor’s order under the District of Columbia Business Improvement District Act.

###