



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

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ANC 3/4G Resolution
Concerning the
District's Broad Branch Stormwater Retrofit Project
November 27, 2023

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:

- 1) ANC 3/4G strongly supports the goals of improving water quality in tributary watersheds to Rock Creek and the Potomac River, greening the District's streets and calming traffic on its roadways.
- 2) The Commission strongly supports the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) pursuing these goals through use of cost-effective stormwater green infrastructure as proposed in its Broad Branch Stormwater Retrofit Project.
- 3) As part of its support, the Commission has sought to keep abreast of DC plans for green infrastructure in Chevy Chase and to seek improvements by, inter alia:
 - Holding hearings with municipal officials, such as those on June 13, 2022 and Dec. 12, 2022, to discuss particular sites in the community;

- Regularly expressing concern about DC's inadequate maintenance of local bioretention basins and pervious pavement locations;
 - Launching a pilot partnership in conjunction with DC's Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) and its maintenance contractors, the Rock Creek Conservancy and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, to help clean up, replant, and maintain local bioretention basins that so far has included an October 27, 2023 neighborhood cleanup.
- 4) Given ANC 3/4G's sustained interest in, and strong support for, green infrastructure and the Broad Branch retrofit project, the Commission was surprised by a September 7, 2023 series of emailed Notices of Intent from Eric Schwartz, a DDOT civil engineer, to our chair, Lisa R Gore.
- 5) The notices – NOI-23-08-IPMA, NOI-23-09-IPMA, NOI-23-10-IPMA, NOI-23-11-IPMA, NOI-23-12-IPMA, and NOI-23-13-IPMA – were the first time the ANC was informed that DDOT's proposals could result in the loss of approximately 100 parking places in the community to locate bioretention basins.
- 6) In talking with residents in the wake of the DDOT notices, the Commission has found a variety of cases that call into question some of the department's decisions with respect to location, size, and rationale for basins.
- Several proposed basins largely eliminate street frontage for adjacent residences, raising questions about how emergency vehicles and delivery trucks, among others, would reach the home.
 - Others appear to so narrow streets that it is likely to slow emergency-vehicle response time and make it difficult for opposing vehicle and bicycle traffic to operate.
 - DDOT officials appear to have inadequately examined parking issues related to basins, for example, stating at a September 28, 2023 public hearing that a neighborhood could afford to lose parking spaces to a basin because abutting homes have off-street parking when the overwhelming majority of those parking on the block are from nearby apartment buildings.
- 7) DDOT does not appear to be any closer to solving the problem of maintaining existing bioretention basins and has made no clear commitment to maintaining the proposed new ones. The failure led our sister ANC, 3D, to oppose the companion Spring Valley Stormwater Retrofit Project.
- 8) This Commission does not want to take a similar step and oppose the Broad Branch project outright. It makes the following suggestions in hopes of helping to steer the project back on track and gaining the broadest possible community support for new bio-retention basins and other green infrastructure measures.

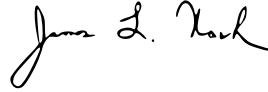
RESOLVED that ANC 3/4G:

- 9) Ask DDOT to reopen the comment period, now closed, for the Broad Branch Stormwater Retrofit Project and resume receiving public input through February 1, 2024 so that issues such as those identified in paragraph 6 above can be addressed.
- 10) Ask DDOT project managers to appear before the ANC in one or more public hearings to discuss the location, size, and goals of proposed bioretention basins in the community and hear residents' complaints.
- 11) Ask DDOT to investigate particular proposed sites identified or to be identified by the Commission that it believes require heightened scrutiny with an eye to reducing their size, adjusting their location, and, in some cases, eliminating facilities.
- 12) In the case of particular basins, ask DDOT to provide its traffic-calming goals and explain how affected sections of roadway can continue to fulfill the transportation needs of immediate areas and the District.
- 13) Ask that DOEE and its contractors, the Rock Creek Conservancy and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, ensure routine maintenance of existing and proposed bioretention basins and other green infrastructure, and continue to support the partnership with Chevy Chase community for the same – on the understanding the partnership supplements, but does not supplant, District maintenance.

APPROVED at a regular public meeting, notice of which was properly given and at which a quorum of four (4) or seven (7) members was present on November 27, 2023 by a vote of **6** yes, **1** no, **0** abstentions.



Lisa R Gore, Chair



James L. Nash, Secretary