



## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A

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*Vacant ANC 4A05*

February 1, 2022

Everett Lott  
Interim Director  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street SE  
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Resolution **#4A-02-01-22-04** Requesting DDOT to Study the Impact and Effectiveness of Designing Bus Lanes for 7th Street NW between Massachusetts Avenue NW and Florida Avenue NW and Georgia Avenue NW between Florida Avenue NW and Eastern Avenue NW

Dear Interim Director Lott:

On February 1, 2022, at a duly noticed and regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A (“ANC 4A” or “Commission”) conducted virtually via videoconference and with a quorum of six out of seven Commissioners and the public present, ANC 4A approved the following resolution by a vote of five in favor, one against, and zero abstentions:

The 2021 Update to the moveDC Plan designates both 7th Street NW between Pennsylvania Avenue NW and Florida Avenue NW as well as Georgia Avenue NW between Florida Avenue NW and Eastern Avenue NW as part of the District’s [Transit Priority Network](#), which it defines as streets “where infrastructure should be developed to help transit vehicles move more efficiently, improving travel times and reliability for passengers”. Among the interventions recommended for corridors on the Transit Priority Network include dedicated bus lanes, better bus stops, and/or special treatments at intersections.

The Georgia Ave NW / 7th Street NW corridor is a critical bus corridor for the 70, 74, and 79 MetroBus lines, which in 2019 carried 17,543 average weekday passengers.<sup>1</sup> These bus lines carry riders to and through ANC 4A to access jobs, attend schools and universities, reach essential services including healthcare facilities, and patronize local businesses. The following

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/ridership-portal/Bus-Data-Portal.cfm>

is a list of intersections within ANC 4A (on the western side of Georgia Avenue NW) which have bus stops for the 70 and/or 79 Metrobus routes:

- **Georgia Avenue & Missouri Avenue NW:** 70 and 79 routes (within SMD 4A06)
- **Georgia Avenue & Quackenbos Street NW:** 70 route (within SMD 4A06)
- **Georgia Avenue & Rittenhouse Street NW:** 70 route (within SMD 4A04)
- **Georgia Avenue & Piney Branch Road NW:** 70 and 79 routes (within SMD 4A04)
- **Georgia Avenue & Van Buren Street NW:** 70 route (within SMD 4A03)
- **Georgia Avenue & Butternut Street NW:** 70 and 79 routes (within SMD 4A03)
- **Georgia Avenue & Dahlia Street NW:** 70 route (within SMD 4A03)
- **Georgia Avenue & Fern Street NW:** 70 route (within SMD 4A03)
- **Georgia Avenue & Geranium Street NW:** 70 route (within SMD 4A03)
- **Georgia Avenue & Hemlock Street NW:** 70 route (within SMD 4A02)
- **Georgia Avenue & Juniper Street NW:** 70 route (within SMD 4A02)
- **Georgia Avenue & Eastern Avenue NW:** 70 and 79 routes (within SMD 4A02)

Despite its importance, the Georgia Avenue / 7th Street NW bus corridor was given an “F” rating in the [2019 MetroBus Report Card](#)<sup>2</sup>. Buses on this corridor had only 62% adherence to headways<sup>3</sup>, 52% adherence to bus schedule, and an average speed of 9.1 mph.<sup>4</sup> These low performance metrics for the buses on 7th Street NW result in passenger delays, crowding, and overall poor service. Bus service on 7th Street NW experiences particular bottlenecks approaching and leaving the intersection with Rhode Island Avenue NW as well as approaching and leaving the intersection with Florida Avenue NW.

While Georgia Avenue currently has four blocks of bus lanes from Florida Avenue to Barry Place, the relatively short distance of these bus lanes as a percentage of the distance of the corridor renders them ineffective in significantly reducing travel times. In addition, this segment is frequently blocked by vehicles illegally parking in the bus lanes, further reducing the value of the bus lanes.

In response to a train derailment and identified safety issues, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”) has removed all 7000-series rail cars from service, which has severely restricted MetroRail service District-wide. Service restrictions on MetroRail are expected to persist for some time. The Green and Yellow Lines, which run under the 7th Street NW / Georgia Avenue NW corridor, are only running every 30 to 40 minutes with 6-car trains, which has led to delays, crowding, and transit riders seeking alternative commuting options. The timing of the MetroRail service disruptions, coinciding with the District’s reopening from the covid-19 pandemic, threatens to slow regional economic recovery and delay a return to transit for DC commuters.

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<sup>2</sup> The MetroBus Report Card is a collaborative project between MetroHero and the Coalition for Sustainable Growth.

<sup>3</sup> Headways are the spacing between two sequential bus arrivals.

<sup>4</sup> Electric rental scooters are speed throttled to 10 mph.

The current safety-related disruptions to MetroRail service below 7th Street NW and slow and off-schedule MetroBus service on 7th Street NW necessitate bold action to improve transit service. It is time for DDOT to move forward with a study and design for bus lanes on 7th Street NW between Massachusetts Avenue NW to Florida Avenue NW as well as on Georgia Avenue NW between Florida Avenue NW and Eastern Avenue NW to improve bus service and on this corridor. The study should include a thorough assessment of the impact bus lanes will have on displaced parking for businesses and residents along the corridor.

Commissioner **Candace Tiana Nelson**, ANC 4A06, is hereby **authorized** to serve as the Commission's **representative in all matters relating to this issue**.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 4A concurs with the requests of ANC 6E, 1B, 4C, and 4D to request that DDOT study and propose a design for bus lanes and other infrastructure that will improve transit service on 7th Street NW between Massachusetts Avenue NW and Florida Avenue NW and in addition requests that DDOT study and propose a design for bus lanes and other infrastructure that will improve transit service on Georgia Avenue NW between Florida Avenue NW and Eastern Avenue NW.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

/s/ Patience Singleton

Patience Singleton  
Chair

CC: Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Councilmember  
Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember  
Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember  
Megan Kanagy, DDOT Bus Priority Program Manager  
Spring Worth, DDOT Bus Priority Project Manager  
Cynthia Turcios, DDOT Ward 4 Community Engagement Specialist