



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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November 9, 2024

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### **RE: Alternatives to Unacceptable Published DDOT Brick Sidewalk Maintenance Timeframe**

Dear Deputy Mayor Anderson, Director Kershbaum, Councilmember Allen, Mr. Marcou, and Mr. Seales,

On November 4, 2024 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0) with regard to the above referenced matter:

The city published timeframe for brick sidewalk repair is 270 business days, or about 9 months, from the time the request is reported on 311 and/or verified. In many instances, this 270-business day timeframe is not met, thus leaving isolated, specific repairs unaddressed for a year or more. Given the ever-increasing use of our sidewalks by more pedestrians, including those with accessibility challenges, bikes, and scooters, this timeframe is unacceptable when a repair

### COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1    Topher Mathews, District 2    Paul Maysak, District 3  
Joe Massaua, District 4    Mimsy Lindner, District 5    Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6  
Daniel Chao, District 7    John DiPierri, District 8

threatens the safety of so many sidewalk users. For example, on a few blocks of O Street alone, two residents have been hospitalized in the last year plus due to tripping over needed isolated brick sidewalk repairs work that was reported way over 375 days from when the fall occurred; one spot took more than three years from the 311 request to repair (see Attachment A). DDOT relies upon a range of contractors to do brick sidewalk repair work. The fees charged by the contractors are unknown to ANC 2E. The DDOT Ward 2 liaison has worked hard to try to get attention for long-standing repair needs, and ANC 2E appreciates his advocacy for our community; however, ANC 2E would like a more systematic solution.

In contrast, to the 270-plus business days repair timeframe, our local Georgetown Business Improvement District (GBID) repairs brick sidewalks within two weeks or less after the needed repair is reported. Via a Reimbursable Maintenance Agreement with DDOT, the city has given GBID the responsibility to do this work within the GBID boundary, consisting of many blocks of both commercial and mixed-use streets. The GBID has trained some of its staff to do high-quality brick sidewalk repair, thus removing the need to schedule work with busy independent contractors. Specific staff training is done in other historic cities such as Charleston, which has a blue stone and brick repair team.

*ANC 2E requests DDOT to designate GBID as a city-designed brick repair contractor for isolated brick sidewalk locations.* GBID offices are in close proximity to all of ANC 2E brick sidewalks; on some blocks, GBID is already doing brick repair work that is feet away from other needed brick repairs. It is silly not to extend the Reimbursable Maintenance Agreement. As with other city contractors, all brick sidewalk repair work done by the GBID will have been designated by the city's Sidewalk Condition Rating (SCR) system as requiring repair. The city will pay GBID to do this isolated repair work for any sidewalk within ANC 2E needing repair (versus whole-block brick repairs). ANC 2E intends that by having GBID as a DDOT contractor option, the timeframe of fixing isolated brick sidewalk repairs will be reduced, thus reducing the safety risks of all those who use Georgetown's brick sidewalks, including visitors coming to the GBID area. ANC 2E assumes GBID fees for brick repair be on-par with current DDOT brick repair contractors or DDOT-GBID will ensure such. Additionally, ANC 2E understands the Public Space Maintenance Act may need to be updated.

Gwendolyn Lohse ([2E06@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E06@anc.dc.gov)) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gwendolyn Lohse", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Gwendolyn Lohse  
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember

Joe Sternleib, President, The Georgetown Business Improvement District

John Wiebenson, Vice President of Operations, The Georgetown Business Improvement District

Faith Broderick, Economic Development Director, Georgetown Business Improvement District

Christophe Wasserman, Community Engagement Specialist, District Department of Transportation

Kevin Whitfield, Director, DC Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment

Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Tadia Abilla, Ward 2 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

# ATTACHMENT A



