

A RESOLUTION

25-602

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

July 9, 2024

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Department of Transportation Establishment Act of 2002 to provide the Director of the District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) with greater discretion to delegate the agency’s duties and responsibilities, to provide the DDOT Director with the authority to construct, maintain, and control DDOT infrastructure on land transferred from the federal government for recreational purposes in cases where the land transferred is adjacent to public space and is part of a transportation improvement plan or project, and to provide that the District has an adequate interest sufficient to meet federal highway funding requirements in federal parkland where transportation infrastructure projects are located; and to amend the Vision Zero Enhancement Omnibus Amendment Act of 2020 to provide the Director of DDOT with greater discretion to delegate the agency’s duties and responsibilities.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Transportation Improvements Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. (a) The 11th Street Bridge Park is a partnership between the District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) and Building Bridges Across the River, a non-profit organization located in Ward 8. The project will transform the old freeway into a new civic space over the Anacostia River. Planned programming for the completed park includes an environmental education center, a 250-seat outdoor amphitheater, a kayak and canoe launch, an urban farm, and community meeting space, public art installations, and an environmentally themed play area. The 11th Street Bridge Park is currently at 100% design and finalizing its last permits. DDOT plans to solicit the general contractor in September and begin construction by the end of 2024.

(b) The 11th Street Bridge Park connects to the eastern side of the Anacostia River on land that is currently managed by the National Park Service (“NPS”). NPS is working with DDOT on a transfer of jurisdictional authority for this parcel, which is where the park’s environmental education center, amphitheater, and kayak and canoe launch will be located. NPS is requiring that the parcel’s official plat, to be submitted to the Surveyor’s Office, specify that the land will be used for transportation and recreation purposes. DDOT has concluded that, under

current law, the agency can only accept land designated for transportation – and not recreation – purposes.

(c) The Transportation Improvements Amendment Act of 2024, as introduced on March 1, 2024 (Bill 24-738) (“permanent bill”), would amend DDOT’s establishment act to allow the agency to receive land that is designated for recreation purposes. The permanent bill was referred to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, and the Committee intends to markup the measure prior to recess. However, without legislative authorization to receive the land, DDOT is currently unable to move forward with solicitation for the project which may, in turn, cause delays that create additional costs of the project.

(d) The emergency legislation is necessary to avoid additional project costs by allowing DDOT to receive a construction permit from NPS and begin soliciting for the project as the Committee considers the permanent bill.

Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Transportation Improvements Emergency Amendment Act of 2024 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.