

Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association

1502 Otis Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20017 202.529.0953

April 23, 2010

Mr. Gabe Klein
Director
District Department of Transportation
Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center
2000 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Klein,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association regarding the District Department of Transportation's streetscape work on 12th Street, N.E. between Rhode Island Avenue, N.E. and Michigan Avenue, N.E.

On February 23, 2010, staff from DDOT's Office of Infrastructure Project Management Administration were generous of their time and appeared before a BNCA meeting to brief us on DDOT's plans for additional work on 12th Street. The plans they described included such things as landscaping, installing regulatory signs, and installing a "Welcome to Brookland" gateway sign plaza on the northeast corner of 12th and Rhode Island. Surprisingly, the plans also included work, not just on 12th Street, but on Otis Street as well.

While we appreciate the time your staff took to come out to Brookland and share information with us, we were greatly disappointed with what we heard. Time and time again, Brookland residents who have been involved in city-sponsored meetings and discussions have made it clear that the first priority for 12th Street is undergrounding the utility lines. Undergrounding the utility lines is key to the economic revitalization of the 12th Street business corridor.

The Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association urges you to reconsider DDOT's current plans for 12th Street. We are unanimous in our request that all unexpended funds designated for 12th Street streetscape improvements be spent on undergrounding the utility lines, even if this means that only a portion of 12th Street can be completed at this time.

I look forward to hearing your response to this urgent request.

Sincerely,

Caroline Petti, President

cc. Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr.
Councilmember Jim Graham