

Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association

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

September 25, 2009

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Fenty,

We are writing to thank you and your staff for your support and hard work on completing development of the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT). Once completed, this 8-mile trail will connect our neighborhood of Brookland with downtown DC to the south and with uptown Silver Spring to the north.

New construction to link New York Avenue to Franklin Street, N.E. recently began just south of Brookland. We are very much looking forward to the opening this fall of this section of the trail and, indeed, to the completion of the trail, as a whole. Once complete, the MBT will create a convenient and non-polluting path for Brookland bike commuters to get to jobs, schools, shopping, and public transportation. It will also provide a gateway to downtown and the National Mall and other nearby recreational opportunities including the Capital Crescent Trail and the Anacostia Tributaries Trail System.

On September 15, 2009, the Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association sponsored an informational meeting about the MBT. During this meeting we heard about the variety of interesting projects being considered for along the trail such as murals, community events, and gardens aimed at highlighting significant aspects of the local neighborhoods. These ideas were very well-received and we stand ready to work with you and others to bring them to fruition.

During this meeting we also discussed safety and security on the trail. While parks and trails in cities have been shown to be remarkably crime-free, some basic security measures and pre-planning would clearly be prudent.

A variety of ideas were suggested and it was thought that a security plan could be especially useful during the trail's inaugural months while the number of regular users is just beginning to increase.

Ideas contributed at the meeting include:

- Lighting along the trail
- Call boxes along the trail
- Visible police presence including police on bikes or on foot along the trail and police cars parked at the access points along the trail
- Fencing along certain portions to prevent access, incursions, or escape routes
- Training for DC 911 operators so, if a call comes in from along the trail, they will know where to send the EMS or Police to render assistance.

We appreciate your consideration of these ideas. The Brookland community is excited and enthusiastic about the opening of the Metropolitan Branch Trail and stands ready to work with you in any way we can towards its timely and successful completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Petti".

Caroline Petti, President

Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association

cc. Gabe Klein, District Department of Transportation