



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

RESOLUTION #4B-21-0701

**Petitioning for Priority Sidewalk Installations within
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B
Adopted July 26, 2021**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B takes note of the following:

- DC law provides criteria for the District Department of Transportation's prioritization of missing sidewalk installations in the District. [DC Code § 9-425.01](#). Specifically, for streets that are missing sidewalks (but are not undergoing major construction), sidewalk installation must be prioritized for (1) missing sidewalks in school areas; (2) routes that provide access to parks and recreational facilities; (3) transit stops; (4) locations where the absence of a sidewalk creates substantial pedestrian safety risks; and (5) roadway segments for which residents petition to have sidewalks. [Id. at § 9-425.01\(b\)](#).
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B petitions the District Department of Transportation to prioritize installation of the following missing sidewalks:
 - even side of 600-700 blocks of Highland Avenue, NW, between Piney Branch Road, NW, and 8th Street, NW (school area);
 - both sides of 800 block of Highland Avenue, NW, between 8th Street, NW, and 9th Street, NW (school area);
 - even side of 7200-7400 blocks of Blair Road, NW, between Piney Branch Road, NW, and Eastern Avenue, NW (major pedestrian route to transit; absence creates substantial pedestrian safety risks; east side is sub-standard and inaccessible);
 - north side of intersection of Kalmia Road, NW, and Eastern Avenue, NW, aside KFC (school area);
 - both sides of 800 block of Floral Place, NW (absence creates substantial pedestrian safety risks);

- both sides of 7400 block of 7th Street, NW, between Geranium Street, NW, and Hemlock Street, NW (absence creates substantial pedestrian safety risks);
 - area in front of 6601 6th Street, NW (resident petition/request);
 - odd side of 300 block of Quintana Place, NE, between 3rd Street, NE, and alley aside 315 Quintana Place, NE, as well as area between 319 Quintana Place, NE and 335 Quintana Place, NE (longstanding resident petition/request);
 - even side of Kennedy Street, NE, between South Dakota Avenue, NE, and 5th Street, NE (recreational facility; pedestrian route to transit);
 - area in front of 804 and 808 Nicholson Street, NE (pedestrian route to transit);
 - both sides of 6300-6400 blocks of Chillum Place, NW (school area; absence creates substantial pedestrian safety risks; health clinic);
 - even side of 5400 block of Blair Road, NE, aside 32 Jefferson Street, NE, as well as area in front of 5422 Blair Road, NE (school area; pedestrian route to transit; absence creates substantial pedestrian safety risks);
 - even side of 5500 block of Blair Road, NE, between Kennedy Street, NE, and Longfellow Street, NE (school area; pedestrian route to transit; absence creates substantial pedestrian safety risks); and
 - east side of 5600 block of Blair Road, NE, between Longfellow Street, NE, and Madison Street, NE (school area; pedestrian route to transit; absence creates substantial pedestrian safety risks).
- Several areas within Advisory Commission 4B with missing sidewalks create the need to zig-zag from one side of the street to another, including the 5400 through 5600 blocks of Blair Road, NE, increasing pedestrian safety risks. Where sidewalk gaps exist on one side of the street and the District Department of Transportation cannot or will not install sidewalks on both sides, the Department should prioritize and timely implement curb ramps so that pedestrians can more easily cross to the other side.
 - This list of priority sidewalk gaps within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B does not include all sidewalk gaps within the Commission area. The Commission encourages the District Department of Transportation to work with Commissioners to accurately reflect all

sidewalk gaps within their Single Member Districts in the Department's [draft map of sidewalk gaps](#) and to address those gaps in a timely and transparent manner.

- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B understands that the proposed plans for the Metropolitan Branch Trail include pedestrian infrastructure in several locations, including along the east side of Blair Road, NW, on the west side of the 6800 block of Sandy Spring Road, NW, and on the south side of Whittier Street, NW, between 3rd Street, NW, and Piney Branch Road, NW. The Commission supports these additions and encourages prompt implementation. See [Resolution 4B-21-0206](#), Providing Feedback on 65% Design of Metropolitan Branch Trail from Fort Totten to Takoma (Feb. 22, 2021). Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B also understands that the Blair Road right-of-way analysis and acquisition includes a study to improve this critical sidewalk network on Blair Road, NW, between 4th Street, NW, and Eastern Avenue, NW.
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B notes a number of sidewalk gaps around National Park Service land, including Fort Slocum. Specifically, the east side of the 5700 through 5800 blocks of 3rd Street, NW, and the north side of the 200 blocks of Madison Street, NW, are priority gaps because they are in a school area and provide access to parks and recreational facilities. See [D.C. Code § 9-425.01\(b\)](#). The Commission encourages coordination with the National Park Service to promptly address these sidewalk gaps.
- As Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B understands, the District Department of Transportation maintains a list of priority sidewalk gaps. Neither that list, the manner in which sidewalk gaps are placed on the list, exceptions to sidewalk gaps that meet the statutory criteria but are not included on (or are taken off) the list, the order in which the Department addresses locations on the list, nor the costs associated with addressing gaps on the list are public. The Commission believes the Department should maintain a public list of sidewalk gap priority locations, how those locations are selected, the anticipated and actual timeline for installation, and the cost for installing these sidewalks.
- The District Department of Transportation's [Paving Plan](#) provides a useful, but incomplete, model for how the Department might share information regarding sidewalk gaps and installation of new sidewalks. As currently implemented, the sidewalk portion of the Paving Plan does not contain enough information about prioritization and the type of project and includes non-rehabilitation and non-construction projects. The Paving Plan should explicitly set as a goal closing sidewalk gaps.

RESOLVED:

- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B requests the District Department of Transportation add the aforementioned locations to its priority list for sidewalk gap installations.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Transportation to timely implement installation of the Metropolitan Branch Trail, including pedestrian and sidewalk infrastructure contained in the plan.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Transportation to promptly complete the Blair Road right-of-way analysis and acquisition and immediately begin capital budget planning to ensure construction of this sidewalk improvement begins upon conclusion of the right-of-way acquisition and engineering.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Transportation to coordinate with the National Park Service to develop a plan and timely address sidewalk gaps in areas that border National Park Service land.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Transportation to publish its list of priority sidewalk gaps, as well as information regarding how that list is formulated and addressed.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Commission designates Commissioner Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02, Commissioner Alison Brooks, ANC 4B08, and Commissioner Evan Yeats, ANC 4B01, represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in the event the designated representative Commissioners cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners,

insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of seven members was present) on July 26, 2021, by a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.