

ANC5F-25-036



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5F**

**RESOLUTION STATING CONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR CURB CUTS AT 605
RHODE ISLAND AVENUE NE**

Sponsor: Commissioner Bishop-Henchman

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2022, and through later revisions of its application, the Rhode Island Assemblage Project at 525 & 605 Rhode Island Avenue NE (which is proposed to ultimately consist of 590 new residential units at Rhode Island Avenue NE & the Metropolitan Branch Trail, and is in coordination with but separate from the Autozone Redevelopment in between) applied to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for a permit to close five existing commercial driveway entrances along Rhode Island Avenue NE, add a new intersection leg at 5th Way & Rhode Island Avenue NE, and create commercial alleyway entrances on Rhode Island Avenue NE and W Street NE; and

WHEREAS, comments have been submitted by the DDOT Public Space Committee, the Office of Planning, the Urban Forestry Division, Transportation Operations Administration, and Planning and Sustainability Division, to which the development team has responded; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2022, the Eckington Civic Association after public discussion submitted comments to the Public Space Committee supporting the project for “the prospect of bringing more workforce and market rate housing to Eckington” but conditioning approval of the proposed curb cuts on (1) upgrading the connection to the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT) at W Street NE; (2) creating a connecting sidewalk or other facility between the MBT and the existing sidewalk on W Street NE; (3) adding a signalized pedestrian crosswalk at Rhode Island Avenue NE at proposed curb cut #3; (4) designate the proposed alley as one-way to discourage cut-through traffic; and (5) delete the proposed curb cut at W Street NE to discourage using the alley to avoid Rhode Island Avenue NE; and

WHEREAS, in other feedback submitted, the Transportation Operations Administration expressed concern that “additional pedestrian conflicts” will occur at the second curb cut without a signalized pedestrian crosswalk,

WHEREAS, in memos dated December 22, 2022 and March 14, 2023, the development team responded to some of the feedback submitted, proposing an extension of the median on Rhode Island Avenue and limiting curb cut #2 to right-turns only to limit left-turn movements onto Rhode Island Avenue NE, additional trees, and agreeing to unspecified improved connections to the MBT, but not agreeing with other proposed changes; and

WHEREAS, ANC SMD 5F06 has been requested to submit comments on the permit application by April 26, 2023;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 5F states conditional support for some of the 605 Rhode Island Avenue NE development project’s proposed curb cuts and transportation improvements, but request that DDOT include as part of the construction the following elements:

- A requirement that the W Street NE connection to the Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT) be accessible, at-grade, and open to the public 24/7.
- A requirement that the project construct a sidewalk or other protected facility between the MBT and the existing sidewalk on W Street NE.
- A requirement that a new signalized pedestrian crosswalk be installed across Rhode Island Avenue at curb cut #3 to improve pedestrian access to retail or other amenities on the north side of Rhode Island Avenue NE.
- Delete the curb cut at W Street NE as duplicative and likely to encourage cut-through car traffic to avoid Rhode Island Avenue NE.

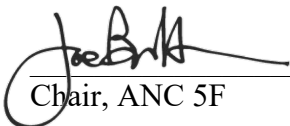
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 5F requests that DDOT give great weight to this conditional support and the concerns expressed when deciding this permit application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sponsor is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to appropriate recipients; and

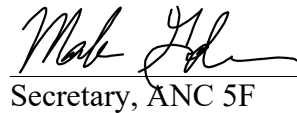
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 5F commissioners are authorized to represent themselves as speaking on behalf of the 5F Commission in advocating for the aforementioned; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect immediately upon passage.

*This resolution came before ANC 5F at a duly noticed public meeting on April 25,
2023. ANC 5F is composed of 7 Commissioners, so that 4 Commissioners constitute a quorum.
With 7 Commissioners present, ANC 5F voted 7 Yea, 0 Nay, and 0 Abstain.*



Chair, ANC 5F



Secretary, ANC 5F