

June 12, 2018

Mr. Jeff Marootian  
Director, D.C. Department of Transportation  
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Marootian:

We are writing on behalf of a large community of watersport enthusiasts, powerboat owners, environmentalists and other river users to express our concerns that the D.C. Department of Transportation is actively pursuing development projects alongside and in our local waterways without sufficient consultation with the user groups most familiar with how the river is currently used for navigation, recreation, competition and environmental education. These development projects include, but are not limited to, the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Replacement Project, the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail Pedestrian Bridge to the National Arboretum, the RFK Campus Redevelopment Campaign and the Potomac Commuter Fast Ferry.

We believe it is important that our community of river users be treated as vital stakeholders and consulted in the planning and execution of any transportation project that will have a short or long-term impact on safe marine operations, such as changes in water traffic patterns, waterway closures, and new obstacles in the river.

As operators of marine vessels of varying size, maneuverability and power, we have unique perspectives and we are intimately familiar with the character and navigation of our waterways. We have developed thriving boathouses and marinas along the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, and we offer programming such as boating, fishing and environmental education for thousands of area residents and visitors. We draw people to the rivers to learn, recreate and compete, and along the way we challenge the perceptions that the District's rivers are dirty, dangerous, and neglected. The city has received a substantial economic benefit from our programming.

Any construction activities in our waterways could have a potentially significant impact on the safe use of the river for our members, particularly without coordination and communication. Permanent fixtures in the river may demonstrably and significantly affect navigation and could result in increased silting and shoaling.

We strongly support projects that make waterways more accessible and promote healthy rivers, and we acknowledge the need for critical improvements to the city's transportation infrastructure. But, it is critical that DDOT consult with our community so that the agency can make informed decisions that account for diverse uses of our waterways and the safety, environmental, and recreational impacts of development, growth and increased traffic. While we understand the DDOT and the National Park Service did meet recently with the Port Towns Community Boathouse to receive their concerns regarding the development of the Arboretum Bridge and Trail, the undersigned organizations ask to be recognized as stakeholders on all projects – current or future - that will impact river navigation.

If you have any questions about the comments in this letter, please contact Jennifer Ney with the Anacostia Community Boathouse Association at 202-340-1331 or [jennifer.p.ney@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.p.ney@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Cindy Cole, Founder and Director, Washington Rowing School, [cindy@washingtonrowingschool.com](mailto:cindy@washingtonrowingschool.com)  
Marian Dombroski, Chair, Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee, [mdombros@gmail.com](mailto:mdombros@gmail.com)  
Brandon DuBois, President, Anacostia Community Boathouse Association, [bdubois99@gmail.com](mailto:bdubois99@gmail.com)  
Greg Dreter, Commodore, Eastern Power Boat Club, [greg@allenbuiltinc.com](mailto:greg@allenbuiltinc.com)  
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Tony Ford, Commodore, Seafarers Yacht Club, [fordraf@aol.com](mailto:fordraf@aol.com)  
Brian Forehand, President, DC Strokes Rowing Club, [president@dcstrokes.org](mailto:president@dcstrokes.org)  
James Foster, President and Chief Executive Officer, Anacostia Watershed Society, [jfoster@anacostiaws.org](mailto:jfoster@anacostiaws.org)  
Greg Gallishaw, Coach, Blair Crew, [greg.gallishaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:greg.gallishaw@sbcglobal.net)  
Tony Lawrence, Managing Director, Earth Conservation Corps, [tommy.lawrence@earthconservationcorps.org](mailto:tommy.lawrence@earthconservationcorps.org)  
Kirsten Peterson, President, Capital Rowing Club, [president@capitalrowing.org](mailto:president@capitalrowing.org)  
Joseph Reyda, Athletic Director, Gonzaga College High School, [jreyda@gonzaga.org](mailto:jreyda@gonzaga.org)  
Steve Ricks, Commodore, Washington Yacht Club, [commodore@washingtoneyachtclubdc.org](mailto:commodore@washingtoneyachtclubdc.org)  
Trey Sherard, Outreach Coordinator, Anacostia Riverkeeper, [trey@anacostiariverkeeper.org](mailto:trey@anacostiariverkeeper.org)  
Phan Winter, President, National Capital Area Women's Paddling Association, [phantran@yahoo.com](mailto:phantran@yahoo.com)

Signatures as of 6/12/18, 8:00AM

Copy to:

Mayor Murial Bowser

Councilmember Charles Allen

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

Tammy Stidham, National Park Service - National Capital Region