



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries

May 25th, 2011

Karina Ricks
Associate Director, Policy, Planning and Sustainability Administration
DC Department of Transportation
2000 14th St, NW, 7th floor
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ms. Ricks:

The Anacostia Watershed Citizens' Advisory Committee (AWCAC) is comprised of representatives of the jurisdictions and sub-watershed organizations throughout the Anacostia basin, and advises the multi-jurisdiction restoration effort under the auspices of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. This letter is in support of the proposal to place a bridge across the River at the US National Arboretum as part of the Anacostia trail system currently under expansion in the District of Columbia.

We appreciate the work you have undertaken in cooperation with the US Department of Transportation and the National Park Service to augment the existing trail system by completing unfinished segments in the District of Columbia. We also understand that your earlier efforts to place a bridge crossing at the Arboretum were discouraged by the then-Director, but that the new leadership there and the active support of the Friends of the National Arboretum have led you to agree to reconsider.

We enthusiastically support the bridge crossing and urge you to include it in current plans to expand the trail system. We were instrumental in arranging the placement of the first floating dock at the Arboretum, a facility that is widely used and has been augmented by picnic tables put in place by the Park Service and an Arboretum entrance gate at the dock. We understand the new bridge would be placed in the same area, where it would allow foot access to the Asian Gardens and bicycle access along an existing upgradable level roadway through woods to another Arboretum entrance already in place. In addition, the bridge would for the first time allow direct access between the Arboretum and the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens.

The latest news that you have located funds to pay for the environmental assessment of the bridge is welcome and we are grateful for your response to the public interest in a bridge. We hope this means that the bridge can be part of the current round of contracts to expand the trail system.

c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
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Please advise us if there is anything we can do to help make this project a reality. We are deeply appreciative of all you are doing and especially your responsiveness to the request to reinstate this part of the trail project.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Smith
2010-2011 AWCAC Chair

cc (via e-mail):

Terry Bellamy, Acting Director, DDOT terry.bellamy@dc.gov

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