



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Meg Maguire, 202-546-4536

DDOT's *moveDC*: Good on Pedestrians, Transit, Trees & Water; Needs More on Cars, Rail, Elderly & Families

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City (C100) today called on the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to improve its draft long-range transportation plan to address the needs of the broad range of DC residents. "The Plan's positive elements include pedestrian safety and public space improvements, a blended approach to different transit modes, sustainability measures including tree planting and storm water management, and car-lite living," said Meg Maguire, Chair of the Transportation Subcommittee of C100. "But by virtually ignoring the role of private cars and the need for expanded commuter rail to reduce out-of-state cars clogging our city streets, the Plan fuels a growing and lamentable schism between young and old, new-comers and lifetime residents."

Characterizing the draft as *youth-friendly but lifelong-lite*, C100 cited the Plan's near silence on how to meet the needs of growing families and the elderly for whom bikes, ride-sharing and lengthy transit trips will supplement but not replace their need for a private vehicle.

"Our city's future depends on young people choosing to stay for the long term to raise their families and invest their talents and resources in the life of the city. They may need a private vehicle during those life stages," said Ms. Maguire. "DDOT should recognize that many residents own cars even as they highly value and frequently use public transportation. And the agency should use correct data: while the rate of car ownership has slightly decreased, the total number of registered vehicles has in fact gone up by 20,000 as the population has increased."

The most glaring omission in the plan is its failure to deal with serious issues related to projected increases in freight, inter-city and commuter passenger service and to acknowledge the need for a DC Rail Plan. "Providing practical alternatives to automobile commuting should be the overriding theme of the *moveDC* Plan," said Monte Edwards, Vice Chair of C100. "Commuter rail is the most efficient and cost-effective means of doing so. 3/4 of the cars on DC streets during the day are non-DC residents. Yet the *moveDC* Draft Plan is anemic in failing to include the proposed expansion of VRE, MARC and AMTRAK. DC residents expect regional solutions to regional problems."