



WASHINGTON AREA BICYCLIST ASSOCIATION

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June 9, 2016

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 316
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

As you are aware, there is tremendous interest among Washington, D.C. residents and visitors in opportunities to bicycle in the city. Bicycling is good for the city's economy, for residents' health, and for lessening the impact of automobiles on the city's environment.

One of the premier locations for recreational and purposeful cycling in the city is in Rock Creek Park. For many years there have been ongoing conversations about how Rock Creek Park could be operated so that it does even more than today for non-motorized transportation. For years, those conversations have gone nowhere because of disputes over the assumed impact any changes would have on traffic elsewhere in the District.

This year we finally have the opportunity to scientifically measure the traffic impact that will result from a series of temporary road closures along Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park. As you may know, the National Park Service will be closing Beach Drive in segments for total reconstruction of the roadway, resulting in detours. You may also know that D.C. Water will also be closing Beach Drive in segments for total reconstruction of the sewer line under and adjacent to that road.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association has requested the National Park Service and the D.C. Department of Transportation to commit to undertaking a detailed and high-quality count of the traffic diversions from these two road closures in Rock Creek Park so that there will be a factual understanding of the impact. This will enable residents, the Park Service and District officials to carry out a much more fact-based discussion of any possible future changes in the management of Rock Creek Park.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association asks that you endorse this traffic-counting regimen by DDOT and the National Park Service. Thank you very much. I would be happy to discuss this matter with your staff, if you wish.

Sincerely,

Gregory Billing
Executive Director

Cc: Leif Dormsjo, Director, District Department of Transportation
Adrea Turner, Chief of Staff, District Department of Transportation