



DC Streetcar Has Come to Town

The first streetcar has been delivered to the H/Benning corridor and safety testing has begun.

On Friday, December 13, 2013, the H Street/Benning Road corridor welcomed the first streetcar vehicle to the District to begin the safety testing and certification process. Onlookers lined the street with anticipation as the streetcar traveled west from 8th Street NE, and the crowd cheered and applauded as the vehicle moved closer to its destination on the Hopscotch Bridge.

As the streetcar was pulled up the tracks, Mayor Vincent Gray prepared to go live with several news stations and announce this momentous milestone in DC Streetcar history. "I think that streetcar will complement the growth and development that we see in the city," said Gray. "We needed another transportation option."

The first of three vehicles to be moved from the Testing and Commissioning Site in Anacostia is also the first streetcar to operate in the District since the old system closed in 1962. It is anticipated that passenger service will begin in 2014 once the testing and certification process is completed.

This testing and certification process is an official safety procedure that provides vehicle operators with an opportunity to get familiar with traffic patterns along the route; helps local drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and delivery trucks acclimate to sharing the road with streetcars; and ensures that the H/Benning corridor is safe and ready for service.

Look forward to future lines on M Street SW, the Anacostia area, a North-South line between Takoma and Buzzard Point, and from Union Station to Georgetown.



DC Streetcar vehicle preparing for its trip to H/Benning



Mayor Vincent Gray and DDOT Director Terry Bellamy



DC Streetcar vehicle being unloaded on H Street NE

Parking Enforcement on the Corridor

Parking rules and new loading zones are being enforced as streetcar is introduced to H/Benning

In anticipation of the arrival and safe passage of DC Streetcar vehicles on H/Benning, and in support of the community's needs to have merchandise delivered, District Department of Transportation (DDOT) rolled out changes to existing loading zones along the corridor. Many of the businesses between Union Station and the Starburst – the intersection where H Street NE meets Benning Road NE, Bladensburg Road NE, 15th Street NE, Maryland Avenue NE and Florida Avenue NE – do not have alley access and rely heavily on curbside loading zones. However, with the width of the average delivery vehicle extending beyond the white parking lines, DDOT implemented a new loading zone plan citywide in preparation for the significant increase of freight to the District. On the H/Benning corridor, these changes prevent trucks from impeding streetcar passage and also addresses the potential hazard of commercial vehicles double-parking.

DDOT took into account the approved DC Streetcar Design Plan, business and residential stakeholder feedback, delivery schedules (times/locations), and proposed hours of streetcar operation. After two years of planning, DDOT has shifted several loading zones from H Street NE to portions of side streets between 4th Street NE and 14th Street NE. The number of loading zones has doubled from 12 to 24, and the average length of each loading space

has increased from 42' to 57'. No Residential Permit Parking (RPP) areas are impacted. Where metered parking is shared with commercial loading zones, commercial vehicles are allowed to unload from 7:00 am to 6:30 pm.

Additionally, there are now spaces designated for tour buses on the 1400 block of H Street NE. Truck and bus travel rules on restricted side streets remain intact for through traffic. Delivery trucks and buses are required to take the quickest path using designated routes to access the loading zones within the corridor.

A clear path for streetcar needs to be maintained at all times; therefore, double-parking any vehicle is prohibited and strictly enforced. All motorists are urged to adhere to posted signs. Impeding the operation of streetcar will result in vehicles being ticketed and towed.

Contact construction@dcstreetcar.com or the 24/7 DC Streetcar construction hotline at 202-210-3700.



A double-parked delivery truck in streetcar right-of-way



Loading zone map can be found on www.dcstreetcar.com

Friends of Streetcar

H/Benning businesses show their support of DC Streetcar

Just as the first vehicle was delivered to the H Street/Benning Road corridor, DC Streetcar kicks-off an exciting outreach and marketing partnership with the H/Benning business community. The goal of this initiative is to raise awareness of DC Streetcar while shining a spotlight on the many businesses along this thriving residential, retail and entertainment corridor. These partnerships encourage residents and businesses to remain excited about the arrival of DC Streetcar to the District after over 50 years, while providing a platform for businesses to show their support.

The team is currently distributing DC Streetcar promotional materials to businesses who have requested them, including web banners, window decals, brochures, coffee cup sleeves, bike maps and drink coasters. These branded items help paint the town with the theme "Friend of Streetcar," along with promoting safety messaging for passengers, motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists who live and commute throughout the corridor. The program will continue to engage businesses and get them excited about passenger service coming in 2014. Are you a "Friend of Streetcar"? To request materials, businesses can call 855-413-2954 or email info@dcstreetcar.com.



Man on the Street

DC Streetcar asks,

"Why are you so excited about streetcar coming back to the District of Columbia?"



John: *Well, I first came to Washington, DC in 1965 and they were just shutting down the last of the streetcars. For the years since then, I guess that's almost 50 years ago, I saw them taking tracks out. In fact, on East Capitol Street some of the tracks were just taken out when they did the Visitor Center construction. So it's very exciting to see streetcars coming back, and I want to be one of the first ones to ride on it!*

April: *I was stationed in San Diego and used to ride their trolley. I like the streetcars, it's going to be a perfect trip for us.*



Interested in sharing your thoughts on DC Streetcar with us? Stop by our construction field office at 1005 H Street NE or call 855-413-2954.

Overheard by @DCStreetcar

Here's what you had to say about DC Streetcar. Tweet us! You just might see yourself in the next newsletter!

 **Agitator In Chief**
@BaltoSpectator Follow

BACK TO THE FUTURE! @DCStreetcar add yet another option to DC's comprehensive mass transit infrastructure. Cleaner, greener, money saving!

 **Jonathan Rogers**
@JRogers202 Follow

What a sight! @DCStreetcar via @postlocal pic.twitter.com/C6nZGgUltB

Reply Retweet Favorite More



 **Jennifer Skates**
@JenniferSkates Follow

Twitter feed rite now is approx 90% @DCStreetcar related #hstne excited!

 **Greg Billing**
@gregbilling Follow

It's pretty amazing to see @DCStreetcar on the streets. Welcome home! #hellostreetcar



Follow us @DCstreetcar!

Safety is Our #1 Priority

Look, Listen, Be Safe!

DC Streetcar is in motion on H Street/Benning Road as it's being tested and certified for the opening of the system and regular operations. Safety testing during live traffic conditions is important to the certification process. DDOT unveiled a new safety video in December that shows the proper way to interact with the DC Streetcar system. As testing continues, please remember these tips below to stay safe around DC Streetcar. DDOT's safety program will expand into schools in 2014, educating area youth about streetcars.



Drivers. Bikers. Walkers.

- Safely share the road. Do not run in front of an approaching streetcar.
- Streetcars cannot go around cars parked on the tracks. Park your entire vehicle within the white lines and do not double park.
- Streetcars travel at or below the posted speed limit and must obey all traffic signals.

It's Electric. Be Safe.

- Streetcars are powered by electricity—use caution when approaching a work zone.
- The overhead wire or "catenary" is energized at 750v DC. Do not attempt to climb the poles, touch the wires, or throw things at them.
- Entry into streetcar power substations is prohibited for your protection.

For additional tips on staying safe around DC Streetcar visit www.dcstreetcar.com/about/resources/videos.