

DC Streetcar Financing and Governance Task Force Committee Assignments

Financing

1. Eric Goulet, Committee Chair
2. Victor Hoskins
3. Natwar Gandhi
4. Brian Hanlon
5. Richard Bradley
6. Matthew Klein
7. Allen Lew
8. Terry Bellamy
9. Jair Lynch

Governance

1. Matthew Klein, Committee Chair
2. Victor Hoskins
3. Harriet Tregoning
4. Natwar Gandhi
5. Eric Goulet
6. Ginger Laytham
7. Robert Puentes
8. Allen Lew
9. Terry Bellamy
10. Jair Lynch

Legislative – Government Affairs

1. Nicholas Majett, Committee Chair
2. Charles Wilkes
3. Richard Bradley
4. Ginger Laytham
5. Robert Puentes
6. Allen Lew
7. Terry Bellamy
8. Jair Lynch

Infrastructure

1. Terry Bellamy, Committee Chair
2. Harriet Tregoning
3. Natwar Gandhi
4. Brian Hanlon
5. Nicholas Majett
6. Charles Wilkes
7. Allen Lew
8. Jair Lynch

Overview of Committee Roles

The DC Streetcar Financing and Governance Task Force was created to advise Mayor Vincent Gray on potential funding sources and strategies as well on potential governance structure for the DC Streetcar system. The Mayor’s Order creating the Task Force included 8 charges:

1. Provide detailed annual cost estimates for the construction of each portion of the 22-mile priority segments of the planned 37-mile streetcar system, including separate estimates of any streetscape or ancillary improvements associated with construction of the streetcar system;
2. Provide detailed annual cost estimates for the operation and maintenance of the streetcar system for at least the first eight (8) years of operation;
3. Examine potential sources of funds, including District capital funds, special assessments, tax increment financing, private investments, value capture mechanisms, and federal funds, for the construction of the streetcar system;
4. Examine potential financing options for the construction of the streetcar system, including options that minimize the impact of financing on the District’s debt cap;
5. Examine potential sources of funds for the operation and maintenance of the streetcar system, including District operating funds, special assessments, fare box revenue, advertising revenue, regional contributions, and federal funds;

6. Propose reasonable timelines for the construction of each portion of the streetcar system, based on the funding and financing models;
7. Examine potential forms of governance for the construction and operation of the streetcar system, including the establishment of an independent agency; and
8. Transmit to the Mayor written reports of its findings and recommendations.

At the Task Force's first (organizational) meeting on November 14, four committees were created to facilitate addressing these charges. These committees are:

1. Financing
2. Governance
3. infrastructure
4. Legislative and Government Affairs

Following are brief descriptions of the issues on which that these committees are expected to provide key support to the larger task force.

Financing

This committee will focus primarily on supporting the analysis related to charges 3, 4 and 5 (above). Two key issues that have been identified in relationship to these three charges are listed below, along with some initial discussion that can be used to guide the committee's investigations.

- 1) How can the capital costs of the streetcar lines be financed within the District's Debt Cap?
- 2) How can the required annual operating subsidies for the streetcar lines be financed within the operating budget?

Governance

This committee will focus primarily on charge 7. While oversight of the streetcar program currently resides with the District's Department of Transportation (DDOT), oversight in the future can be handled in a number of manners. This committee will review a range of options currently being utilized by other streetcar/transit systems, primarily in the US, but also considering some international examples. These options will be reviewed for "pros and cons" as well as for their applicability given the District's unique regulatory parameters as a federal district.

Infrastructure

This committee will focus on charges 1, 2 and 6. The committee will first focus on understanding the current estimates for both capital and operating costs of the proposed 22-mile system and the assumptions that went into these estimates. The committee will then proceed to examine issues of constructability, including permitting, utility coordination and other issues potentially affecting the construction schedule.

Legislative

This committee will work in support of the other three committees, determining what actions are needed to enable the District to proceed with courses of action under consideration by the Task Force. This committee will first help determine if options under consideration are currently achievable under District and/or federal law (as applicable). Where existing regulations are unclear or potentially present a barrier to a preferred course of action, this committee will investigate whether changes to regulation are feasible and desired or if an alternative course of action is advisable.