

Fort Lincoln Community Comprehensive Plan 2015-2016

“Pathway to building sustainable Fort Lincoln Community”.

**ANC 5C SMD 5C03
Commissioner Robert Looper III**

To: The Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser, Distinguished City Council & D.C. Government Directors:

This comprehensive plan is a culmination of ideas, unfinished plans, and concerns from community members throughout Fort Lincoln. This plan is intended to alleviate the systematic degradation of mixed income communities due to the lack of amenities and services which eventually results in urban sprawl. This plan addresses the core issues of the community and once executed will reduce the disadvantages that all residents of Fort Lincoln face with day-to-day. I would appreciate your input and response on the items noted below and requests that the Mayor's Office and City Council will consider providing the necessary resources to make this a reality. Thank you for reviewing this plan and I look forward to working with you to keep the growth and progress of Fort Lincoln on track with the rest of the city.

Sincerely,

Robert Looper III, ANC Commissioner
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Transportation

Fort Lincoln could be considered a transportation desert given the lack of adequate and reliable transportation options to the community. With the addition of more than 300 homes constructed since 2013, more than 450 upcoming residential units and the planned immediate opening of the Shops at Dakota Crossing, now is the time to plan for appropriate and adequate traffic flow and not diminish existing services. The existing street lighting, traffic infrastructure, and limited bus access routes have not caught up with recent development. I request that the City Council and Mayor's Office consider the following for the upcoming budget proposal:

1. Do not allow WMATA to cancel the B8/B9 Bus service which is proposed to be cut next week. This route is essential and vital to the lives all of all current Fort Lincoln residents. Fort Lincoln Senior residents utilize these bus services to reach the closest food market and pharmacy. Fort Lincoln working adults need access after work hours to return to Fort Lincoln and accomplish these same activities. Posted bus schedules do not conform to the actual schedule of bus transportation provided to Fort Lincoln residents.
2. Provide funding to update traffic signalization and road modifications at Eastern Ave. and Bladensburg Road as well as South Dakota Ave. and Bladensburg Road.
3. Provide resources for a study to provide access from the Shops at Dakota Crossing directly to New York Ave (Rt.50) to alleviate congestion of residential streets as well as connection to the Urban renewal land south of New York Ave.
4. Provide funding for a Hawk Signals at our heavy traffic intersections that Senior residents and adults with disabilities utilize to cross on Bladensburg Road between Banneker Drive & Eastern Ave. as well as at the Petersburg Apartments on Fort Lincoln Drive.
5. Provide funding to connect The Ward 5 Gateway communities to the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail currently under construction.
6. Provide funding for a Circulator Route which would allow access to the upcoming Development along New York Ave, creating a community corridor vs. an arterial pass through. The route would serve the current development and be updated as new developments are implemented. The route would start at NoMa/NY Ave. Metro then access Union Market, The Hecht Warehouse District, New City DC, & the Shops at Dakota Crossing.
7. Provide a Capital Bike share Terminal at the Shops at Dakota Crossing to decrease car dependence for access to retail not offered at the Shops at Dakota Crossing.
8. Direct DDOT to provide a task force which includes community members and agency personnel to provide safe bicycle and walking infrastructure along South Dakota Ave, Bladensburg Road, New York Ave, and V street as well as to develop a comprehensive plan that can be included in the capital improvement budget.
9. Provide resources for a study for either off street light rail, cable, or commuter rail transportation from New Carrollton Metro to NoMa/New York Ave Metro along Rt. 50 with stops in between to reduce traffic congestion.

Pedestrian Safety

As stated above, the public right-of-way has not kept up with the pace of development. The once wooded area now occupied by Costco, the Shops at Dakota Crossing, and the Village at Dakota Crossing has created a more dense pedestrian population and safe access in and around the

community has become an issue of concern for the community. We would like to recommend the following improvements for consideration:

1. Install pedestrian lighting along Fort Lincoln Drive and Commodore Joshua Barney Drive.
2. Provide benches on both sides of Bladensburg road for Seniors to sit while waiting for the bus between Banneker Drive and Eastern Ave.
3. Replace the current light bulbs at light poles with LED bulbs per the Fort Lincoln Photometric Study submitted to DDOT on 8/21/2015 performed by Setty & Associates.
4. Install No Dumping Signage along Fort Lincoln Drive and Commodore Joshua Barney Drive.
5. Provide funding for damaged sidewalk repair which causes frequent tripping of seniors and other pedestrians throughout Fort Lincoln.
6. Provide additional resources to provide a 6 foot wide grass buffer along the Fort Lincoln Wet Land along Commodore Joshua Barney Drive. This will provide a maintainable buffer from overgrown planting as well as safety from snakes, deer, and other animals which lurk in the very tall vegetation which cannot be seen at night.

City Controlled Infrastructure

There are two major concerns regarding city infrastructure that needs to be addressed that are adversely affecting Fort Lincoln Residents:

1. The publically managed Senior Facility at 2855 Bladensburg Road is actually located on 2855 Banneker Drive. Seniors who live in this facility are often left behind by cabs and other transportation because the front of the building is on Banneker Drive. We need assistance to have this changed immediately.
2. Funding to relocate the main water line which runs north on Fort Lincoln Drive from 31st place. Typically main water lines are installed in the street, however, this very aged line is located behind the homes of long-time residents. Whenever there is a water main break their personal property is damaged. The new Banneker Ridge development is now using the same main and with the increased capacity residents are concerned that the issue will continue. Funding is needed to move the waterline to the street and away from the existing home sites.

Sustainable Communities

The residential and retail components of Fort Lincoln are progressing; however, there are not enough resources in place to keep the influx of new and existing middle class residents or the residents which are in greater need from using Fort Lincoln as a place for health, wellness, and education. Funding is needed to provide resources that will keep families from moving out of the city as well as a place for our Senior residents to live out their lives as healthy as possible:

1. Assist the developer in securing a grocery store tenant in the Shops at Dakota Crossing. Costco is a membership only wholesale distribution warehouse and does not provide affordable grocery options for Fort Lincoln residents. The absence of a grocery store tenant is a tremendous handicap to this community.
2. Provide funding to renovate Thurgood Marshall School as a community center, early childhood education center, and include space for a satellite office of the D.C. Office on Aging.
3. Provide funding to update and upgrade Fort Lincoln Park per the attached proposal from the community. Which includes restoring the park and its water features, the addition of a spray park, upgraded playground facilities, outdoor adult fitness park, ropes course, and functional amphitheater to name a few.

4. Provide Funding for smaller pocket parks closer to existing Senior Housing for Senior residents that are less mobile.
5. Provide resources for a study to create a Recreational Waterfront Park along the Anacostia River on New York Ave.

Conclusion

Please consider this plan during your budget considerations for 2016 and provide a response on the items noted.

Thank you.

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