

REMINDER:

**There will be NOT be an Eastland Gardens Civic Association in July or August.
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17.**

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—July 2013

Dear Neighbors,

As all of us know, driving in or out of our neighborhood during rush hour is already a pain because of the congestion on Nannie Helen Burroughs Avenue between Eastland Gardens Park and Minnesota Avenue. That pain is going to get much worse as large-scale development plans are implemented in Parkside and Kenilworth neighborhoods—including CityInterest LLC's massive plan for Parkside and DCHA's new HUD "Choice" grant application to remake Kenilworth Courts with almost twice as many units. For those of you who missed our June meeting, DDOT's Alberta Paul came to answer the fundamental question: ***what is DDOT planning now to prevent the traffic from getting worse as these developments are built?***

Frankly, DDOT didn't have any answers to that question—and shared that the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development largely keeps DDOT in the dark about the projects developers are planning. DDOT is reactive rather than proactive, meaning that **foreseeable problems won't be solved until we suffer first**. It's a foreseeable problem that getting into and out of the neighborhood on NH Burroughs Avenue will be much worse once those developments are built, but DDOT doesn't have any plans to address that problem.

However, DDOT was willing to listen to our transportation suggestions, namely that the neighborhoods between DC-295 and the Anacostia River need infrastructure improvements that relieve some of the present and future congestion on that stretch of NH Burroughs Ave. Two ideas that were suggested included:

- 1) Direct access to Benning Road eastbound from Kenilworth Ave NE southbound**
- 2) Direct access to DC-295 northbound or across DC-295 from Kenilworth via Eastern Ave NE**

As for the occasionally brutal traffic that envelopes our neighborhood when there's an accident on DC-295, Ms. Paul said that DDOT was willing to put up signs intended to discourage drivers from leaving the highway in an attempt to bypass the accident through Eastland Gardens. She also shared that over the next few years, all three pedestrian bridges over DC-295 in our neighborhood (near Douglas St, Nash St, and Lane St) will be taken down one-at-a-time over the next few years, and the bridges near Douglas and Nash will be replaced with new bridges that will extend from sidewalk to sidewalk—no more crossing Kenilworth Ave to get to the bridge. Due to virtually zero use, the bridge near Lane St will not be replaced.

Finally, **the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail is finally coming to our neighborhood and will connect us to 60 miles of biking/walking trails!** The missing link between the 20 miles of DC's Anacostia Riverwalk Trail and Maryland's 40 miles of trails extends from Benning Rd to Bladensburg Park. DDOT is now accepting bids on the contract to build a roundabout 4-mile path that mostly runs through Kenilworth Park. The project is to be completed by late 2015.

-The Eastland Gardens Civic Association Executive Committee

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