



April 8, 2024

700 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Ste. #2032
Washington, DC 20003
6B@anc.dc.gov

Ms. Sharon Kershbaum
Interim Director
Department of Transportation
250 M Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

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VIA EMAIL: sharon.kershbaum@dc.gov

Re: Study of Future Design for I-695

Dear Director Kershbaum:

At a properly noticed general meeting on April 8, 2024, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 6-0-0, based on the unanimous recommendation of its Transportation Committee, to submit the following request to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT).

We are writing to urge the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to commission a study on the feasibility of transforming Interstate 695 into a boulevard. This project has the potential to address several critical issues facing our city, including:

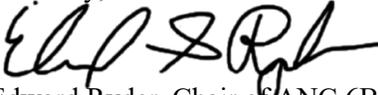
- **Displacement and Pollution:** The construction of I-695 displaced many Black families and resulted in ongoing environmental burdens for surrounding communities. A boulevard plan could incorporate features that mitigate pollution and create a healthier environment for residents.
- **Affordable Housing Opportunities:** Reclaiming the land currently occupied by I-695 presents a unique opportunity to develop much-needed affordable housing in these neighborhoods. This would not only address the city's housing crisis but also contribute to the revitalization of these communities.
- **Reconnecting Divided Communities:** I-695 serves as a physical barrier, severing the connection between Wards 6 and 8. This has disproportionately impacted Black and low-income residents, hindering access to essential services and opportunities. A boulevard design would allow for the creation of vibrant, walkable neighborhoods, fostering a more equitable and inclusive city.

We have seen the positive impact of similar projects, such as the transformation of the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge and the planned transformation of the 11th Street Bridge. Just as the I-295 study is poised to transform the Anacostia waterfront, a comprehensive study on I-695 has the potential to finally, fully connect Wards 6 and 8. We urge DDOT to prioritize this study and believe that, with Councilmember Allen's

support, we can make significant progress on reconnecting our communities and creating a more equitable Washington, D.C.

Thank you in advance for considering and granting great weight to our recommendations. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Edward Ryder, Chair of ANC 6B

CC: Councilmember Charles Allen – Chairperson, Committee on Transportation and the Environment,
Council of the District of Columbia