

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Executive Office of the Mayor

Office of Communications



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Doxie McCoy (EOM) 202.727.9691; [doxie.mccoy@dc.gov](mailto:doxie.mccoy@dc.gov)  
Kiara Pesante (Councilmember Cheh) 202.724.8089; [kpesante@dccouncil.us](mailto:kpesante@dccouncil.us)  
Monica Hernandez (DDOT) 202.673-6813; [monica.hernandez@dc.gov](mailto:monica.hernandez@dc.gov)

## **District to Expand Circulator Bus Service to Mall, Create New Funding Streams for Investments in Service Improvements**

*Partnership with National Park Service Connects National Mall to the Center City*

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.)** – Today, Mayor Vincent C. Gray and Ward 3 Councilmember and Chair of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment Mary Cheh announced that local funds in the Mayor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Budget have been allocated to begin planning for the expansion of [DC Circulator](#) bus service to the National Mall. A new National Mall route would provide passenger service beginning in Fiscal Year 2015. Required local funds for the effort have been identified within the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and are available to support the cost of the expansion.

Mayor Gray and Committee Chair Cheh have also crafted a simple, efficient funding mechanism to provide bus service enhancements District-wide, and neighborhood transportation improvements for areas that participate in the performance parking program.

Expansion of DC Circulator service with a new National Mall route is the result of planning efforts by the National Park Service, DC Surface Transit, Inc., and DDOT. Several route options are being evaluated, each of which will provide access to the National Mall, as well as connection to neighborhood destinations and commercial corridors outside of the District’s monumental core.

Currently, the DC Circulator provides service on five convenient routes throughout the District at a fare of \$1, with buses arriving every 10 minutes. The Circulator is the product of a unique public/private partnership between DDOT, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), First Transit and DC Surface Transit, Inc. With this investment, DC Circulator will continue to expand links to cultural, entertainment and business destinations within the city's central core and other District neighborhoods.

***“I am excited to announce the expansion of the Circulator bus service to provide residents and visitors with greater access to the National Mall and its iconic museums and monuments,”*** said Mayor Gray. ***“Improving and diversifying transportation options in the District remains a top priority of my administration. The***

***Circulator bus has proved to be a popular and sustainable method to travel throughout the District and it makes a lot of sense to expand its service to our city's monumental core."***

"This Circulator expansion will be just the spark the District needs," said Councilmember Cheh. "Once complete, it will provide our residents and visitors with greater access to D.C.'s national treasures while boosting economic activity around the Mall. In tandem with the restored funding to bus and parking enhancement projects, the city is making it even easier to enjoy all that D.C. has to offer."

For more information on the DC Circulator, visit [www.dccirculator.com](http://www.dccirculator.com).

In expanding non-automobile transportation-related improvements in neighborhoods participating in the performance parking program, a new **Neighborhood Performance Parking Participatory Budgeting Fund** will be established. Using paygo capital dollars, the fund will enable residents to voice their preference for neighborhood investments by selecting from a menu of options provided by DDOT. An amount of \$589,000 will support this effort this fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 2014, that amount will be increased to \$750,000 annually.

The quality of bus service District-wide will be more rapidly improved, with the goal of fewer delays in service, via a new **Bus Service Enhancement Fund**. Also leveraging paygo capital dollars, this fund will allow DDOT to focus on innovative solutions to promote and prioritize bus-related infrastructure and technology, ensuring this vital mode of transportation continues to progress and evolve. An amount of \$750,000 will support this fund annually, beginning in Fiscal Year 2014.

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