1962: End of an Era
DC Streetcar

The Vision: Build and operate a 37-mile streetcar network for DC

• Meet increasing transit demand as District population continues to grow
• Connect and strengthen District neighborhoods
• Provide high-quality transit to neighborhoods underserved by Metrorail
• Relieve overcrowding on Metrorail & Metrobus lines
Current Progress

Construction (2 lines; 2.75 Miles):
1. H St NE/Benning Rd NE
2. Anacostia Initial Line Segment

Design (0.5 Miles)
3. H St NE to Union Station (direct connection to Union Station)
4. Union Station Metrorail Access ($17.8M Tiger II request)

Planning (4.5 Miles)
5. Benning Road NE Extension
6. Anacostia Metro Station to 11th St Bridge ($18M Tiger II request)
H St/Benning Rd Corridor
H St/Benning Rd Great Streets Initiative
NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACTS
Mobility

• Limited Metrorail connection
• Convenient transportation link from East of River
• Only one seat ride from Benning Rd to Union Station
• 15 min time savings compared to Metrorail
• Severe overcrowding on Metrobus
Economic Development

- In the pipeline:
  - 8,000 new residential units
  - 1,200 hotel rooms
  - 1M square feet of retail
  - 20M additional sq ft of office, residential, hotel, retail over 10 yrs
  - Affordable transportation alternative for heavy low-income corridor
Construction

• Communication
  – Clear plan, clear message
  – Updating the community as plans change

• Emerging Neighborhoods
  – Steady stream of new residents/business to bring up to speed
  – New businesses especially vulnerable

• Mitigating impacts to businesses
  – Property tax deferrals
  – Parking
Overhead Wires

Overhead wire ban
• 1888 statute banned overhead wires in L’Enfant area
• 1889 law allowed streetcar operations only under certain conditions (e.g., underground cables)

Short-term:
• Home Rule allows DC to overturn ban
• Emergency legislation allows wires along H/Benning

Long-term:
• Commitment to operating vehicles that can travel up to 1 mile without overhead power
• Working with NCPC to define significant viewsheds
• Issued RFI seeking input from manufacturers on wireless technologies
Moving Forward

- Phase program to take advantage of economic development potential *and* relieve Metro core capacity and coverage issues
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Meet commitment to procure streetcar vehicles with capability to operate wirelessly
H St/Benning Rd

Underpass

Portal through H St Viaduct

Benning Rd Turnback

Maintenance Facility