

A RESOLUTION

23-429

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 9, 2020

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to direct the District Department of Transportation to publish a report identifying modifications to roadways in each ward that will create space for uses other than for motorized vehicles and to set a timeline for implementation.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Connected Transportation Network Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2020”.

Sec. 2. (a) On May 27, 2020, Mayor Bowser issued Mayor’s Order 2020-067, allowing for certain businesses to reopen in certain circumstances.

(b) Mayor’s Order 2020-067, however, notes that “[w]hen leaving their residents, all individuals must continue to maintain a distance of at least six (6) feet from persons not in their household” and that while “[w]earing a mask or face covering is one tool to protect an individual’s health and the health of others . . . it does not replace social distancing.”

(c) On many sidewalks in the District it is impossible to maintain a distance of 6 feet when simply walking or bicycling.

(d) It is anticipated that as District residents return to work, the number of those residents cycling and walking to work will increase significantly as they attempt to commute using methods that comply with social distancing requirements.

(e) The District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) has created a Slow Streets program that will identify some streets that would be closed to through traffic and mandates reduced speeds for cars. That is a good start, but DDOT should create a map of where it intends to locate slow streets and other protected lanes so as to create a framework by which a connected network for residents to commute to and from work safely can be established.

(f) The Connected Transportation Network Emergency Act of 2020 requires DDOT to identify streets that can be part of a network of bicycle lanes, work that DDOT has done in several existing reports.

(g) Emergency legislation is necessary to ensure that when residents leave their homes during times when social distancing is required, safe space is available for pedestrians and

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bicyclists, and, as the number of residents who choose to walk or cycle to work increase, those individuals may do so in a safe manner.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Connected Transportation Network Emergency Act of 2020 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.