

# Government of the District of Columbia

## Department of Transportation



### d. Planning and Sustainability Division

#### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment

**FROM:** Meredith Soniat  
Acting Associate Director *MS*

**DATE:** November 7, 2025

**SUBJECT:** BZA Case No. 21372 – 1341 Pennsylvania Avenue SE

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#### APPLICATION

1501 Erie St Construction, LLC (the “Applicant”), pursuant to Title 11 of the *District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR)*, requests a Special Exception from the minimum vehicle parking requirement (one [1] space) to construct a 9-unit apartment building. The site is in the MU-4 Zone at 1341 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (Square 1045, Lot 124) and is served by a public alley.

#### SUMMARY OF DDOT REVIEW

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is committed to achieving an exceptional quality of life by encouraging sustainable travel practices, safer streets, and outstanding access to goods and services. To achieve this vision, DDOT works through the zoning process to ensure that impacts from new developments are manageable within and take advantage of the District’s multi-modal transportation network and, as necessary, propose mitigations that are commensurate with the action. After a review of the case materials submitted by the Applicant, DDOT finds:

- Zoning requires one (1) off-street vehicle parking space. The Applicant is seeking relief from one (1) space;
- The Applicant had intended to construct one (1) vehicle parking space at the rear of the property, but the owner of the adjacent residential building claims that the Applicant may not locate a parking space in that area as it would violate an access easement;
- The site is located within ½ mile of the Potomac Avenue Metrorail station;
- Title 11 of the *DCMR*, Subtitle C § 703.4 only requires the Applicant implement a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan if requesting relief from more than four (4) parking spaces.

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DDOT also requires a TDM plan for parking relief cases if the total number of residential units is 20 or more. Therefore, a TDM Plan is not required in this case; and

- DDOT supports the requested relief given the site's proximity to transit, the walkability of the neighborhood, and the constraints of locating a parking space at this site. The impacts on the transportation network are expected to be minimal.

## RECOMMENDATION

DDOT has no objection to the approval of this application. However, DDOT notes the following design-related issue that should be resolved prior to approval by the BZA:

- No short-term bicycle parking is currently shown on the plans. The Applicant should show that the project complies with Zoning regulations for short-term bicycle parking.

## TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS

### Vehicle Parking

The overall parking demand created by the development is primarily a function of land use, development square footage, price, and supply of parking spaces. However, in urban areas, other factors contribute to the demand for parking, such as the availability of high-quality transit, frequency of transit service, proximity to transit, connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the vicinity of the development, and the demographic composition and other characteristics of the potential residents.

The Applicant is required by Zoning to provide one (1) off-street parking space. Per the Applicant's Architectural Plans, the Applicant is providing no off-street parking spaces and is requesting relief from one (1) parking space. Title 11 of the *DCMR*, Subtitle C § 703.4 requires that any request for a reduction in the minimum number of parking spaces over four (4) spaces include a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) plan be approved by DDOT. Since the relief requested is fewer than four (4) spaces a TDM Plan is not required by Zoning, and since the total number of residential units is fewer than 20, DDOT does not request a TDM plan as a condition of approval.

### Residential Permit Parking (RPP) Pass Eligibility

The site is located on the 1300 block of Pennsylvania Avenue SE, which is currently in the DDOT and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Residential Permit Parking (RPP) [database](#). Accordingly, residents on site are eligible to obtain Zone 6 parking permits from the DMV.

### Bicycle Parking

The project is required by Zoning to provide three (3) long- and two (2) short-term bicycle parking spaces. The Applicant is meeting the long-term requirement by providing three (3) long-term spaces; however, no short-term bicycle parking spaces are shown on the plans. The Applicant should include short-term bicycle parking prior to approval by the BZA.

The Applicant should work with DDOT during the public space permitting process to determine a location for the short-term bike spaces, ideally in the 'furniture zone' of public space near the edge of the street. The Applicant should refer to DDOT's [Bike Parking Guide](#) for best practices on design of long- and short-term bicycle parking spaces.

### Loading

DDOT's practice is to accommodate loading operations safely and efficiently, while prioritizing pedestrian and bicycle safety and limiting negative impacts to traffic operations. For new developments, DDOT requires that loading take place in private space and that no back-up maneuvers occur in the public realm. Access to this building for loading and unloading, delivery and trash pick-up is an important consideration, and DDOT expects the Applicant to comply with DDOT's standards for loading.

Per Title 11 of the *DCMR*, Subtitle C § 901.1, buildings with fewer than 50 units are not required to provide a loading berth. As such, future residents should use the rear of the property for move-in/move-outs or obtain "emergency no parking" signs from DDOT to reserve an on-street parking space. Since the site has more than three (3) units, the Applicant must contract a private trash collection service. Trash must be stored entirely on private property, out of the view of the sidewalk, and collected at the rear of the property.

### **STREETSCAPE AND PUBLIC REALM**

DDOT's lack of objection to this application should not be viewed as an approval of the public realm. All elements of the project proposed within District-owned right-of-way, including the areaway, planter, and leadwalk require the Applicant to pursue a public space construction permit.

DDOT expects the adjacent public realm to meet all District standards. The Applicant should refer to Titles 11, 12A, and 24 of the *DCMR*, the most recent version of DDOT's [Design and Engineering Manual](#), and the [Public Realm Design Manual](#) for public space regulations and design guidance. A permit application can be filed through the DDOT [Transportation Online Permitting System](#) (TOPS) website.

### **HERITAGE AND SPECIAL TREES**

According to the District's [Tree Size Estimator map](#), there is one (1) Special tree along the site's Pennsylvania Avenue frontage. DDOT expects the Applicant to coordinate with the Ward 6 Arborist regarding the preservation and protection of existing Special and small street trees.

Special Trees are between 44 inches and 99.99 inches in circumference. Special Trees may be removed with a permit. However, if a Special Tree is designated to remain by DDOT's Urban Forestry Division, a Tree Protection Plan will be required.

MS:nh