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2 Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie


3 Councilmember Charles Allen

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5 Councilmember David Grosso


6 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

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10 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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14 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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20 To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend section 47-362 of
21 the District of Columbia Official Code to require Council approval of reprogrammings of
22 capital funds made by the District Department of Transportation until the Florida Avenue
23 Multimodal Project, between 2nd Street, N.E., and H Street, N.E., reaches 100% design.

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25 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
26 resolution may be cited as the “Florida Avenue Multimodal Project Completion Emergency
27 Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

28 Sec. 2. (a) The District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) began studying changes
29 to the streetscape of Florida Avenue, N.E., between 2nd Street, N.E., and West Virginia Avenue,
30 N.E., in 2009. Eventually the scope of that project expanded to studying Florida Avenue, N.E.,
31 between 2nd Street, N.E., and H Street, N.E. (“Florida Avenue Multimodal Transportation
32 Project”).

33 (b) Since the beginning of the Florida Avenue Multimodal Transportation Project, the
34 project has been marked by constant delays. The project website for DDOT’s Florida Avenue
35 Multimodal Transportation Project says that the project will reach 100% design by spring 2018.

36 In responses to pre-hearing questions before DDOT’s Fiscal Year 2019 performance oversight
37 hearing, the agency said that “[a] new consultant had to be selected to complete design of [the]
38 Florida Avenue Multimodal Project. The final design is underway, to be completed by December
39 2020.”

40 (c) Florida Avenue, N.E., is a shared roadway of Ward 5 and 6. For many years, Advisory
41 Neighborhood Commissions in both Wards 5 and 6 have fought for a redesign that would make
42 Florida Avenue, N.E., safer for all users and have made statements of support for various versions
43 of plans for the road. A redesigned Florida Avenue, N.E., would bring equitable benefits to all
44 residents of the Florida Avenue, N.E., corridor, and anyone who uses the road to commute—
45 those young and old, and in cars, on foot, or on bicycles.

46 (d) In December 2015, Mayor Bowser released a Vision Zero action plan, to “eliminate
47 transportation fatalities and serious injuries” by 2024, but delayed infrastructure improvements
48 like the Florida Avenue Multimodal Transportation Project are the biggest impediments to
49 reaching the District’s Vision Zero goals.

50 (e) Florida Avenue continues to be extremely dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. In
51 2013, Ruby Whitfield was killed while walking in a marked crosswalk on Florida Avenue, N.E.,
52 while on her way home from church. On Friday, April 19, 2019, Dave Salovesh was killed at
53 Florida Avenue, N.E., and 12th Street, N.E., by a driver travelling in excess of 60 miles per hour.

54 (f) In 2018 there were 36 deaths on District roads. With Dave Salovesh’s death and the
55 death of Abdul Seck, a pedestrian struck and killed by a driver at the intersection of 16th Street,
56 S.E., and V Street, S.E., on April 21, 2019, there now have been 6 deaths on District roads in the
57 first 4 months of 2019.

58 (g) In Fiscal Year 2018, DDOT reprogrammed at least \$3.2 million in capital funds to other
59 agencies—funds that could have provided infrastructure improvements or accelerated design work
60 for infrastructure improvements in all of the District’s 8 wards.

61 (h) Emergency legislation is necessary to provide the Council an opportunity to review any
62 proposed capital reprogrammings from DDOT, until the Florida Avenue Multimodal
63 Transportation Project reaches 100% design, including protected bicycle lanes and infrastructure
64 improvements to improve pedestrian safety and slow the speed of cars using the road, to ensure
65 that no funds are reprogrammed out of activities that will protect District residents on our roads
66 and that DDOT prioritizes infrastructure improvements to protect our residents.

67 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances
68 enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Florida
69 Avenue Multimodal Project Completion Emergency Amendment Act of 2019 be adopted after a
70 single reading.

71 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.