

Katrice Fuller
Committee on Transportation and the Environment
District Department of Transportation Budget Hearing
April 29th, 2024

Greetings Chairman Allen and the representatives of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment. My name is Katrice Fuller. I am a Ward 5 resident and I serve as a PAVE Citywide member. I am also a proud mother of four boys who attend Monument Academy and Miner Elementary. Additionally, I am a bonus mom, teacher, counselor, and confidant to the hundreds of students and families I serve under my role as Chief of Family and Community Engagement at Monument Academy Public Charter School; a place that I consider to be a gem within our city due to the plethora of programming and resources we can provide for our school environment.

In the past 2 school years at Monument, we've lost a lot of students and their guardians to violence. The more digging we did we learned so much of it was when getting to and from school, crossing into different neighborhoods, and school-to-school conflict (which we didn't have any idea about). We lost our SROs, who were heavily involved in our community, and with them, we lost a lot of intel and help. I've learned there are so many different sectors of Safe Passage and yet I feel and see its effects, especially being on the East side of the River. Needless to say, once we did some digging with other LEAs in our communities, collaborated with other school leaders, and more, we noticed that we needed to buckle down and address this problem together like staggering half days, building relationships with our local Metropolitan Police Department, and more which has been super instrumental as an administrator and a mom whose kids attend these schools. Communication has been key. Making sure that everyone involved with safe passage from school crossing guards to school leaders to Safe Passage Workers to DDOT convenes on the citywide and hyper-local level can bring a lot of positive change. We are already beginning to see these plans start to form in some communities so we know it is possible. At Monument, we've created a lot of meaningful partnerships and I've seen firsthand what school communities need to help kids feel safe traveling to and at school.

As the leaders of DDOT, we need you to collaborate with us to ensure the safety of our children when they travel to and from school. We want to make sure school crossing guards have the support they need to support our students' safety and have consistency in placements so they can continue to be a valued part of school communities.



We also want to ensure schools are able to get timely infrastructure updates. We want DDOT to work with schools to ensure that schools with “emergencies” can get updates quickly to help keep students safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to future collaboration and am available for questions.

Sincerely,

Katrice Fuller

Chief of Family and Community Engagement at Monument Academy PCS

Citywide and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)