

**Tyesha Andrews**  
**Committee on Transportation and the Environment**  
**District Department of Transportation**  
**Tuesday, April 30th, 2024**

Hello, Councilmember Allen and DC Council staff. My name is Tyesha Andrews. I am a Ward 8 resident and I serve as a PAVE Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board member. I am also a parent and my children currently attend Plummer Elementary and Jefferson.

Thank you all for being here today and holding this hearing. As a parent and resident of the District of Columbia, I have a lot of experience with the District Department of Transportation. However, I do also recognize that different people in our city have different experiences.

First, I agree and support Mayor Bowser for setting aside \$7.2 million to maintain the DC School Connect program and the \$6.5 million increase for the OSSE special education transportation program. I also fully support the \$8.7 million set aside to create 40 new community safety officers and fund new civilian positions within MPD to free up sworn officers for more critical tasks. I hope that the officers that are freed up to focus on more critical tasks include placing officers along all routes students are taking between home and school because, during their travels, our youth are being targeted and enduring or witnessing violence. This often increases with distance to school, as many students travel across Wards and even across the city to get to school. We must do a better job at protecting all of our children because teenagers now are having a much different experience getting to school than what I received growing up. I didn't witness all the crimes that children do today. Times have changed and we as leaders of this city must create systems and put structures in place to help our kids, especially when they are doing something as simple as going to school or home.

I am not alone in these concerns, PAVE parent leaders have worked with schools, community organizations, and even agency staff to come up with specific solutions to address this issue. I am asking DDOT to regularly aggregate and release public data on safe passage program effectiveness and usage including, but not limited to:

- a) DC Vision Zero
- b) School Crossing Guards and Traffic Officers
- c) Kids Ride Free



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DDOT is not alone in this work, so I am also asking city leaders to work together to not only onboard and train more bus and metro drivers, but I also ask that we create a student-only metro car for students to travel to school with Safe Passage Workers, MPD, or WMATA PD present to intervene if and when necessary. Overall, we need more eyes on the ground during pick-up and drop-off hours. This will make our students safer and help ensure that they can get to school safely and efficiently.

Again, I repeat that we must collaborate and develop solutions to make this great city, that should be a state, better for ALL our children, yes OUR children. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to the solutions you develop and am available for questions.

Sincerely,

Tyesha Andrews

Citywide and Ward 8 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)