

**[DRAFT]**

*By Electronic Mail*

October 23, 2023

Chair Marnique Heath, FAIA  
Historic Preservation Review Board  
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024  
[historic.preservation@dc.gov](mailto:historic.preservation@dc.gov)

**RE: William Howard Taft Bridge Pedestrian Railing Improvement Project Concept Design (HPA 23-509)**

Chair Heath,

We ask that the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) concur with the recommendation of the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and approve Option 3B. All of the options presented within Option 3 replace the piers and railings of the bridge in the same design character and increased to a height of eight feet. ANC 3C agrees with CFA that this would be more harmonious with the bridge's historic appearance than the other options, which would add a new barrier system next to the existing railings.

ANC 3C also understands the complexity of this undertaking on the historic bridge, and agrees with CFA members expressed willingness to further consider Option 2, which would add an eight-foot-tall wire mesh supported by metal stanchions, for its relative transparency and ease of maintenance.

ANC 3C previously expressed the need for this railing improvement project as outlined in our [June 2022 resolution](#). We acknowledge that no one WANTS to put barriers on this beautiful, historic bridge. We NEED to put barriers on the bridge. The whole of the Government of the District of Columbia has worked hard and fast, recognizing the long overdue NEED for this safety infrastructure.

ANC 3C also requests that HPRB not further delay this project with more design options and further reviews. The statistics cited in our June 2022 resolution have not been updated since then, and the reality is we require even more urgency to protect lives than we did then.

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on October 23, 2023 with a quorum present, a quorum being five commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3C voted x-x to provide written comments.

The Commission authorizes the Chair or her designee(s) to represent the Commission on this matter.