

Metropolitan Branch Trail Fort Totten to Takoma

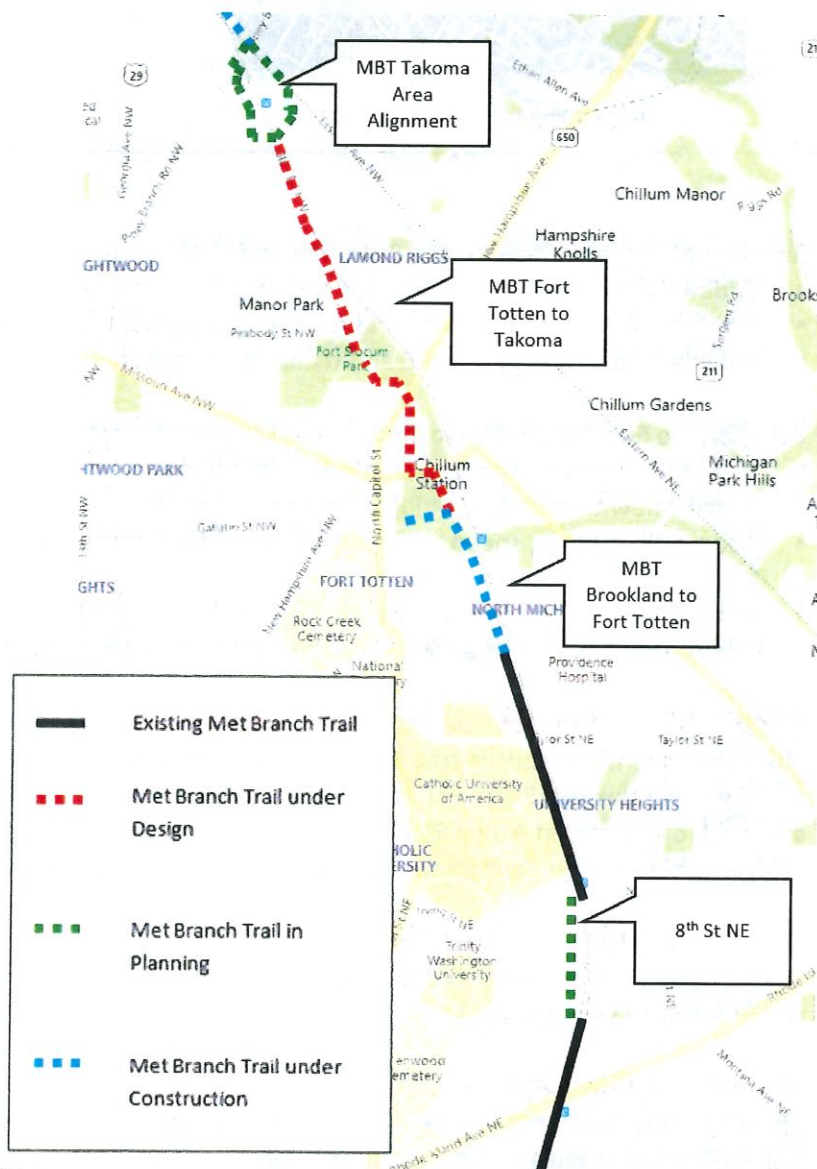
When completed, the **Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT)**, will be an 8-mile trail that runs from Union Station in the District of Columbia to Silver Spring in Maryland. Following the Metropolitan Branch Line of the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad, the trail passes through numerous vibrant and historic neighborhoods as well as connecting to the National Mall. The MBT is an important transportation route for pedestrians and bicyclists providing connections to homes, work and play as well as access to seven Metro stations. Current plans include connections to the area's trail network such as the Capital Crescent Trail, Anacostia Trails System, and integration into the East Coast Greenway.

What is the Metropolitan Branch Trail?

The MBT is a multi-use trail for pedestrians and bicyclists. The trail is currently built between Union Station and Brookland. The section of trail between Brookland and Fort Totten is currently under construction and expected to be complete in 2020. The MBT is a popular recreational and commuter route used by 1500 pedestrians and bicyclists per day. The trail roughly follows the Red Line Metro and connects Metro stations, schools, parks, and residences.

Why is the MBT Project happening?

The Metropolitan Branch Trail was first proposed in the early 1990's by local residents to develop the former Metropolitan Branch of the B&O railroad into a multi-use trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. The trail was adopted into the DC Comprehensive Plan in the 1990's. In 2011, DDOT completed the Environmental Assessment and selected the preferred route alignment in this area. In 2017, DDOT completed the preliminary design of the trail from Fort Totten to Takoma. DDOT constructed the first segments of the trail (in Brookland) in 1999 and has completed over 5 miles of trail construction in Edgewood, Eckington, and NoMa over the past 15 years.



What will the trail look like?

Between **Rittenhouse St and Aspen St**, DDOT will:

- Construct the trail along Blair Rd and remove one northbound lane of motor vehicle traffic
- Construct a barrier to separate the trail from traffic
- Provide traffic calming along Blair Rd and add pedestrian scale lighting



EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed Metropolitan Branch Trail on Blair Rd between Van Buren and Aspen St NW

Between **McDonald Place NE and Rittenhouse St NW**, DDOT will:

- Widen the sidewalk to create a new ten-foot-wide trail along Blair Rd separate from traffic
- Maintain access to businesses and the Oglethorpe Community Garden
- Provide traffic calming along Blair Rd and add pedestrian scale lighting

Between the **Fort Totten Metro Station and McDonald Place**, DDOT will:

- Widen the sidewalk to create a new ten-foot-wide trail along First Pl NE and Riggs Rd NE separate from traffic
- Install a new traffic signal at Riggs Rd and First St NE
- Add traffic calming, speed humps, sharrows, and connect missing sidewalk along First St NE and South Dakota Ave NE
- Install a new traffic signal at New Hampshire Ave NE and McDonald Pl NE
- Add traffic calming and a contraflow bike lane along McDonald Pl NE

What will the impacts be to traffic on Blair Road?

The impacts of the proposed trail on rush hour traffic were analyzed using a traffic model based on population and travel growth through 2040. The results of the model indicate that the proposed trail and one northbound lane approach of Blair Rd at Aspen St meet an acceptable level of service. While there will be minimal delay for motor vehicles, there will be benefits to all roadway users from the addition of the trail.

When will DDOT conduct the work?

DDOT is expecting to complete final design plans for the Fort Totten to Takoma section in Spring 2021 and begin construction in Summer 2021.

Where can I get more information on this project?

Please contact Samer Alhawamdeh, Civil Engineer, Infrastructure Project Management Division, District Department of Transportation at samer.alhawamdeh@dc.gov

More information about the Metropolitan Branch Trail in the District can be found at www.metbranchtrail.com

