

# RESOLUTION SUPPORTING STREET CARS WITHOUT OVERHEAD WIRES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 17, 2009

**WHEREAS**, the District of Columbia Government has announced a plan to introduce a 38 mile, \$1.5 billion dollar new street car system on to the streets and avenues of the city; and

**WHEREAS**, a properly designed streetcar system could improve public transportation and do so at less cost than a below grade rail system and,

**WHEREAS**, the streetcar system, once installed will be in place for decades and

**WHEREAS**, the L'Enfant Plan for Washington (generally, the area south of Florida Avenue/Benning Road, west of the Anacostia River, sometimes referred to as the "old city") is on the National Register of Historic Places; and

**WHEREAS**, the L'Enfant Plan's status on the National Register of Historic Places is a bar to the wires and the various supporting structures which might impose on the streets and avenues, and the District's Comprehensive Plan protects vistas, open spaces, natural settings and public thoroughfares, and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) has correctly described Washington as one of the most significant wire-free transportation networks in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the NCPC in carrying out its duties to protect the Federal interest in Washington, has informed District representatives that it would defend against wires in the L'Enfant Plan streets; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington is a planned city with vital vistas and views that make it unique in the world, and those views are located throughout Washington, including areas outside the L'Enfant Plan that deserve protection from unsightly overhead wires used to power streetcars, now:

**THEREFORE**, it is hereby resolved by Capitol Hill Restoration Society that before any further official action is taken to introduce a streetcar system to the District of Columbia, the City should conduct a study of streetcar powering systems that are not dependent on overhead wires, including systems in, Charlotte, NC, the U.S. and in Europe and other parts of the world. .