

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
MARY M. CHEH, CHAIR

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE ON

The Department of Public Works' Enforcement Against Vehicles with Substantial Unpaid Traffic Fines

Monday, December 6, 2021, at 12:00 PM
Councilmember Cheh's Facebook Page ([facebook.com/cmmarycheh](https://www.facebook.com/cmmarycheh))
DC Council Website ([dccouncil.us](https://www.dccouncil.us))
Council Channel 13 (Cable Television Providers)
Office of Cable Television Website ([entertainment.dc.gov](https://www.entertainment.dc.gov))

On Monday, December 6, 2021, Councilmember Mary M. Cheh, Chairperson of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment will hold a public roundtable on the Department of Public Works' enforcement against vehicles with substantial unpaid ticket fines. The roundtable will begin at 12:00 PM and will be broadcast live on DC Council Channel 13 and streamed live at www.dccouncil.us, [facebook.com/cmmarycheh](https://www.facebook.com/cmmarycheh), and [entertainment.dc.gov](https://www.entertainment.dc.gov).

In 2015, Mayor Bowser first announced the District's commitment to Vision Zero, a cross-agency initiative intending to bring an end to traffic fatalities. In the years since, the Council has worked with Executive agencies to achieve this goal, including passing comprehensive omnibus Vision Zero legislation in 2020. Unfortunately, the number of traffic fatalities in the District has grown almost every year since the Mayor made this commitment; the District has had 37 traffic fatalities in 2021, compared to 26 in 2015.

Enforcement of our traffic laws against unsafe or reckless driver behavior is a key component to reaching Vision Zero. Drivers that speed, run red lights or stop signs, and otherwise behave dangerously behind the wheel pose a direct threat to other users of our roadways—whether pedestrians, cyclists, e-mobility devices, or other drivers. A key component to curbing these behaviors, however, is ensuring that tickets are enforced, where valid.

Earlier this fall, the Committee learned that almost 550,000 District, Maryland, and Virginia vehicles are boot-eligible—meaning the vehicle has two or more unpaid parking or ATE camera tickets that are 60 days or older. A number of these tickets are for dangerous driver behaviors. The Committee also learned that DPW has only two vehicles and six agency staff assigned to identifying and booting these vehicles; altogether, the “boot crew” boots between 36 and 50 vehicles a day. The boot crew vehicles only travel predetermined routes, and are not able to respond to reports of a located boot-eligible vehicle; no other DPW staff is authorized to do this work. Due to the disparity between the size of the boot crew and number of boot-eligible vehicles, a very small proportion of vehicles with long-standing unpaid tickets are subject to enforcement. As a result, some drivers may continue to drive dangerously due to the belief

that they will never be caught. This level of enforcement has a direct effect on the safety of our roadways and our efforts to achieve Vision Zero.

At this roundtable, the Committee will seek information from DPW and the Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure on current staffing levels for DPW booting, towing, and other ticket enforcement teams. The Committee will also seek testimony from the Executive on what can be done immediately to increase enforcement rates, including what, if any, other initiatives they intend to pursue in the FY 2023 budget to accelerate this work. The Committee will also seek clarity from the Deputy Mayor on her office's role in coordinating Vision Zero goals across cluster agencies. Finally, the Committee will seek updates on the Deputy Mayor's efforts to negotiate ticket reciprocity with Maryland and Virginia.

Due to the imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of District residents posed by the spread of the coronavirus, the Council has adapted the methods by which committees may hold public hearings and roundtables to comply with social distancing, large public gatherings, and other public health and safety requirements. Therefore, this public roundtable will be held remotely through the Zoom teleconferencing platform.

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony, which will be made a part of the official record. Anyone wishing to testify should contact Ms. Aukima Benjamin, Staff Assistant to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, at least 24 hours prior to the start of the roundtable at (202) 724-8062 or via e-mail at abenjamin@dccouncil.us; witnesses will receive information on how to join the roundtable at that time. Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation, or requiring sign language interpretation, are requested to inform the Committee of the need as soon as possible but no later than five business days before the roundtable, which is November 29, 2021. We will make every effort to fulfill timely requests; however, requests received in less than five business days may not be fulfilled and alternatives may be offered.

If you are unable to testify at the public roundtable, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record; testimony may be submitted to abenjamin@dccouncil.us. The public may also leave voicemail testimony for the Committees by calling (202) 350-1344, which will be transcribed and made part of the roundtable record. Members of the public leaving voicemail testimony should speak slowly and clearly, state their full name and the organization they represent, if any, and note the bill, roundtable, or agency that they are submitting testimony on. Members of the public are asked to not provide an e-mail, phone number, or other personal contact information in voicemail testimony.

The record will close at the end of the business day on December 20, 2021.