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# RFI: DC MID Seeks Innovative Solutions and Support from Private-Sector Partners

Deadline for submissions: May 7, 2025 at Noon

## Overview

The DC Mobility Innovation District ([DC MID](#)) is a partnership between the Southwest and Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement Districts and the District of Columbia. Launched in 2022, it serves as a testing ground for sustainable and inclusive mobility solutions. It is an open, collaborative ecosystem that brings together the public, private, academic, and nonprofit sectors. The district's goal is to drive innovation by supporting the growth of local businesses, creating opportunities, and generating employment.

*The DC MID is requesting information from private-sector partners on:*

1. *Viable, innovative solutions that address opportunity areas identified by the DC MID*
2. *Key, non-financial, support to facilitate demonstration of solutions in Washington, DC*

Through this Request for Information (RFI), the DC MID, in collaboration with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), aims to identify the challenges companies encounter when deploying innovative mobility solutions. The DC MID also seeks to explore potential partnerships with innovators and public agencies to address these barriers. The goal is to connect with forward-thinking companies and organizations interested in testing new transportation technologies, business models, and infrastructure solutions. These efforts are focused on improving mobility access, reducing emissions, and advancing [the District's long-term transportation objectives](#).

## Opportunity Areas

The DC MID has identified five key focus areas for 2025 to address local mobility challenges with national relevance. Our goal is to pilot solutions that benefit the DC community while demonstrating scalability across the US. We welcome responses aligned with these focus areas as well as innovative ideas outside these categories.



1. First/Last Mile Transportation

Problem: Gaps in first/last-mile transportation options create barriers to accessing jobs, education, healthcare, and other essential services. This decreases overall quality of life, particularly for underserved communities.

2. E-Mobility Charging

Problem: Insufficient charging infrastructure for electric vehicles (EVs) and e-bikes hinders the adoption of e-mobility and limits progress toward a more sustainable transportation system.

3. Safe Streets

Problem: Outdated and insufficient roadway infrastructure, combined with human error and unsafe driving behaviors, pose significant risks to all road users (pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists).

4. Event Congestion

Problem: Traffic congestion caused by major events at high-capacity venues creates gridlock, delays emergency services, and negatively impacts the environment and quality of life.

5. Curb Management

Problem: "Chaos at the curb" caused by competing demands for limited curb space (e.g., ride-hailing, deliveries, and parking) limits accessibility, creates safety hazards, and hinders economic activity.

## DC MID's Support for Demonstrations

The DC MID is a unique public-private-nonprofit partnership. With seed funding from the District's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) and a cooperative extension of the Southwest Business Improvement District and Capitol Riverfront Business Improvement District, the DC MID is uniquely positioned to unite community and governmental agency priorities with private-sector innovative solutions and aid in their demonstration, evaluation, and (if successful) scaling.

The DC MID is interested in understanding the relative value of the support it can provide to prospective solution providers and what additional, non-financial support and assistance is desired and needed.

Support the DC MID currently provides to solution providers includes:

- Partnership Development — Leveraging members of its Advisory Board and leadership that are already embedded into the mobility ecosystem across the District and the



nation, the DC MID assists selected solution providers to identify key community, business, and other relevant stakeholders.

- **Community Understanding** — The DC MID area includes some of the region's most dynamic new developments and the city's densest concentration of public housing. The DC MID is a representative microcosm of the challenges of a broad cross-section of resident and business needs. With a finger on the pulse of this diverse community, the DC MID can ensure that providers understand bonafide community needs and tailor solutions that demonstrate how these can be addressed.
- **Site Host Locations** — Spanning across two Business Improvement Districts in the fast-growing neighborhoods in DC. The DC MID has deep relationships with developers, landowners, and government agencies and can help identify potential site hosts for demonstration projects.
- **Liaison with Government Agencies** — It can be time-consuming to determine which government agencies need to approve or be involved in demonstration projects. The DC MID has established relationships with District Government agencies and can help with this process. We also want to understand the relative value and/or criticality of the DC Government agencies' direct involvement in attracting responsive mobility innovation demonstrations in the MID.
- **Storytelling and Amplification** — The DC MID's location in the Nation's Capital provides a tremendous platform to showcase innovative mobility solutions. The DC MID can help provide that platform by promoting projects through media outlets and offering tours and in-person demonstrations to leaders from around the country and the world.

## How to Submit

The DC MID invites potential partners to submit a response addressing one or both of the desired topics (1 - proposed solutions to key challenges and/or 2 - valuable non-financial support to demonstrate solutions). To respond, please provide the following, as applicable. Please note that this is a request for information only. No guarantee of selection is implied.

- **Team/Company Contact:** Company name(s), address(es), contact name, contact information
- **Company background and qualifications:** Please provide a brief summary of your company's background and experience and any relevant implementation examples
- **Proposed Solution:** Describe the company/team's interest; technology/solution offered; overall approach for delivering the product(s) and/or service(s);



experience/expertise of company/team.

- **Valued and Needed Support:** Please identify the relative value of the support the DC MID currently offers to innovation providers. Please outline the barriers that your organization has faced when trying to demonstrate, deploy, and scale your technology or solution in the District of Columbia or similar communities. Please outline additional, non-financial support that would be valuable in overcoming these challenges.
- **Partners:** Please outline if there are other partners you are teaming with for this project. Or if there are other partners that you could use support from the DC MID to connect with. (public/private/non-profit/research, etc)
- **Regulatory and Permitting:** Please provide any known restrictions with operating service under the current regulatory environment in DC and if you have had any conversations with district agencies to demonstrate these projects.

## Submission

**Format:** Applicants are welcome to submit in whatever format they prefer. Submissions may be as brief as two 2-pages; however, submissions of more than 10-pages are discouraged.

**\*\*We recognize that responses can burden respondents; please try to provide as much information as possible, but consider this the “start of a conversation.”**

**RESPOND HERE**

## Timeline and Next Steps

The DC MID team will review submissions on a rolling basis and will reach out to applicants to further discuss concepts and identify different opportunities for partnership. Early submission is encouraged. The DC MID team will look to follow up with all respondents within 1-2 weeks of submission.

**Deadline for submissions: May 7, 2025 at noon**

## Background on the Mobility Innovation District

The DC MID is a multi-year initiative funded by the District’s Deputy Mayor’s Office of Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) to establish a premier global hub for mobility innovation. The DC MID leverages the District Government’s unique role as both a city and



state to connect federal and regional policy goals, deploy local projects to test innovative solutions, and improve mobility for residents. By fostering scalable, equitable, and sustainable transportation solutions, the DC MID aims to enhance livability, economic opportunity, and connectivity for all District residents. It serves as a dynamic testbed for new mobility programs, positioning Washington, DC, as a national leader in mobility innovation and collaboration.

The Southwest and Capitol Riverfront neighborhoods are among the fastest-growing areas in the city, with a population projected to reach that of a mid-sized city by 2030. However, infrastructure capacity has not kept pace with this growth. This rapid densification underscores the urgent need for innovative urban transportation solutions that address the challenges of a changing city.

The DC MID provides a platform for policymakers, private companies, and local communities to demonstrate how mobility innovation can create a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous city. It functions as both a living lab for entrepreneurs and a “Policy R&D” space for the government to explore emerging mobility technologies and strategies.

Washington, DC, is uniquely positioned to lead in mobility innovation due to its diverse ecosystem of stakeholders. The city is home to the federal government, industry associations, embassies, think tanks, foundations, media, venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, and major corporations. It is also a global hub for conferences, major events, and influential leaders, including Fortune 500 CEOs, mayors, state legislators, governors, and world leaders.

The DC MID taps into this rich network to create a connected ecosystem for solving mobility challenges, turning DC into a hub for innovation that benefits residents, businesses, and the broader neighborhood economy. Through partnerships with public, private, and community stakeholders, the DC MID prioritizes data-driven decision-making, community co-creation, and the integration of mobility solutions into urban design, ensuring that all residents—especially those in underserved communities—benefit from safer, more accessible, and sustainable transportation options.