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Georgetown BID Presents Symposium On Future of Gondola Transit

BID partners with Georgetown University as international & national transit experts discuss gondola systems around the globe at a public symposium at the National Building Museum on Dec. 1

Washington, D.C. (November 28, 2016) – The National Building Museum will host a public symposium, ‘Assessing the Georgetown-Rosslyn Gondola Proposal,’ from 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 1. Presented by Georgetown University – Urban and Regional Planning, and the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID), the panel will feature a keynote address from [Raphael Nanclares](#), Chief Planner of the MetroCable gondola system in Medellin, Colombia. [Otto Condon](#), Principal, ZGF Architects, and Brett Dobson and Rick Eisenhauer from the Portland AirTram system, will also speak about lessons learned in planning, building, and operating aerial ropeway systems.

The panel of international and domestic experts—moderated by Roger Lewis, professor emeritus of architecture for University of Maryland—will describe urban gondola transportation systems to inform a discussion about the proposed gondola connection between Georgetown and Rosslyn. Panelists will discuss precedents of successful gondola systems around the world and examine the feasibility and merits of implementing one locally. A Georgetown-Rosslyn gondola cabin prototype will also be onsite an hour prior to the event.

“By leveraging the global networks of Georgetown University, we are bringing international experts to this very unprecedented local opportunity to build a gondola across the Potomac River in Washington, D.C.,” said [Uwe Brandes](#), Executive Director of the Masters Program in Urban and Regional Planning at Georgetown University. “Many cities around the world are using this transportation technology in highly innovative ways to extend the reach of their public transit systems to benefit their communities. We look forward to learning from their unique insights.”

“Georgetown and Rosslyn are a natural fit for a gondola transit link,” added [Will Handsfield](#), Transportation Director for the Georgetown BID. “Geographically and financially, it makes more sense than other viable transit options, our economies are very complimentary to one another, and our communities both have all-day transportation demand. In Georgetown’s case, a gondola is the only chance for a high-capacity transit link to the regional Metro system that we are likely to see over the next 25 years.”

The symposium follows the Nov. 3 release of the [Georgetown-Rosslyn Gondola Feasibility Study](#). The study, conducted by a consulting team led by ZGF Architects over a five-month period, identified and detailed the demand, financial, regulatory, design and real estate considerations of an aerial gondola lift connecting the Arlington, Virginia Rosslyn neighborhood and Washington, D.C.’s Georgetown neighborhood. Ultimately deeming the gondola feasible, the study is published on www.georgetownrosslyngondola.com.

Tickets for the public symposium—which is eligible for AICP, LA CES, and AIA credits—can be purchased at <http://tinyurl.com/j7qjtcb>. Beforehand, experts from Colombia, Europe, Algeria, and the U.S. will take a walking tour of the proposed Georgetown-Rosslyn alignment, followed by a high-level discussion concerning gondola systems around the globe, their construction and their management.

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About the Georgetown Business Improvement District

The Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the accessibility, attractiveness and overall appeal of Georgetown. Established in 1999 by its property owners and merchants, the Georgetown BID has more than 1,000 members. The organization is located in the heart of Georgetown in Washington, D.C. and sets a standard of excellence in preserving historic charm while meeting contemporary needs. From marketing and special events, to transportation, economic development, destination management and streetscape, the Georgetown BID contributes to the vitality and quality of life in Georgetown. For more information, visit georgetowndc.com.

