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Georgetown-Rosslyn Gondola Coalition Announces 35+ Inaugural Members

The coalition was formed to secure support to approve and fund the gondola project—a proposed transit system connecting Georgetown to the Rosslyn Metro station.

Washington, D.C. (December 12, 2018) – In an effort to move the Georgetown-Rosslyn gondola project forward, a leadership team comprised of the Federal City Council, Georgetown University, Georgetown BID, and private sector members has created the Georgetown-Rosslyn Gondola Coalition.

The Coalition consists of diverse organizations that support expanding the region's public transit network to connect people living in every part of the city and region to Georgetown's job and commercial center and to support the growing employment and residential centers in Arlington County. The gondola will improve regional transit access, and reduce congestion and pollution.

The Coalition advocates for the further study, preservation of potential station sites, and eventual development of an aerial gondola linking Georgetown and the Rosslyn Metro station. Its goal is to secure support from DC, Virginia, and regional and congressional leaders, and approvals from local, state, regional and federal regulatory bodies.

To date, Coalition members include:

- Federal City Council
- Georgetown University
- Georgetown BID
- JBG Smith
- Snell Properties
- Monumental Sports & Entertainment
- DC Sustainable Transportation
- Rosslyn BID
- The Levy Group
- Prospect Street Homeowners
- Institute for Market Transformation

- Greater Greater Washington
- Avison Young
- Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Tishman Speyer
- Monday Properties
- Chaia
- Clyde's Restaurant Group
- Cox Graae & Spack Architects
- The Elliott LLC
- Friends of Legal Services Corporation
- Georgetown Court Condominium LLC
- Georgetown Suites
- Gould Property Company
- Hays LL
- J Street Companies
- Martin's Tavern
- Medstar Georgetown University Hospital
- Nick's Riverside Grill
- Penzance
- The Phoenix
- Prospect Place Associates LLC
- Prospect Place Parking LLC
- TD Bank
- Tony & Joe's Seafood Place

Coalition supporters include:

- Nestle USA
- Sierra Club – Washington DC Chapter

'To remain globally competitive, the Washington region must seize every opportunity to improve connectivity with better transit,' says Anthony A. Williams, Former Mayor of the District of Columbia and current CEO of the Federal City Council. 'Urban gondolas have proven their value in cities across the globe and there is no better place to introduce them to this region than by connecting the people, jobs, and retail of Georgetown and Rosslyn. A public private partnership to develop this project can harness the resources of our region's strongest institutions to reduce congestion and air pollution, improve commute times and provide much better access to jobs for all our citizens.'

Between the university, hospital and commercial district, Georgetown hosts more than 21,000 jobs—the largest employment center in the District that does not have a Metro station.

'The gondola could be built decades before a Georgetown Metro Station at a small fraction of the cost, and would provide much of the benefit—essentially becoming Georgetown's Metro Station,' says Joe Sternlieb, Georgetown BID President & CEO. 'In the coming decade, transit connections for these workers and residents will be more important than ever.'

On the other side of the river, Rosslyn is one of the largest employment and transit centers in the region. It has a worker population of 25,000 and over 1,000 businesses, representing some of the region's largest companies. It also has a growing residential population. Today, there are nearly 14,000 people who rent or own in Rosslyn, and by 2021 the neighborhood expects to have over 15,200 residents.

The Georgetown-Rosslyn Gondola project is an idea born out of the Georgetown 2028 15-Year Action Plan for Georgetown's commercial district. The project kicked off with a 2016 study conducted and

funded by a partnership that includes the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Arlington County, Rosslyn Business Improvement District (BID), Georgetown University, Gould Property Company, JBG Companies, Penzance, and Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID).

Led by ZGF Architects, the feasibility study's objective was to identify and lay out the demand, financial, regulatory, design and real estate considerations of an aerial gondola lift between the two commercial districts. Partners contributed a total of $215,000 for the study, which deemed the gondola feasible.

The feasibility study projected the gondola would carry 6,500 people per day and be less expensive to build than other fixed guideway transit options, such as Metro or Streetcar, and a lower subsidy per ride than any other transit offered in the region. The gondola would also significantly expand the 30-minute transit shed—the area in the region from which a transit trip to Georgetown would only take 30 minutes.

For more information on the Georgetown-Rosslyn gondola, visit georgetownrosslyngondola.com or contact Lauren Boston at lboston@georgetowndc.com or (202) 298-9222 ext. 215

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