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Contact **Lauren Boston**
Communications Director
202.400.3784
lboston@georgetowndc.com

Georgetown Decks Installation Begins Mid-April, with 4,000 Linear Feet of Sidewalk Extension Panels in Commercial District

Creating more space for customers on Georgetown's narrow sidewalks will encourage social distancing, support outdoor dining, and create a livelier and more inviting pedestrian experience.

Washington, D.C. (April 7, 2021) – Beginning around mid-April, the Georgetown BID is installing approximately 4,000 linear feet of sidewalk deck panels throughout the commercial district. The Georgetown Decks will create more space for customers on Georgetown's narrow sidewalks, encouraging social distancing, supporting outdoor dining, and creating a livelier and more inviting pedestrian experience, with the potential for future activations and programming within the space.

“Georgetown is uniquely positioned to recover from the pandemic more quickly than most places, and our sidewalk widening project is an effort to take advantage of the wonderful shopping and dining that we already had in place, while creating a new energy and visitor experience on the street,” said Joe Sternlieb, Georgetown BID President & CEO. “Our goal is to make Georgetown an ever better place than it was before COVID.”

The decking will extend Georgetown's narrow sidewalks from an average of 9.5 feet to an average of 15 feet, using removable 4' x 6.5' panels, installed on M Street between 34th Street and 29th Street, and on Wisconsin Avenue between Q Street and the Canal. Three prototypes are currently in place at Clyde's (3236 M Street), Laduree and Thunder Burger (3060 M Street), and L'Annexe (2917 M Street).

The deck extensions are designed to be accessible for those using wheelchairs or pushing strollers, to allow stormwater to flow under the deck to the curb, and to keep storm drains and fire hydrants clear. The panels will be built with composite decking on top of a wood frame, and a combination of black metal barriers and concrete barriers will protect the sidewalk extensions to keep diners and pedestrians safe.

The Georgetown Decks pilot is expected to be fully installed by mid-May, and in place through December 31, 2021, during which time the BID and the community will evaluate and modify the project, as necessary. If the project is successful and the community wants to keep the extensions in place beyond 2021, the BID will go through another permitting process to keep them up longer.

The BID hosted Georgetown Decks community meetings in March 2021 and December 2020. Upcoming community meetings will be held in June and September 2021.

Visit georgetowndc.com/sidewalk-widening to learn more about the project.

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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, placemaking and streetscape, the Georgetown BID contributes to the vitality and quality of life in Georgetown. For more information, visit georgetowndc.com.