

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The streetcars are coming! There were streetcars in DC once before. Horse-drawn streetcars were introduced in 1872 and were replaced with electric cars in 1899. The last streetcars in the District stopped running in 1962.

One day soon there will be eight streetcar lines that operate in all eight wards of the city. The first line will open along the H Street/Benning Road corridor, because this area currently has the busiest bus line and demand for mass transit will only continue to grow. In coming years, the DC Streetcar system will connect all the neighborhoods in the city to all the resources of the DC mass transit system.

Because it's likely that your child has no experience with streetcars, and because the new streetcar line will be near his/her school, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI) have partnered with the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired (YMI) to develop an important educational program, **Streetcar Smarts: Safety is Savvy**.

The program focuses on the **Top 10 Streetcar Safety Rules** your child will need to know to be safe near the streetcars and their tracks. Your child will be talking about these rules at school, and we hope that you will review and reinforce them at home.

And, we hope you and members of your family will visit the new H Street/Benning Road streetcar line to experience the service and convenience it will provide!



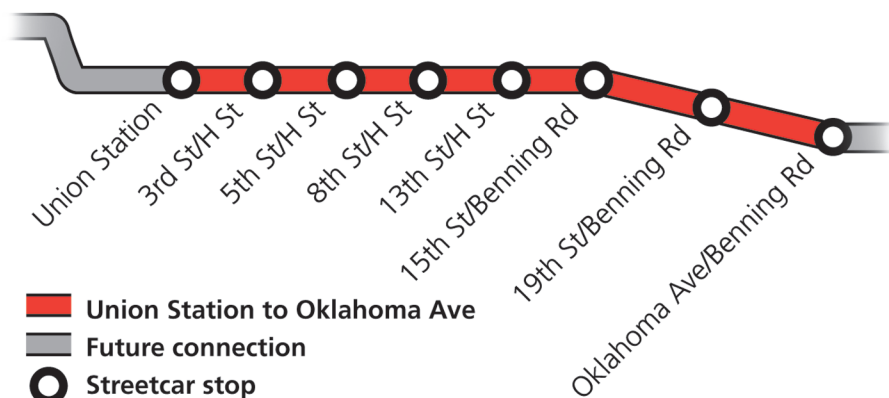
Top 10 Streetcar Safety Rules

1. LOOK both ways and LISTEN for the streetcar before you step into the crosswalk. Streetcars can come from either direction and they can be very quiet.
2. Never walk in front of a moving streetcar.
3. Only cross the streetcar tracks at a crosswalk when the WALK signal is on.
4. Never walk, run, or play along the streetcar tracks.
5. Never try to climb the poles or touch the wires around the streetcar tracks. The wires are electrified.
6. Don't ride your bike or skateboard across the streetcar tracks; walk or carry it across. Use the two-way bike lanes on G and I streets as a safe alternative route.
7. Never grab the back of a streetcar to be pulled along on your bike or skateboard.
8. Never run to catch a streetcar or try to board if it is moving. Streetcars will only pick up or let off passengers at designated stops.
9. Watch your step getting on and off the streetcar.
10. Tell the operator if there is an emergency.

For Teens Who Drive

Never text and drive. Do not make or take phone calls while driving.

1. Always look both ways before driving across a streetcar track.
2. Look for a streetcar on your left before you turn left across a streetcar track.
3. Do not make abrupt turns or lane changes in front of a streetcar.
4. Keep music in your car low enough so you can hear what is happening around you.
5. Never park on the streetcar tracks. Streetcars cannot move around your car, and you'll be towed.



For more information, check out:

- DC Streetcar – www.dcstreetcar.com
- District Department of Transportation – www.ddot.dc.gov
- Operation Lifesaver, Inc. – www.oli.org

