

**Resolution Concerning the Implementation of
Mobility Data Specification (MDS)
by the District Department of Transportation (DDOT)**

Whereas the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations (DCFCA) is a group of delegates from over thirty separate civic associations that is dedicated to informing, representing, and supporting the residents of the District of Columbia;

Whereas the DCFCA strives to ensure that concerns of residents on matters of public safety, civil liberties, and quality of life are properly heard by the District government;

Whereas DDOT intends to implement MDS, a data collection program that requires mobility companies to provide the District government with access to real-time rider location data;

Whereas DDOT has not specified how it will use or safeguard this sensitive information or the circumstances under which it will be shared with other government agencies or private entities;

Whereas research has clearly shown that the location data being pursued by DDOT could be used to identify and surveil riders, threatening the privacy and safety of District residents;

Whereas riders will not be given the opportunity to opt in or opt out of sharing their location data with DDOT through MDS;

Whereas MDS could disproportionately impact District neighborhoods that are already subject to oversurveillance;

Whereas the privacy and safety concerns brought about by MDS could create a barrier to entry for low-income residents who seek affordable and convenient modes of transportation to travel around the District;

Whereas DDOT made the decision to implement MDS unilaterally and did not seek input from the District's democratically elected officials;

Whereas DDOT has not held a public meeting or hearing on the topic for residents to express their support or opposition to MDS, nor has DDOT requested public comments; and

Whereas DDOT is pursuing the implementation of MDS while District residents live under stay-at-home orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making it harder to stay informed and voice opinions on matters that will affect their daily lives; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations (DCFCA):

1. has serious concerns about the risks that rider surveillance poses to public safety and individual privacy of the District's residents;

2. urges DDOT to engage residents, stakeholders, and elected officials in a public dialogue before implementing such sensitive programs;
3. urges DDOT to obtain opt-in consent from riders before tracking their movements;
4. urges DDOT to be transparent with residents by specifying how their location data will be used, who it will be shared with, and how long it will be retained and by whom;
5. urges DDOT to publicize its policies and practices for handling residents' location data and a clear adjudication process for victims of improper data handling; and
6. urges DDOT to reject real-time MDS tracking and instead prioritize rider privacy and safety.

The DC Federation of Civic Associations passes this resolution unanimously with 14 Member Associations present and voting at our Wednesday, May 27, 2020, monthly General Assembly Meeting held via the Zoom platform.

Graylin W. Presbury
President, DC Federation of Civic Associations