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CSX Tunnel Hearing Resumes Monday DDOT Called Back to Answer Council's Questions

DDOT is expected to answer pointed questions from the DC Council on Monday (9/8) during the continuation of a rare summer hearing about CSX's Virginia Avenue Tunnel expansion project in Southeast. Chairman Mendelson chose to continue the hearing on 8/26 after DDOT's lead engineer on the project failed repeatedly to address any of the Council's concerns about the multi-year, \$200 million project, which may receive final approval as early as 9/16.

During the 8/26 hearing Chairman Mendelson said DDOT's inability to answer questions about the project made it appear DDOT was not willing to work with the Council on this issue, which may significantly impact the district for decades to come. "...We're not just looking at the sufficiency of this [Environmental Impact Statement], we're looking at the sufficiency of this project..." said Chairman Mendelson. "We're looking at how it relates to public safety in the District - hazardous cargo. How it relates to transportation in the District - like commuter rail. Which is more than just the Virginia Avenue Tunnel." A higher-level DDOT representative is expected to testify on 9/8.

The same week the DC Council began its hearing on CSX's controversial expansion proposal, grass-roots activists in Maryland killed a major rail cargo facility in Baltimore long-sought by CSX. Maryland's Department of Transportation terminated an agreement with CSX and revoked \$32 million in state funds for the project after CSX failed repeatedly to address the community's concerns about the project's impact on people living nearby.

Continuation of DC Council Hearing on CSX Tunnel

When: Monday, September 8th, 2014
Where: Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Time: 10:00am

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DCSR is a coalition of citizens, organizations, and elected officials asking for accountability and oversight in ensuring the community's health, safety, and security in the Virginia Avenue Tunnel expansion project.