

WIDENING OF FIRST STREET BETWEEN G AND MYRTLE STREETS
NE., IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND FOR OTHER PUR-
POSES

MARCH 5, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

MR. ZIHLMAN, from the Committee on the District of Columbia,
submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2041]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to which was referred the bill (S. 2041) to provide for the widening of First Street between G and Myrtle Streets NE., and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

There is submitted herewith the report made by the chairman of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia which covers the purpose of the bill fully and submits a letter from the District Commissioners, as well as the act of March 3, 1923, providing that two-thirds of the cost should be assessed as benefits.

[Senate Report No. 151, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2041) to provide for the widening of First Street between G Street and Myrtle Street NE., in the city of Washington, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to provide for the condemnation of land along the eastern boundaries of squares numbered 675, 676, and 677, so that First Street NE. may be widened between G and Myrtle Streets. At present First Street, which runs northward from the Union Station plaza between the city post office and the Union Station, thence along the west side of the buildings and elevated tracks of the Washington Terminal Co., is 60 feet wide from the plaza to G Street, but only 40 feet wide from G Street to Myrtle Street. North of Myrtle Street, however, the width is now 110 feet and the present narrow width of 40 feet of the portion of First Street between G and Myrtle Streets is inadequate for existing traffic.

A bill for a similar purpose was passed by the Sixty-seventh Congress (Public No. 493, approved March 3, 1923), which, however, provided "that of the amount found to be due and awarded by the jury in said proceedings as damages for and

in respect of the land to be condemned for said widening, plus the costs and expenses of the proceeding hereunder, not less than two-thirds thereof shall be assessed by the jury as benefits." Pursuant to the authority granted by this act, condemnation proceedings were instituted but failed because of inability to secure testimony that would show benefits equaling two-thirds of the damages, as provided in the law mentioned. The proceeding therefore will have to be abandoned.

The present bill (S. 2041) does not restrict the jury to the amount of benefits it may assess. The Commissioners of the District of Columbia are of the opinion that the widening of First Street NE., between G and Myrtle Streets, is of sufficient importance, in view of traffic conditions, to justify participation in part of the cost by the District of Columbia, as aside from the benefits to adjacent property, including the city post office, benefits will accrue to the public in general because of the greater width for traffic movement.

The land to be condemned must be taken from the west side of First Street inasmuch as the east side is occupied by the Washington Terminal Co., and the District Commissioners express the opinion that unless action is taken soon to widen the street the expense of the proceeding very likely will be increased materially, because of the erection of buildings along the area to be condemned. The amount of damages can not be estimated accurately, but it is the opinion of the commissioners that the cost will aggregate between \$40,000 and \$50,000, to be taken wholly from the revenues of the District of Columbia.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget has advised the commissioners that the proposed legislation is not in conflict with the President's financial program.

The committee has received no protests against the bill.

There is appended hereto and made a part of this report a letter of December 22, 1925, from the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia fully setting forth the facts relating to the bill:

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, December 22, 1925.

HON. ARTHUR CAPPER,
*Chairman Committee on the District of Columbia,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

SIR: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to transmit herewith a draft of a bill entitled "A bill to provide for the widening of First Street between G and Myrtle Streets NE., and for other purposes," which they request be introduced and enacted during the present Congress.

The object of this bill is to provide for the condemnation of land along the eastern boundaries of squares numbered 675, 676, and 677 with a view to widening this street between the limits named above. This street runs northward from the Union Station Plaza between the city post office and the Union Station, thence along the west side of the buildings and elevated tracks of the Washington Terminal Co. The street is 60 feet wide from the Plaza to G Street; 40 feet wide from G Street to Myrtle Street, and 110 feet wide north of Myrtle Street. The present narrow width of 40 feet of the portion of the street between G and Myrtle Streets is inadequate for existing traffic, and unless action is soon taken to widen the street, the expenses of the proceeding will very likely be materially increased by the erection of buildings along the west line of the street. The increased width must be taken from the west side since, as stated above, the east side is occupied by the Washington Terminal Co.

The commissioners desire to invite your attention to an act of Congress approved March 3, 1923 (Public 493, 67th Cong.), being an act authorizing the widening of First Street NE., a copy of which is inclosed. Pursuant to the authority granted by this act, condemnation proceedings were instituted, but the proceedings failed because of inability to secure testimony that would show that benefits would equal two-thirds of the damages, as provided in the law. As a result, the proceeding will have to be abandoned.

A new bill has been prepared which is somewhat similar to the act referred to above, except for the fact that the jury is not restricted in the amount of benefits it may assess. It is rather difficult to determine, with any degree of accuracy, the amount of damages, but it is estimated, judging from the testimony in the previous case, that the cost will aggregate between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

It is the opinion of the commissioners that the widening of First Street between G and Myrtle Streets NE., is of sufficient importance to justify participation in part of the cost by the District of Columbia, as aside from benefits to adjacent property, including the city post office, benefits will accrue to the public in general because of the increased width for traffic.

The commissioners are informed by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget that the proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very respectfully,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
By CUNO H. RUDOLPH, *President*.

[PUBLIC—No. 493—67TH CONGRESS]

[H. R. 5018]

AN ACT To authorize the widening of First Street northeast, and for other purposes

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That under and in accordance with the provisions of subchapter 1 of chapter 15 of the Code of Law for the District of Columbia, within six months after the passage of this act, the Commissioners of the District of Columbia be, and they are hereby, authorized and directed to institute in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia a proceeding in rem to condemn the land that may be necessary for the widening of First Street northeast along the eastern boundaries of squares numbered six hundred and seventy-five, six hundred and seventy-six, and six hundred and seventy-seven, to a width of sixty feet, as shown on plan on file in the office of the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia: *Provided, however*, That of the amount found to be due and awarded by the jury in said proceeding as damages for and in respect of the land to be condemned for said widening, plus the costs and expenses of the proceeding hereunder, not less than two-thirds thereof shall be assessed by the jury as benefits.

SEC. 2. That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of the revenues of the District of Columbia, an amount sufficient to pay the necessary costs and expenses of the condemnation proceeding taken pursuant hereto and for the payment of amounts awarded as damages. The amounts assessed as benefits when collected shall be repaid to the District of Columbia and covered into the Treasury to the credit of the revenues of the District of Columbia.

SEC. 3. That the act approved June 11, 1910, entitled "An act authorizing the widening of First Street northeast, in the District of Columbia," be, and the same is hereby, repealed, and the Commissioners of the District of Columbia are hereby authorized and directed to discontinue and abandon the proceeding heretofore instituted by them under said act for the widening of said First Street, now pending in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and known as District court cause numbered nine hundred and twenty-two.

Approved, March 3, 1923.

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