

***** **BULLETIN** *****

LOCATION OF ELECTRIC METER BOXES

- **ARE YOU PLANNING A MAJOR RENOVATION OR OTHER WORK THAT INCLUDES INCREASING YOUR ELECTRIC CAPACITY (HEAVY-UP)?**
- **ARE YOU PLANNING A NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT THAT WILL REQUIRE NEW ELECTRICAL METER(S)?**
- **ARE YOU PLANNING TO CONVERT A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE TO 2 OR MORE UNITS, WITH SEPARATE ELECTRIC METERS?**
- **IS YOUR ELECTRIC METER CURRENTLY LOCATED INSIDE?**

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you may have an opportunity to locate your meter in a way that does not detract from the façade of your historic house or the integrity of the historic district.

Over the past several months, the Historic Districts Coalition has been working with the Historic Preservation Office (HPO), DDOT, DCRA, Pepco, and others to find a better alternative to installing large and unsightly electric meter boxes on the fronts of historic properties.

Until more formal guidelines are completed, the Historic Districts Coalition encourages you to follow this guidance for meter location, in the following priority:

1. Locate meters inside the property. Pepco can provide meters that will be read electronically and/or from a remote location.
2. Locate meters at the rear of the property, when there is access to electrical service from the rear.
3. Locate meters under the front stoop or in a below-grade areaway on the front of the property (provided there is sufficient clearance to meet safety standards and building code requirements).

Locating freestanding meters on posts or other structures in the front yard or on the front façade in a way that covers significant architectural features may not be permitted by the HPO or DDOT/Public Space and should be AVOIDED. If none of the three options above are available to you, please consult the HPO for further guidance on the location of meters (www.planning.dc.gov/hpo or 202-442-8800).

Thank you for helping to maintain the beauty and integrity of our historic districts.

Historic Districts Coalition