



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



April 16, 2018

Mr. Matthew Marcou
Associate Director for Public Space Regulation
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Maury Elementary public space application (#289052)

Dear Associate Director Marcou and Public Space Committee Members,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on April 12, 2018,¹ our Commission voted 8-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to submit the following response to the Maury Elementary Public Space Permit Application, DDOT Tracking Number 289052. Our Commission submits these comments with the expectation that their resolution by the applicant, either on their own or in collaboration with DDOT, would not delay the timing of the project. Our concerns are documented below.

Concerns related to public safety

1. With the relocation of the primary entrance from 13th Street to Constitution Avenue NE, and an expected 35% growth in student enrollment, there will be an increased flow of pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles at the intersection with Tennessee Avenue, 13th Street and Constitution Avenue NE. As both Councilmember Allen and our Commission have previously requested², we ask that DDOT, DGS and DCPS use the modernization as an opportunity to address serious concerns regarding the traffic pattern around the school. We also request that DDOT and DCPS share with our Commission any plans for altering traffic circulation and parking in the area, including modifications to car drop-off and pick-up locations and procedures.
2. The sidewalks along 13th Street NE include sections that do not meet Safe Routes to School standards for minimum widths, particularly at the corner with Constitution Avenue NE (one section has a width of just 4.5 feet). Please consider enlarging the sidewalk at these areas to allow safe passage and meet or exceed the standards, as follows: "Sidewalks with a width of eight to ten feet or more should be built where there is no sidewalk buffer along an arterial street and along roads adjacent to school grounds where large numbers of walkers are expected."

www.guide.saferoutesinfo.org/engineering/sidewalks.cfm

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc-6a@yahoogroups.com, and newhilleast@yahoogroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

² See November 24, 2015 Traffic Calming Assessment Request from ANC6A and June 9, 2017 letter from Councilmember Charles Allen to DDOT Director Dormsjo.

3. Please locate bike racks at the main entrance on Constitution Avenue NE and consider placing additional bike racks at the corner with 12th Place NE or other locations where sidewalk widths permit. As proposed, the vast majority of bicycle parking is somewhat distant from the main entrance and located in areas with narrow sidewalk widths.
4. Please relocate the signal control box from the sidewalk at the northwest corner of 13th Street and Constitution Avenue NE, either to another corner (preferred) or out of the sidewalk to allow more space for pedestrians. Please also repair the existing brick sidewalk on Constitution Avenue (between 12th Place and 13th Street NE) which has sunken areas that collect water and present a tripping hazard at the proposed new front entrance.
5. There is no indication from the permit application that DDOT intends to make any changes to bicycle infrastructure at the school. Currently there is a bike lane on 13th Street (northbound only) that ends at Constitution Avenue NE and a bike lane on C Street NE (westbound only). Neither bike lane connects to the school. We request that DCPS, DGS and DCPS develop a Safe Routes to School plan that addresses these and other transit-related concerns noted above.

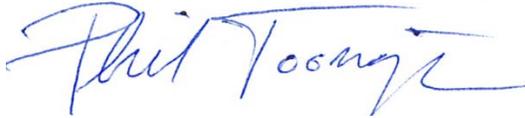
Concerns related to aesthetic conditions or clarifications/corrections to application

1. Please consider a unified approach to the paving of the plaza area around the tree at the northwest corner of 13th Street to Constitution Avenue NE. The proposed version has two different types of surfacing to match different conditions on either street. We suggest using either brick or concrete, or a third option such as paving stones to match the “stepping stones” along 13th Street NE.
2. The parking plan refers to a required 18 parking spaces, shows 21 spaces in the drawing and notes plans to build 24 spaces in the zoning table. Please clarify the number of spaces that will be built.
3. It is unclear from the drawings which spaces the community will have access to outside of school hours and if access will continue to be on 13th Street only or will also include the entrance at 12th Place (and a connection to 13th Street). Please clarify.
4. Numerous trees in large planters seem to dominate the (public space) play area, making field sports and activities difficult to organize. Prior SIT meetings had also indicated community interest in a contiguous running track on the exterior of the playspaces to connect the different exterior environments and make the edges of the existing playspace more usable. Please clarify or correct.
5. The area around the recycling and trash cans includes a large bioretention area that was previously classified as playspace. Please consider a smaller bioretention or vertical screening to obscure the trash and recycling bins.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and concerns. We would be pleased to accept a letter from the applicant detailing their response to the items above in lieu of a revised and resubmitted permit application so as not to delay the project.

Please be advised that ANC6A Transportation Committee Chair Todd Sloves, Commissioner Amber Gove, and I are authorized to act on behalf of ANC 6A for the purposes of this case. I can be contacted at PhilANC6a@gmail.com, Commissioner Gove can be contacted at AmberANC6A@gmail.com, and Mr. Sloves can be contacted at todd.sloves@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Toomajian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the top.

Phil Toomajian
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A