

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)
March 15, 2010

I. Call meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. Introductions

- A. Committee members present: Shane Artim, Lance Brown, DeLania Hardy, Marlon Smoker and Omar Mahmud (Chair).
- B. Committee Members Absent: Sean Lovitt.
- C. Others in attendance: Ken Granata (Chair of the Rosedale Citizens Alliance Transportation Committee), prospective committee member Andrew Hissel, and Commissioner Drew Ronneberg.
 - i. Mr. Hissel informed the committee he has experience with running a ballot initiative campaign focused on mass transit options in Seattle and that he is excited about joining the committee.

III. Community Comment

- A. Commissioner Ronneberg informed the committee that he would like to invite a public space inspector to the April committee meeting to discuss enforcement issues (e.g. electrical boxes on public space). Mr. Mahmud welcomed the idea, informing Commissioner Ronneberg that the committee has been unsuccessful in past attempts to get a public space inspector to attend a meeting.
- B. Commissioner Ronneberg also raised a concern about the new home built at 701 10th Street NE, particularly the curb cut installed adjacent to the G Street side of the property. Ronneberg reminded the committee that DDOT agreed to consider the ANC's appeal regarding installation of this curb cut. Since DDOT never formally ruled on the ANC's appeal, Commissioner Ronneberg thought it would be a good idea to follow up with DDOT. Commissioner Ronneberg believes former DDOT Director Moneme agreed to put this matter before the public space committee. Mr. Mahmud agreed to consider adding this matter to the end of the agenda, time permitting.

IV. Announcements

- A. Street Closings for National Marathon on Saturday, March 20
 - i. Mr. Mahmud announced a reminder about the National Marathon this upcoming Saturday.
 - ii. The race will cause disruption to bus service, particularly the X2 and 90/92 bus lines and road closures.

1. Street closures begin as early as 6:45 am at the start of the course at RFK. Information regarding street closures on website and here with me. Some details:
 - a. East Capitol Street from 13th Street, NE to 2nd Street NE will be closed to all vehicular traffic starting at 6:45 a.m. It will reopen at approximately 10:45 a.m. Intermittent north bound/southbound travel across East Capitol Street will be allowed at “bump cross route” locations, including at 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 15th and 17th Streets. Vehicular traffic at each bump cross route is monitored by MPD and traffic flow is controlled at the discretion of officers.
2. Parked cars along the route will not be towed, but cars will not be allowed to move if parked on a closed street.
3. Mr. Brown asked whether race organizers ever distributed flyers to homes along the race route, as promised. No one in attendance recalled seeing flyers at homes, including those that live along the race route.

B. Second Annual DDOT Potholepalooza Program to Repair Potholes Across the District through April 5

- i. Mr. Mahmud announced information about the program, including:
 1. How to report a pothole: Call 311, dc.gov service request center, text or tweet to www.twitter.com/ddotdc and email to potholepalooza@dc.gov.
 2. You must give specifics about the location, including the quadrant and come details about the hazard, including its size and depth, if possible.
 3. This is not for utility cuts, which are the responsibility of utility companies.

C. B2 Bus to Resume Normal Route – Northbound Traffic Restrictions at 15th Street and Benning Road NE to be lifted March 17

- i. Mr. Mahmud announced the following to the committee:
 1. DDOT announced that this traffic restriction at the Starburst intersection will be lifted Wednesday.
 2. Intersection will work will continue so be aware of shifting traffic lane markings and construction flaggers who will direct motorists and pedestrians as necessary.

D. In addition to the announcement items on the final agenda, Mr. Mahmud provided an announcement about the following additional item:

i. A meeting regarding conversion of 17th and 19th Streets NE is being organized by Commissioner Gladys Mack. The meeting is to be held at Pilgrim AME Church, 612 17th Street NE at 7:30 pm. The email Mr. Mahmud read regarding this meeting was confusing so he wasn't sure if it was to be held Tuesday, March 16 or Thursday, March 18?

1. Mr. Granata informed the committee he believes the meeting is to be held Tuesday, March 16. He also informed the committee that Sandra Gilbert of Rosedale Grassroots Organization asked for a meeting with DDOT about this issue. There is concern about the impact of a two way conversion for these streets (e.g. impact on parking, nearby churches, etc.). Chris Delfs will be at the meeting organized by Commissioner Mack since he worked on the Capitol Hill Transportation Study, along with a representative from Councilmember Tommy Wells' office.

V. Old Business

A. Update regarding C Street Project provided by Ken Granata, Chair of the Rosedale Citizens Alliance Transportation Committee

i. Mr. Mahmud thanked Mr. Granata for attending and acknowledged all of his hard work on neighborhood transportation issues, including the C Street Project.

ii. Mr. Granata informed the committee that the goal is to come up with a preferred conceptual design chosen by the community with help from DDOT and private contractor, Toole Design. Key stakeholders are hoping for construction to begin in 2012 or 2013. Some public meetings and workshops have already taken place, but more are scheduled for the future.

iii. Mr. Granata provided the following information to the committee regarding goals and ideas stakeholders are currently exploring:

1. Slow vehicular traffic along C Street.

2. Reduce storm water run-off.

3. Reduce traffic volume while finding ways to ensure it is not simply dispersed to other neighborhoods.

a. Mr. Mahmud asked for clarification on this point given that discouraging traffic from travelling down C Street may inevitably cause more traffic along other routes through

4. Create the first true “green street” in DC. Some concepts/ideas being discussed include:
 - a. Reducing or capturing all storm water run-off, creating pourous surfaces, creating breaks in curbing to allow vegetation to absorb water, increasing the street canopy.
 - b. Installation of a cycle track: Dedicated bike paths which would be separated from vehicular lanes and sidewalks.
 - c. Separated, raised crosswalks and cycle tracks at small intersections
 5. Possibly reduce one lane of traffic in each direction.
 6. Installation of bulb-outs at intersections to reduce the distance required for pedestrians to cross the street.
 7. Changing traffic patterns depending on traffic demand at various hours of the day.
- iv. Mr. Granata informed the committee that information regarding the project and preliminary plans are on the project’s website at CStreetNE.blogspot.com.
 - v. DDOT and Toole Design will have an open house for the project prior to the next ANC meeting on April 8th starting at 6:00 pm. This was originally scheduled to be the last of the public meetings, but Mr. Granata thinks there may be a couple more.
 - vi. Mr. Mahmud asked how the committee and ANC could help. Mr. Granata encouraged us all to get involved in the planning process and to provide recommendations to other key stakeholders.
 - vii. Mr. Mahmud thanked Mr. Granata for attending the meeting and providing information to the committee.

B. Parking Strategy for H Street/Benning Road Corridor

- i. Discussion ensued regarding possible ANC recommendations and action to leverage existing parking assets along the corridor. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee that this is something DDOT committed to doing when we met prior to H Street/Benning Road construction beginning, but that not much has happened on this front.

- ii. Mr. Mahmud pointed out the following possible locations for offsite parking along the corridor, while acknowledging the city may have little or no leverage to encourage public use of these properties and that our ANC should work with ANC 6C regarding this issue:
 - 1. Union Station
 - 2. Murray's grocery store
 - 3. DOES office building
 - 4. H Street Connection
 - 5. RL Christian
 - 6. Autozone
 - a. Mr. Smoker reminded the committee that the H Street Community Development Corporation (HSCDC) has some stake in this property, possibly as the lessor of the property to Autozone. Mr. Ronneberg indicated our committee would have to meet with Mr. Barrows of the HSCDC and that he would be willing to participate.
 - 7. Hechinger Mall
- iii. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee he has heard that DDOT may already be making headway regarding negotiation of offsite parking arrangements for H Street patrons at some sites, including Hechinger Mall.
- iv. Mr. Mahmud also pointed out that there are resident options for requesting parking restrictions on their blocks.
 - 1. Commissioner Ronneberg informed the committee about his efforts to promote this effort and that Commissioner Rafael Marshall has already organized many residents north of H Street. Commissioner Ronneberg also informed the committee that he and Commissioner Bill Schultheiss are organizing block captains to promote this effort along blocks south of H Street. He explained that businesses are also getting involved in order to defuse any animosity from the local residents.
- v. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee that the ANC should engage developers and neighboring ANCs regarding future projects so the community can encourage multiple offsite parking options disbursed along the corridor. Mr. Mahmud pointed out that the recently approved H Street Connection project will have 65 retail parking spaces that may be available for offsite parking by H Street patrons.

1. 2nd and H project
 2. 3rd and H project
 3. 600 block of H project
 4. Arboretum Place project
- vi. Mr. Artim raised an idea related to “special taxing districts” which would allow property owners a property tax credit for allowing public uses on their properties.
 - vii. Other potential sites mentioned included Sherwood Recreation Center and the CVS store at the Starburst Intersection (15th, Maryland, Bladensburg, H Street and Benning Road)
 - viii. Mr. Smoker agreed to research potential use of the Autozone parking lot.

VI. New Business

A. DDOT Proposal to Install All-Way Stop Signs at Various Locations in Ward 6

- i. Mr. Mahmud explained that this proposal would install stop signs for traffic on Constitution Avenue and Independence Avenue at the 10th and 12th Street intersections in addition to the stop signs already present at these intersections, but that the proposal stopped short of installing signal lights at these intersections as has been requested in the past. Apparently, installation of signal lights at each intersection could cost upwards of one million dollars each so funding is an issue. There have been quite a few accidents at these intersections due to speeding vehicles and the blind spots caused by parked cars.
 1. Mr. Brown expressed opposition to signal lights at these intersections because he believes signal lights disrupt bike traffic.
 2. Mr. Mahmud expressed satisfaction with the proposal, but indicated he would like the city to still consider installing signal lights as a future option.
 3. Mr. Smoker suggested asking for DDOT to conduct a study post stop sign installation to determine the effectiveness of the stop sign only solution. The study should also consider whether evaluation of bulb-outs and traffic signals at these intersections should be considered.
- ii. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the committee recommend the ANC send a letter of support for this proposal, but that the letter also indicate the ANC would like DDOT to consider installation of traffic signals and***

traffic calming measures such as bulb-outs. Mr. Artim seconded the motion.

1. Messrs. Smoker and Brown offered the following amendments:

a. Mr. Smoker made a motion to amend this motion to include mention in the ANC letter of the Maury Safe Routes to School Program as a source of potential funding for traffic calming at Constitution Avenue and 10th and 12th. Mr. Brown seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

b. Mr. Brown made a motion to amend this motion to limit the ANC recommendation to intersections within ANC 6A (i.e. Constitution Avenue at 10th Street and 12th Street). Mr. Smoker seconded the motion, which passed without objection.

2. The motion as amended passed without objection. Mr. Mahmud agreed to draft the letter.

B. The committee also discussed sending a letter to DDOT Director Klein regarding possible public space violations at 701 10th Street NE.

i. Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the committee recommend the ANC send a letter to DDOT Director Klein asking that DDOT refer the ANC 6A appeal regarding 701 10th Street NE to the Public Space Committee and that the letter include background information regarding this matter. Commissioner Ronneberg seconded the motion, which passed without objection. Commissioner Ronneberg agreed to provide a draft of the letter.

VII. Additional Community Comment - None

VIII. Adjourn meeting at 8:35 pm.