



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PO Box 15020
Washington, DC 20003



February 11, 2024

Interim Director Sharon Kershbaum
Zack Gambetti-Mendez, Transportation Planner, Bus Priority Program
District Department of Transportation
Via email and the ANC Resolutions Website

Re: ANC 6A Support for H Street NE Bus/Streetcar-Only Lanes (NOI 24-07-TDD)

Dear Interim Director Kershbaum and Mr. Gambetti-Mendez,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on February 8, 2024 our Commission voted 6-0-0 (with 4 Commissioners required for a quorum) to reaffirm our enthusiastic support for bus/streetcar-only lanes on H Street NE in response to DDOT's [Notice of Intent 24-07-TDD](#) to install full-time (24/7) bus/streetcar-only lanes on H Street NE between 3rd Street NE and Benning Road NE. We are very excited that this project is moving forward this year.

We are glad to see that our input has been reflected in many design elements, including the mid-block crossings on the 1300, 1200, and 600 blocks, the raised bus platforms, and the automatic traffic enforcement cameras on WMATA buses. In addition, we request the following safety improvements to the bus priority and travel lanes:

1. Automatic camera enforcement of the bus/streetcar lanes on the streetcar in addition to on WMATA buses.
2. Additional physical protection of the bus priority lanes where there is no parking on the other side.
3. Raised mid-block crossings for the middle vehicular travel lanes for vertical traffic calming in the travel lanes.
4. Raised bus platforms throughout the project, including in ANC6A on the east side of the project. Specifically at 11th and H Streets NE, bus riders regularly stand in the street. We would like to see a bus stop bulb-out there.
5. Painted turn radiuses at each intersection to make it more likely that drivers will swing wide outside of the bus priority lane when turning, and also to slow driver speeds while turning. We would like on-street painted art in these turn areas.
6. Signage along the corridor indicating that left turns are not allowed.

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on, anc-6a@googlegroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at www.anc6a.org, on Twitter (@ANC6A) and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

7. Examination of the possibility of re-routing of commercial bus transit to North Capitol/New York Avenue. H Street is a heavy pedestrian/retail corridor and we have had at least one fatality from a commercial bus. Bridge reconstruction is a good opportunity to test the rerouting of these buses to a more appropriate corridor.

Regarding pedestrian safety along the corridor, we request:

1. Addition of significantly more shade throughout the corridor for bus riders and pedestrians, from tree box expansion and potentially from shade sails where tree canopy cannot be added. We would like to add Mulberry, Serviceberry, and other edible fruit trees to the corridor. The addition of trees will ameliorate the urban heat island effect, reduce air pollution, and support mental and physical health for pedestrians and bus riders, especially in the spring and summer months.
2. Diagonal pedestrian crossing/exclusive pedestrian interval, also known as a 'barnes dance' crossing at 8th Street NE, where bus riders are frequently switching between the X9/X2/Streetcar to the 90/92 lines.
3. Leading Pedestrian Intervals throughout the corridor, but especially for pedestrians crossing H Street.
4. Removal of unused newspaper bins
5. Removal of cobblestone, which has been hard to navigate for pedestrians and wheelchair users, and also has been used to break glass storefronts.

Regarding parking and loading, we request:

1. That parking revenue from the corridor be invested in local improvements to the H Street NE corridor. We believe businesses and drivers would be more supportive of parking changes/fees if they knew resources were reinvested in local improvements. Parking signage and information in the Parking App should reflect this.
2. We would appreciate further study of the optimal parking mix for each block given current business configurations. This should include DDOT engagement with businesses to determine if their request for shorter-term parking for pick up and drop off is still relevant, and if so, to add 10-minute parking to the mix on every block, including on the east side of the corridor.
3. Paint on the street that shows clearly which areas are ADA parking, which are 10-minute, and which are 2-hour.
4. Additional ADA parking spots on each block.
5. Additional parking enforcement on the corridor, including the side streets in the early weeks of implementation.
6. Communication materials to share with businesses including drawings that show loading zones on side streets and parking mix along the corridor.

We thank DDOT for listening to our requests and those of our community for frequent and safe crossings, slower speeds, and ease of use for bus riders, and reflecting those concerns in the current design.

For reference, our 2022 letter requesting transit lanes on H Street NE can be found here:

<https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC6A-re-Support-for-interim-bus-priority-and-traffic-calming-on-H-Street-NE-.pdf>

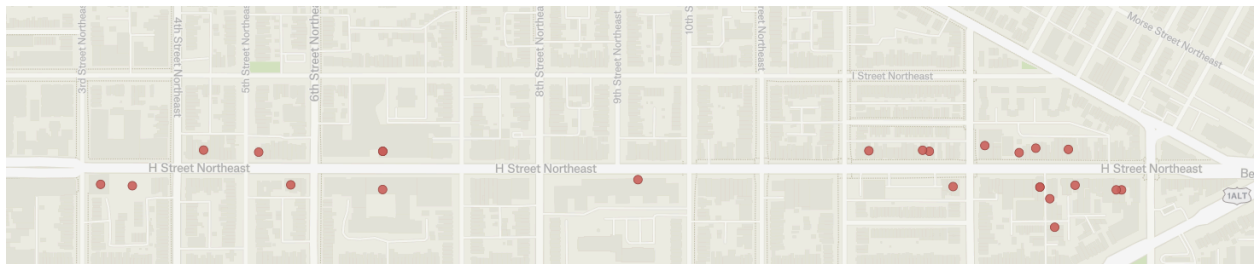
The joint letter with ANC 6A from 2021 can be found here:

<https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC6A-and-6C-Request-for-partnership-to-develop-solutions-for-H-Street-NE.pdf>

The 2021 letter calling for a safer H Street, signed by 24 businesses can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14CrnsJgi-soxWaJykwFZz1ZW5YHhpuLrD9KshkV7p5A/edit>

A map of the business locations is below:



We hope you will consider this letter and our previous letters and take urgent action. Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of this Commission. I can be contacted at 6A04@anc.dc.gov, Commissioner Chatterjee at 6A01@anc.dc.gov, and Transportation and Public Space Committee Chair Lynch can be contacted at 6ATPSChair@gmail.com.

On Behalf of the Commission,

Amber K. Gove

Amber Gove

Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A